

Agenda Item 11  
For Information  
10 November 2017



## Update on the WANA Consultation

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## WANA Consultation- Details

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- Why: At the 4<sup>th</sup> System Council meeting the Council recognized that some countries and critical crops, particularly in the WANA region, would not be included in the Expert Panel's recommended scope for a new GLDC proposal and that there would some benefit in the region discussing its needs and ideas for how these could be met.
- What: A consultation meeting between NARS in the WANA region and CGIAR on "Science based innovations for enhancing food and nutritional security and building resilience to climate change"
- How: Hosted by ICARDA Director General- Aly Abousabaa
- When: 13-14 Sept 2017 in Beirut
  - 13: A formal meeting on 13 September
  - 14: A trip to ICARDA/LARI Terbol station in the Bequa Valley
- Who: WANA regional members: Egypt, Ethiopia, India (through proxy), Iran, Morocco, Sudan, Turkey; and Observers: CGIAR System Organization, FAO (Cairo) and ICARDA

# WANA Consultation- Establishing the conditions in the region



- Agriculture is the primary source of livelihoods for more than 70% of the poor people living in rural areas of many countries in the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. The agriculture sector contributes about 10% to the regional GDP and employs 21% of the population.
- WANA is characterized by high population growth, limited arable land, low and erratic rainfall, and severely limited water resources. About 80% of its food production comes from dryland areas that depend on erratic rainfall. Furthermore, climate change, drought and temperature extremes –which are increasing in frequency and intensity– impact significantly rainfed smallholder farming systems in WANA.
- Civil conflicts and social unrests, are other important constraints affecting the availability and access to food, thus bringing poverty and hunger to many affected rural people, who continue migrating to urban areas or overseas to other continents, particularly Europe.
- About 33 million people in WANA are also chronically undernourished at a rising rate of prevalence of undernourishment (7.5% as compared to 6.6% in 1990) as more than 50% of the food requirement in WANA depends on the import.

## WANA Consultation- identifying the needs

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Regional members participating in the consultation articulated particular needs for the region including:

- A breeding approach to barley and legumes
- Support mechanism to the region's agriculture
- Precision agriculture and newer IT methods for bridging data collection, analysis, planning and dissemination needs
- Crop improvement for tackling production under resource scarcity
- Methods for effective and efficient water use
- Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
- Socio-economic and policy, gender and value chains
- Bridging yield gaps through climate smart technologies and resource management
- Bridging the technological gaps through Science based technology innovations
- Technology sharing and capacity development

## WANA Consultation: Ideas for moving forward

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### **Developing a concept for programmatic activities:**

- With an overall goal to develop science-based innovative technologies to increase productivity, profitability, resilience and marketability of climate resilient crops through diversification and intensification of the existing production systems
- Involving key partnerships with ARC (Egypt), GDAR (Turkey), DARI (Iran), INRA (Morocco), ICAR (India), ARC (Sudan), EIAR (Ethiopia), ICARDA
- Targeting countries and agro-ecologies with crop-livestock systems in the drylands and highlands such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Morocco, Sudan, Turkey
- With a long enough time trajectory to carry out activities and achieve outcomes, possibly around ten years involving a number of phases
- Funded through contributions from both regional actors as well as other interested funders

Thank you

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