



AARINENA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 2, Biannual Newsletter



He who plants a tree, plants a **HOPE**

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings to our esteemed community,

As we stand at the threshold of a new chapter, it is with great pleasure and pride that we reflect upon the remarkable achievements of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa (AARINENA) over the past year. The journey through the last twelve months has been one marked by resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, we extend our gratitude to the entire AARINENA community. Your dedication and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in shaping these accomplishments. Together, we look forward to building upon this foundation, inspired by the belief that the best is yet to come.

Throughout 2023, the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa (AARINENA) engaged in a wide range of initiatives. Among these were signing a new agreement to launch an olive platform, launch of the Application of Date Palm Innovation Platform, the establishment of collaborative partnerships through signed agreements, the expansion of the Digital Agriculture project, active participation in the GFAR Project Planning Workshop, and the facilitation of various webinars covering diverse topics associated with AARINENA networks. AARINENA's activities during 2023 included different workshops, webinars, and other meetings either virtually or physically.

AARINENA's PROJECTS 2023

Signing a New Agreement to Launch an Olive Platform in the Near East and North Africa

Signing a new agreement to launch an olive platform in the Near East and North Africa region, the aim of which is to provide an electronic platform serving the professional and research sectors in the field of olive cultivation.

Extension Digital Agriculture Project

After extensive efforts carried out in the final quarter of 2022, stemming from the formal agreement between AARINENA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) under DeSIRA funding, a comprehensive initiative was undertaken. This initiative, centered around the "Regional Survey and Study on Inclusive Digital Transformation of Agriculture in the NENA Region," involved the systematic collection of surveys and studies focusing on the attitudes and challenges faced by small-scale farmers in three countries—Jordan, Tunisia, and Egypt. The primary goal was to identify effective practices for fostering an inclusive digital transformation in agriculture.

The survey encompassed an exploration of small-scale producers' attitudes and perceived challenges and motivators concerning the adoption of digital solutions. Additionally, a thorough research review was conducted to assess the current landscape in Jordan, Tunisia, and Egypt regarding the utilization of digital solutions by small-scale farmers. Recognizing the need for additional time, the project has been granted a three-month extension, allowing for the comprehensive completion of activities, particularly those involving collaboration with other partners requiring an extended timeline.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS 2023

Memorandum of Understanding with the Hashemite Fund for the Development of Jordan Badia

Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Basma bint Ali, Chair of the Hashemite Fund for the Development of Jordan Badia, the Fund signed a memorandum of understanding with the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa “AARINENA” on Wednesday, 8th of November. This memorandum aims to develop and support frameworks for mutual cooperation, particularly related to scientific research mechanisms and the development of the agricultural sector.



8 November 2023

Cooperation Agreement Signed between AARINENA and The Environment and Energy Research Academy: Opening New Avenues of Collaboration and Progress

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between AARINENA, represented by its executive secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, the Environment and Energy Research Academy, represented by its Chairman of the Board, Dr. Haitham Al-Khudhari. This memorandum provides an opportunity for collaboration in various fields, including joint research efforts, capacity building, training, and support for scientific research mechanisms in the agricultural sector and combating desertification. It also facilitates regular exchange of information, organization of events, workshops, and joint projects.

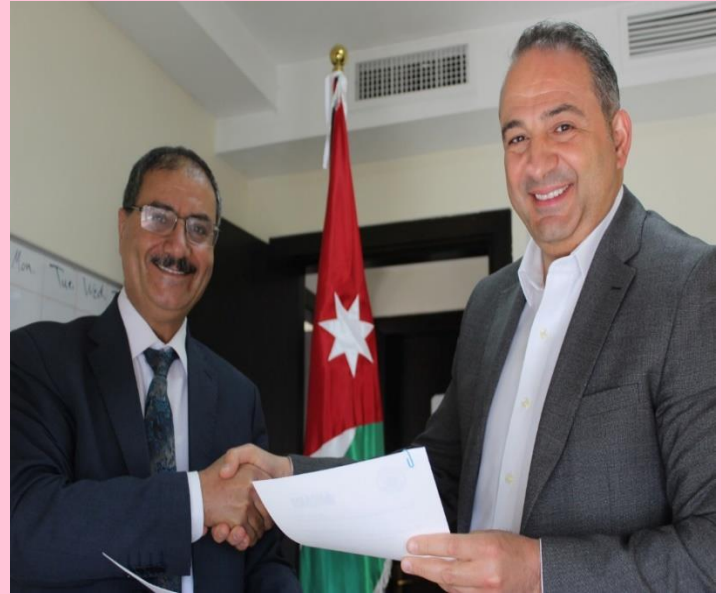


12 June 2023

MoU between AARINENA and the Association for the Development of Sustainable Ecosystems (WADI)

AARINENA signed a cooperation agreement for a period of three years with the Association for the Sustainable Ecosystems Development (WADI).

Under the agreement signed by Mr. Tariq Abu Talib, Executive Director of the Wadi Association for the Development of Sustainable Ecosystems (WADI) and His Excellency Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary AARINENA, work will be done to develop and support cooperation frameworks in scientific research mechanisms in the agricultural sector and especially in the area of restoring forests and pastures for climate resilience, community livelihoods, and long-term water security.



28 March 2023

MoU between AARINENA and National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH)

A cooperation agreement between AARINENA and the National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH), signed by the Vice-President of the National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition, Dr. Ali Ghazzawi, and the Executive Secretary of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), Dr. Rida Shibli.

The agreement aims to create fruitful and constructive cooperation in the fields of research, training, and qualification, raising capabilities and innovation, and developing frameworks for joint cooperation in scientific research mechanisms and the agricultural sector.



28 March 2023

CONFERENCES 2023

The Conference on Directing Scientific Production in Jordanian Universities to Align with the Needs of Government Ministries and Societal Requirements

AARINENA association, represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the proceedings of the Conference on Directing Scientific Production in Jordanian Universities to align with the needs of government ministries and societal requirements at the Dead Sea, Jordan.

This conference aims to direct efforts towards integrating scientific research in universities with solutions to societal issues and problems, as well as promoting economic development and innovation for the benefit of the Jordanian society through coordination and collaboration between universities and government ministries. These policies are designed to guide universities and relevant ministries towards effective steps to achieve these vital goals. Directing scientific research towards urgent social and economic issues is considered a strategic investment that can contribute to sustainable development and social well-being.



28-30 December 2023

The Regional E-Conference on Transforming Higher Education

AARINENA association, represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Reda Shibli, participated in the E-Conference on Transformation of Higher Education in Agriculture, organized in the context of the Collective Action (CA) facilitated by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) on Transformative Learning of Agricultural Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that was launched this year.

The Collective Action aims to distill from concrete cases of successful higher education transformation a revised model of “agricultural universities without walls” based on experiential learning, ethical leadership, and participatory curricula development. This model of teaching and learning will be based on a selected number of pilot initiatives worldwide that have pioneered the concept and practice. It aims to inspire, guide and equip the students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to grow into qualified graduates with the professional, entrepreneurial, ethical and social capacities needed for engaging in the collaborative management of innovation with farmers, rural communities and other stakeholders.



12 December 2023

The 23rd National Olive Festival and Rural Products Exhibition

AARINENA association participated in the events of the 23rd National Olive Festival and Rural Products Exhibition organized by the Agricultural Research Center on Thursday, November 23, 2023, for a duration of 10 days in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The event saw the participation of approximately 890 exhibitors.

The festival introduced a new dimension to achieving sustainable development goals by providing a marketing platform for small farmers and rural families in the provinces and outskirts. Participants included farmers, rural women, associations, presses, and members of field farmer schools from all provinces of the kingdom. Additionally, small and medium-sized companies operating in the food manufacturing sector took part. The festival also featured projects under the umbrella of the agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship incubator, as well as dedicated sections for development partners to enhance networking opportunities between small farmers, agricultural and innovative startups, and funding institutions. The festival facilitated electronic payment and marketing opportunities during and after the event, promoting the sustainability of the participants' efforts.



23 November 2023

The 10th Partners Assembly of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)

AARINENA association, represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the 10th Partners Assembly of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) from 21 to 23 November 2023 conference. Dr. Rida spoke about the role of AARINENA in the field of agricultural innovation through the Date Palm Platform. AARINENA has worked on this platform with the support of FAO, aiming to.

1. Create & design interactive & collaborative innovation platform.
2. Interconnect relevant stakeholders to share & consolidate the available knowledge, information, & innovations related to date palm value chain & production.
3. Contribute & promote knowledge exchange & experiences between stakeholders of the platform at regional & international levels.
4. Manage projects, events, & disseminate information.

This edition aimed to promote knowledge exchange and learning around the theme: “Strengthening capacities to innovate toward agrifood system transformation”.



21-23 November 2023

The Fifth International Festival for Jordanian Dates

AARINENA, represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the fifth International Festival for Jordanian Dates. The festival is organized by the General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Dates Association.

The opening was attended by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Amman, Sheikh Khalifa bin Mohammed bin Khaled Al Nahyan, and the Secretary-General of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, Abdulwahab Zaid. The opening ceremony was also witnessed by several representatives of international organizations, members of the diplomatic corps residing in Jordan, and a large gathering of researchers, farmers, date producers, and companies in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

It is worth mentioning that the distinguished royal patronage of the festival is a clear indication of its continued success year after year. The launch of the fifth edition of the date festival underscores the festival's importance in achieving positive results in previous editions for the date palm sector in Jordan. This is evident in the increased competitiveness among farmers through the date competition, as well as the recognition of pioneers and supporters of date cultivation and production. Additionally, the festival contributes to boosting exports by providing an opportunity for traders and international companies importing dates to meet with farmers.



13-15 November 2023

The Second International Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability at Mutah University

AARINENA association participated in the Second International Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability, which took place at Mutah University on the 7th and 8th of the current month under the patronage of its president, Dr. Salama Al-Nuaimat.

During the conference, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA, Dr. Rida Shibli, was hosted as the keynote speaker presenting a scientific paper titled “Food Security in Jordan and the Transition to the Green Economy.” Shibli discussed the most important topics related to food security in Jordan and the current global situation characterized by climate change and global warming, along with their direct impact on food safety.

Shibli concluded his paper by emphasizing the necessity of returning to agriculture or what he referred to as the transition to the green economy, and using modern agricultural methods that can mitigate climate impact and promote sustainability. Shibli enriched the audience with his expertise and engaged in discussions on various pressing issues related to food security and climate change.

The conference concluded with the presentation of awards and participation certificates to the deserving individuals. Approximately two hundred speakers from across the Arab world participated in its proceedings.



7-8 November 2023

The Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Challenges and Prospects, ten years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration

The Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Challenges and Prospects, held ten years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration, was attended by the AARINENA association, with Dr. Rida Shibli representing as its Executive Secretary. The event took place in Beirut on September 13 and 14, 2023, and was organized by ESCWA (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Regional Office for the Arab States, in collaboration with the Arab League and the International Planned Parenthood Federation – Arab World Region.

The primary goals of the conference centered on the following:

1. Providing a common platform for collective thinking and discussions among Arab countries and all relevant stakeholders and exchanging lessons learned.
2. Empowering Arab governments to assess progress made and challenges faced in implementing the commitments outlined in the 2013 Cairo Declaration.
3. Exploring possible policy solutions to accelerate the implementation of the 2013 Cairo Declaration.



13-14 September 2023

The First International Agricultural Technology Conference (Innovative Agriculture for Food Security)

The AARINENA Association participated in the first international agricultural technology conference (Innovative Agriculture for Food Security) organized by Al-Balqa' Applied University (Jordan) during the period from September 4th to September 7th, 2023, under the esteemed patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Ali, and with the participation of Dr. Abdulhakim Rajab Elwaer, Assistant Director General, Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, FAO, Prof. Ahmed Fakhry Al-Ajlouni, President of Al-Balqa' Applied University, and Prof. Amal Al-Abbadi, Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University.

On the first day of the conference, Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA, delivered a presentation titled "The Challenges Facing the Agriculture and Food Security in Jordan Due to Climate Change, and the Importance of a Just Transition." In his presentation, he addressed the key challenges facing the food security sector in Jordan in the context of global climate change. He also discussed the important opportunities that Jordan can leverage and the strategies that should be followed to adapt to climate conditions and minimize their negative impacts whenever possible.

Additionally, on the third day of the conference, Dr. Shibli will moderate a panel discussion on sustainable development approaches and related policies, where the conference is expected to conclude its proceedings with a set of recommendations.



4-7 September 2023

The Digital Agricultural Solutions Forum by the Food and Agriculture Organization

The Executive Secretary of AARINENA, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the regional forum entitled “Digital Agricultural Solutions Forum” that was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization in July 11-13, 2023 in Amman. Dr. Rida and his colleagues (Dr. Malkawi, Dr. Thaher and Dr. Swelam) presented AARINENA’s Date Palm Innovation Platform that was developed and established in collaboration between AARINENA and FAO.

The operationalized multi-stakeholders, research, technology and innovation platform was demonstrated in this regional forum as a result of the joint efforts to promote the date palm integrated production system in NENA region through the establishment of this multi-stakeholder regional platform. The operationalized research, technology and innovation platform demonstrates a model of collaboration among relevant stakeholders and partners on research, development, innovations, regulations and funding. The platform also identifies a set of research priorities, gaps and practices, promising technologies and technical innovations related to the date palm value chain. Therefore, this generated knowledge with better integration among stakeholders, enhanced learning processes with multiple benefits, created business opportunities by deploying new technologies, markets, learning and networking, and leveraged change in resource mobilization.

This meeting serves as an ideal forum to showcase AARINENA’s commitment to inspiring and supporting the agriculture sector through technology and innovation.



11-13 July 2023

The Scientific Day for the Horticultural Research Department, NARC

Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary of the AARINENA, chaired the first session of the scientific day for the Horticultural Research Department, which was held at the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC). The session was attended by Dr. Nizar Haddad, the General Director of the center. Dr. Salam Haddad provided an overview of the Horticultural Research Department, and a group of experts participated in two discussion groups.

The first group discussed projects related to the Vegetable Research Division, which included monitoring new varieties of vegetables, a project on rediscovering and developing neglected plants in arid environments, and the activities of the soilless agriculture department.

The second group focused on projects related to the Olive Research Division, which included studying the genetic map of the Mehrass olive variety, a project to improve the quality of olive oil, and the cross-border living laboratories project for agroforestry: 1. Inter-cropping of legumes with olives, 2. Rehabilitating a forest in Al-Aarida district.



21 June 2023

First International Date Palm Production and Trade Conference/ Khalifa International Award for Date Palm Agricultural Innovation

Dr. Rida Shibli participated in the 1st International Date Palm Production and Trade Conference 14-15 March 2023 that was managed by Khalifa International Award For Date Palm Agricultural Innovation – UAE. Also, he participated in the Mejhoul International Network meeting 14-15 March 2023. The meeting was held at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE. During the meeting, many discussions were held regarding the Mejhoul Variety in the Arab countries. In confirmation of the importance of the Mejhoul variety, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation signed 4 memorandums of understanding with a number of ministers of agriculture and directors of international organizations; With the aim of strengthening cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Award and regional and international organizations, in a way that contributes to the development of the cultivation of the Mejhoul cultivar and the production of dates and agricultural innovation at the national, Arab and international levels. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Eng. Muhammad Al-Hiyari, the President of the Jordanian Dates Association, Dr. Anwar Haddad, the Executive Secretary of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (ARINENA) Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Director of Palmair Yazan Abu Hantash, and a number of officials participated in the seminars and lectures. And specialists in the Jordanian palm and dates sector. Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary of AARINENA participated in important discussions regarding the date palm network affiliated to AARINENA at the date palm platform. He stressed the importance of collecting all the information related to the Mejhoul cultivar in our Arab countries and other issues related to palm trees.



14-15 March 2023

WEBINARS 2023

Towards the Launch of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services

AARINENA is considered one of the members of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services (AFRAS) community. Therefore, the association participated in all preparatory sessions for the launch of the forum, its inauguration, and subsequent sessions.

The virtual meeting “Towards the launch of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services” was held on December 6, 2023, with the following objectives:

1. Introducing the key points discussed at the annual general meeting of the forum, which took place in Denver from October 17 to 19, 2023.
2. Reporting on the outcomes of the roundtable discussion on the forum, which was organized at the conclusion of the annual general meeting. During this session, global forum leaders and representatives from regional networks convened to clarify some of the key institutional and organizational aspects related to the regional forums.

Towards the launch of the
Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services



ARAB FORUM FOR RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

21 December 2023

37th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East: Regional Consultative Technical Meeting

AARINENA association, represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the Regional Consultative Technical Meeting (RCTM), which was held virtually from October 23 to 25, 2023. This meeting is part of the preparations for the Thirty-seventh Session of the Near East Regional Conference (NERC-37), which will take place in February 2024.

The key outcomes of the meeting can be summarized as follows:

1. A stocktaking on the economic and social impact of the protracted and recent crises on agriculture value chains, food security and nutrition in the countries of the region, and lessons learned and planned actions to accelerate the agrifood systems transformation.
2. Inputs to inform the main papers to be submitted to NERC-37 with specific focus on the main issues to be discussed in each paper.
3. Recommendations on the modalities for addressing these priorities in preparation for the Regional Conference

23-25 October 2023

World Food Forum 2023 Flagship Event

16-20 October 2023

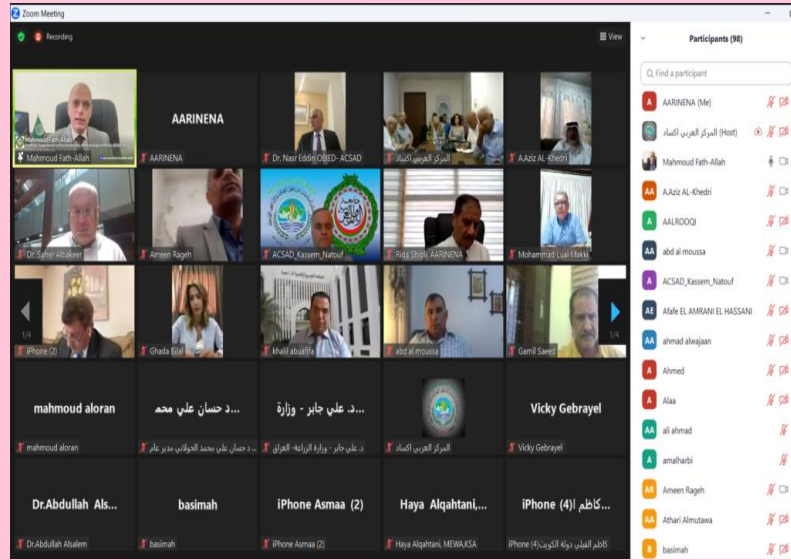
The AARINENA association, represented by Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary, and the rest of the team, participated in the event of the third annual World Food Forum flagship event, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the period of October 16-20, 2023. Attendees from around the world celebrated a week of intensive discussions, innovative solutions, investments, and commitments.

The event, which brought together over 5,000 in-person participants, along with more than 20,000 online viewers, marked a significant step toward transforming global agrifood systems. The discussions focused on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”.

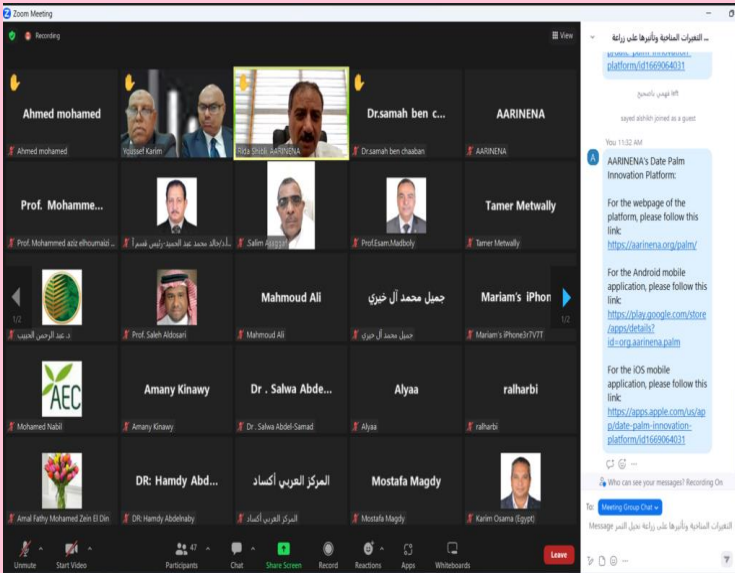
The Arab Environmental Conference “The Road from Montreal to Dubai for One World”

AARINENA Association participated, represented by Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary, in the proceedings of the Arab Environmental Conference “The Road from Montreal to Dubai for One World,” which was held in Damascus via Zoom and organized by Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD).

The webinar included discussions among experts and attendees, most of which revolved around the environmental impacts on the Arab region and ways to address them.



6-17 August 2023



6-17 August 2023

Climate Changes and Their Effects on Date Palm Cultivation” Webinar

AARINENA participated, represented by the Executive Secretary Dr. Rida Shibli, in the webinar titled ‘Climate Changes and Their Effects on Date Palm Cultivation,’ organized by the International Date Council and the Central Laboratory for Date Palm Research and Development.

The webinar concluded with a discussion of several suggestions and points of common action among the participants, most of which aimed to find possible ways to address climate changes and their impacts on date palms.

Enhancing knowledge sharing in support of agricultural innovation system: “Date Palm Digital Research and Innovation Platform”

A highly anticipated webinar introduced an innovative platform and mobile application centered around date palm innovation, captivating participants with its potential to revolutionize the date palm industry. Titled “Enhancing knowledge sharing in support of agricultural innovation system: “Date Palm Digital Research and Innovation Platform,” the virtual event provided insights into cutting-edge technology that promises to transform date palm cultivation, production, and trade.

Organized by AARINENA and FAO, the webinar aimed to showcase their newly launched platform and mobile application designed specifically for date palm growers, researchers, and industry stakeholders. With the goal of fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and streamlined workflows, the event promised to usher in a new era of date palm innovation.

The webinar featured engaging presentations from experts in the field, highlighting the key features and benefits of the platform and mobile application.



12 June 2023

Enabling Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) for developing STI roadmaps for SDGs in the context of post COVID-19

AARINENA participated in the Tropical Agriculture Platform Partners, a global, multi-stakeholder facilitation mechanism on capacity development (CD) for Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS), supported by the European Union and coordinated by FAO. They have taken on the AIS perspective and have designed and tested a Common Framework on CD for AIS. This framework includes a range of tools and guidelines to support member states in their efforts to achieve the SDGs.

3 May 2023



19 January 2023

GFAR/FAO Webinar on UNFSS Follow Up

AARINENA participated in a GFAR/FAO webinar on UNFSS follow-up. The webinar provided an introduction to the conclusions of the UN Food Systems Summit and the implementation of UNFSS national pathways. It also introduced efforts to catalyze innovation and research to support national pathways drawing on the experience of PRIMA in the Mediterranean Region (PRIMA). This informed a conversation between UNFSS national convenors and GFAR, GFAR Regional Fora and members to reflect on what has happened already, what is being planned, and ways forward. The webinar showed where partnerships are being established, particularly where research and innovation have been identified as priorities, to inspire other countries to move forward (e.g., Egypt; Vietnam).

WORKSHOPS 2023

Stakeholder Meeting: Enhancing Resilience of Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in Northern Jordan

Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA, participated in a stakeholder meeting organized by the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Program on the 16th and 17th of October 2023.

The primary objective of this Stakeholder Meeting is to foster meaningful engagement among key stakeholders to develop potential strategies to enhance Resilience among Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in Northern Jordan.



3-7 September 2023



19-17 October 2023

“Nanotechnology Uses and Applications in Agriculture” Training Course

AARINENA association participated in the training course “Nanotechnology Uses and Applications in Agriculture” which was held by the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in collaboration with the University of Petra from September 3rd to 7th, 2023. During the course, trainees were introduced to nanotechnology techniques and their significant applications in the field of agriculture. They also learned about the latest devices, tools used in agriculture, and relevant measurement standards.

The Role of Gene Banks in Food Security - Al-Ahliyya Amman University

Members of the AARINENA network from various organizations in Jordan, including the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), different universities, numerous farmers, and various private sectors, participated in a workshop titled "The Role of Gene Banks in Food Security" at Amman Al- Ahliyya University on May 9, 2023.



9 May 2023

Asia- Pacific Collective Action on Forgotten Foods Partners' Meeting



3-5 May 2023

The Global Manifesto on Forgotten Foods was developed through a series of consultations in 2021. This Collective Action on Forgotten Food aims to highlight both the initiatives of research institutions and development agencies and the ingenuity of farmers and their capacity to innovate based on everyday experimentation. In Asia-Pacific, small-scale and custodian farmers managed to continuously cultivate and use NUS/FF for various reasons.

Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA participated in the regional framework (Asia-Pacific Manifesto on Forgotten Food), Sharing of Initiative from the Pacific. He shared the existing programs, initiatives, and recommendations to promote NUS/FF and foster participatory research with farmers and communities. This also facilitated the discussion of possible areas for collaboration globally.

Food Loss and Waste (FLW)

AARINENA participated in the webinar on Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in the UAE. This webinar is funded by UK government to support businesses in the UAE in finding solutions to tackle the challenge of FLW. \$1 trillion are lost annually in the global economy due to FLW. That is why we are bringing experts to share their insights on how businesses can reduce food waste, save money, and support sustainable food systems.

It takes a collective effort to achieve a collective goal of halving food waste by 2030.

Together, we can change our habits, bring back our sustainable traditions to preserve our blessing for generations to come

20 March 2023



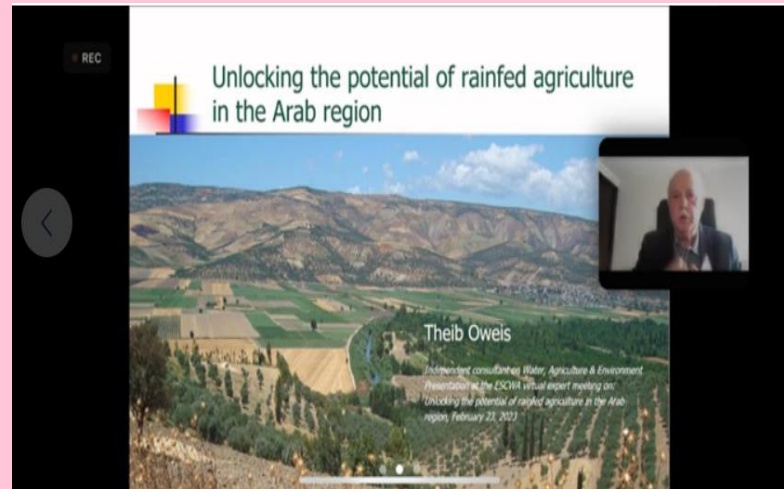
15-17 March 2023

GFAR Project Planning Workshop

Dr. Rida Shibli participated in GFAR Project Planning Workshop | 15-17 March 2023 Bangkok, Thailand, this involve a lot of discussions related to the different regions in the world, Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, Mediterranean & Middle East. Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, the Executive Secretary of Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institution (APAARI), and Dr. Hildegard Lingnau the Executive Secretary of Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) welcomed the participants for their participation in this important meeting. Then Dr. Valeria gave a presentation about Theory of Change & Lessons learned from 2020-2024, Dr. Alessandro gave a presentation about Key elements of the EC project proposal, and Dr. Tommaso Teti gave a presentation about Engagement Principles. Then the meeting involved the important discussions related to the establishment of the Global NARS Consortium.

Virtual Expert Meeting on Unlocking the Potential of Rainfed Agriculture in the Arab Region

AARINENA participated in the UN-ESCWA virtual meeting on 23 February 2023. The meeting reviewed and discussed key trends and issues related to unlocking the potential of rainfed agriculture in the Arab region.



23 February 2023

UNDP Jordan

15-17 March 2023

The RCO has initiated and coordinated a technical analysis, led by Cengiz, to determine the interlinkages between the CF priorities and outputs with Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision strategic goals and initiatives. AARINENA participated in this important meeting.

APAARI-AFA - GFAR for the Multi Stake Holder Consultation

AARINENA participated in "GFAR - AFA-APAARI Multi stakeholder consultation virtual workshop planned on 21st and 22nd Feb 2023 under GFAR collective action on Inclusive Digital Transformation for Agriculture.

The participating country members (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, India, Iran, Samoa, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Thailand) of the collective action. Those countries allow to complete the analysis of the farmer survey.

APAARI-AFA - GFAR
Agenda for the Multi Stake Holder Consultation
(Regional Collective Action on Inclusive Digital Transformation of Agriculture in Asia Pacific)

Date: 21 and 22 Feb 2023 Mode: Virtual Mode

Agenda			
Day One - 21 st Feb			
Bangkok Time	Topic	Session objectives	By
11:00	Welcoming Remarks	Welcome – 5 Min	Dr. Ravi Khetarpal
11:05		Introduction of Participants – 15 Min	Ms. Samitha
11:20	Opening Remarks	Journey of GFAR collection Action - Inclusive Digital Transformation of agriculture – 15 Min	Ms. Valeria
11:35	Multi-stakeholder Consultation	Overview, Objectives and expectation setting of the Consultation – 10 Min	Ms. Samitha
11:45	Partners Introduction	Introduction -- Asian Farmers Association – 10 Min	Ms. Estrella Penunia
11:55	GFAR Collective Action	Overview -Inclusive Digital Transformation Asia Chapter- 10 Min	Ms. Samitha
12:05	Setting the stage	Regional overview of the strategic engagement of APAARI members, partners, GFAR and other stakeholders in the collective action on digital transformation – 10 Min	Dr. Ravi Khetarpal
12:15	APAARI	1. Highlights of the farmer-centric survey process; list of the agencies/Member countries participated in survey; 2.Present results of survey conducted; 3. Recommendations and suggestions – 15 Min	APAARI
12:30		Q & A Session – 15 Min	
12:45	Asian Farmer Association	1.Highlights of the farmer-centric survey process; list of the agencies participated in survey; 2.Present results of survey conducted; 3.Recommendations and suggestions- 15 Min	AFA
1:00		Open Discussion- 30 Min	All Participants
1:30		Closing Remarks of the day	Dr. Ravi Khetarpal & Ms Valeria

21-22 February 2023

Monthly Meetings on Forgotten Food Community of Practices

AARINENA participated in the Monthly Meetings on Forgotten Food Community of Practices on February 2, 2023.

2 February 2023

Improve Agricultural Research for Development and Enhance Institutional Linkages between National Agricultural Research Systems Actors in Jordan” training Course

AARINENA participated with FAO in the training course entitled “Improve Agricultural Research for Development and Enhance Institutional Linkages between National Agricultural Research Systems Actors in Jordan” training Course, 12 January 2023.

Participants were from diverse backgrounds and organizations in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) such as public and private research institutions including universities and research centers, governmental institutions, non-government organizations and the agricultural extension and advisory directorate. Participants were able to identify challenges and opportunities and have learned and improved their skills in the design of AR4D program, understanding and analyzing the relevant stakeholders in the AR4D, key-elements for implementing demand driven AR4D projects and institutional linkages between AR4D actors.



12 January 2023

NETWORKS ACTIVATION AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS 2023

Date Palm Network

Coordinator: Dr. Mohd Kamal Abbas		# of Activities: 7	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
The Impact of Climate Change on Date Palm Harvest and Methods to Reduce its Effects	Dr. Mustafa Osous Egypt	https://youtu.be/r4BqVU0afu0?feature=shared	18/10/2023
Secondary Products of the Date Palm: Types and their Economic Significance	Dr. Ramzi Abu Ayianeh Egypt	https://youtu.be/2hCGjZTAUiU?feature=shared	30/8/2023
The Current Positives and Negatives in the Date Palm Sector and their Impact on Date Exports	Eng. Al-Sayed Mohd Saqer Egypt	https://youtu.be/r5kvEoQUGIs?feature=shared	19/6/2023
Vertical and Horizontal Service Operations in Date Palm Cultivation	Dr. Esam Madbouly Egypt	https://youtu.be/6PQTJRYTE5o?feature=shared	10/4/2023
Factors for Successful Pollination in Date Palm Trees and Dates	Dr. Sharif Al-Sharbasy Egypt	https://youtu.be/GGIEoLn9D64?feature=shared	28/2/2023
The Role of Food Manufacturing Technologies in Developing New Functional Food Products from Dates and their Derivatives	Dr. Hager Saleh Sudan	https://youtu.be/dM6va-NR1Do?feature=shared	2/2/2023
Date Palm Borers: Types, Damages, and Control Methods	Dr. Mohd Zaidan Khalaf Iraq	https://youtu.be/zobhsZAS_Mk?feature=shared	17/1/2023

Biotechnology Network

Coordinator: Dr. Henda Mahmoudi		# of Activities: 5	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
Long Term Conservation of Plant GR via Cryopreservation	Eng. Tamara Al-Qudah Jordan	https://youtu.be/C_cGims90MU?feature=shared	21/2/2023
The Use of Remote Sensing Technologies in Monitoring Natural Pastures and their Role in ACSAD Projects in Arab Countries	Dr. Roza Qarmouqa Syria	https://youtu.be/CvWkwdCjkNI?feature=shared	31/7/2023
Applications of Nanotechnology in Plant Tissue Culture and Plant Biotechnology Techniques	Eng. Tamara Al-Qudah Jordan	https://youtu.be/_PisMZ-7Iug?feature=shared	28/9/2023
Management of Plant Vir at the Plant Services Faci University California/Davis.	Dr. Maher Al-Rwahnih Jordan-USA	https://youtu.be/KO7jdkRtjk?feature=shared	28/11/2023
Microbial proteins rich in polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA) as an antibiotic-free supplement to enhance growth and disease resistance of aquaculture	Dr. Fahad Asiri Kuwait	https://youtu.be/Sq-DnPNKaHM?feature=shared	7/12/2023

Animal Production Network

Coordinator: Dr. Khalil Jawasreh		# of Activities: 3	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
The Red List of Pets in Jordan: Its Role in Jordan's First Millennium and Current Food Security	Dr. Raed Al-Atyiat Jordan	https://youtu.be/pTR_pEA59SI?feature=shared	3/9/2023
Local animal breeds in Iraq	Dr. Abdul Amir Issa Iraq	https://youtu.be/wfRiagV743M?feature=shared	5/10/2023
Epidemiological Surveillance of Bovine Tuberculosis in Dairy Farms in Kuwait	Dr. Salwa Al-Muqate' Kuwait	https://youtu.be/ddvdNewSJQk?feature=shared	9/11/2023

Honey Bees Subnetwork

Coordinator: Eng. Banan Shgour		# of Activities: 3	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
The Oriental Hornet and its Impact on Honeybees, and Methods of Control	Eng. Banan Shgour Jordan	https://youtu.be/2Dc_YAjAgRY?feature=shared	21/9/2023
The Role of the ACSAD Organization in Developing Beekeeping Programs in Arab Countries	Eng. Abdul Rahman Qurunfleh Syria	https://youtu.be/iYX4nUCBK8I?feature=shared	22/10/2023
The Importance of Biodiversity for Bee Health	Dr. María Claudia Garrido	https://youtu.be/OJY8Gi1kQtA?feature=shared	16/11/2023

Agribusiness Subnetwork

Coordinator: Dr. Masnat AlHyari		# of Activities: 1	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
From Agricultural Platforms to Technological Integration in Agricultural Supply Chains	Eng. Ammar Al-Shami Jordan	https://youtu.be/7GFbLCeKRng?feature=shared	12/9/2023

Medicinal & Herbal Plants Network

Coordinator: Dr. Ali Lawati		# of Activities: 3	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
Peels and Their Medicinal Benefits	Dr. Talal Taha Ali Iraq	https://youtu.be/xczhFcYx6ZE?feature=shared	14/2/2023
Conservation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Inside and Outside Habitats	Dr. Rasha Al-Ammarin Jordan	https://youtu.be/KOJTeQ62vow?feature=shared	16/7/2023
Benefits of Figs and Olives	Dr. Talal Taha Ali Iraq	https://youtu.be/ojQ1atvdyG4?feature=shared	20/8/2023

Forgotten Foods, Neglected Crops And Underutilized Species Network

Coordinator: Dr. Ali Lawati		# of Activities: 2	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
Reducing Food Waste to Achieve Food Security	Dr. Fatimah Al-Salman Jordan	https://youtu.be/ECyAsEqiJEc?feature=shared	11/10/2023
Present and Future of Forgotten Foods, Neglected Crops, and Underutilized Species in the Middle East North Africa Region	Dr. Khaled Abu Laila Jordan	https://youtu.be/FDZNWbtZ-nc?feature=shared	1/11/2023

Olive Network

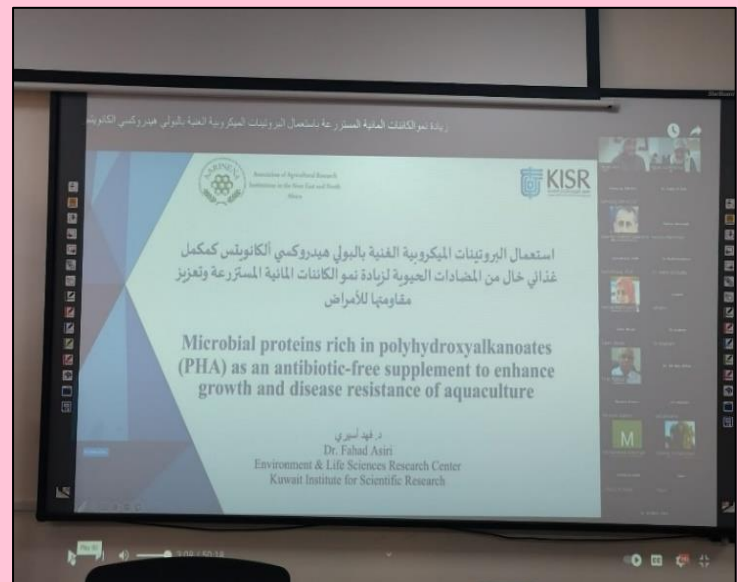
Coordinator: Dr. Salam Ayyoub		# of Activities: 2	
Title	Presenter	Link	Date
The Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and the Olive Sector in Jordan	Dr. Maram Al-Nuaimat Jordan	https://youtu.be/loLNqIbkRPw?feature=shared	21/11/2023
Sensory Evaluation of Extra Virgin Olive Oil	Eng. Jamal Al-Batsh Jordan	https://youtu.be/Y81YjbmxC6s?feature=shared	14/12/2023

NETWORKING WITH UNIVERSITIES

Our Online Meetings are Taught at Universities ...

Starting from the principle of enriching students' experiences and linking academic studies to practical applications in the field of agricultural biotechnologies, and to encourage students to stay informed about the latest developments from experienced professionals, Dr. Wissam Shahrour in the Department of Biotechnology /Faculty of Agricultural Technology /Al-Balqa Applied University has presented some scientific seminars organized by AARINENA to students specializing in agricultural biotechnology as follows:

Webinar of "The Use Polyhydroxyalkanoates-Rich Microb Proteins as Antibiotic-Free Nutritio Supplements to Enhance the Growth Cultured Aquatic Organisms and Bo their Resistance to Diseases," presented Dr. Fahad Asiri from the Kuwait Instit for Scientific Research (KISR) in Kuwait



Webinar of "Current Status and Future of Neglected and Underutilized Foods and Varieties in the Near East and North Africa," presented by Dr. Khaled Abu Laila from the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Jordan, coordinator of the Plant Genetic Resources Network/ AARINENA.

