

Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa (AARINENA)



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<https://flowtraveljo.com>

AARINENA NEWSLETTER

Biannual Newsletter

January – June 2024



Vol. 29, No. 1

A background image of an olive branch with green leaves and dark olives, partially obscured by a white text box.

Executive Committee

President: Dr. Hamdan Salim Al Wahaibi, Oman

Vice President Representative of West and Central Asian Sub-Region:
Dr. Nizar Haddad, Jordan

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Prof. Hichem BEN SALEM, Tunisia

Dr. Nizar Haddad, Jordan

Dr. Abdelmoneim Taha, Sudan

Dr. Hassan Machlab, ICARDA

Dr. Hildegard Lingnau, GFAR

Dr. Khalil Ammar, ICBA

To be nominated, CSOs

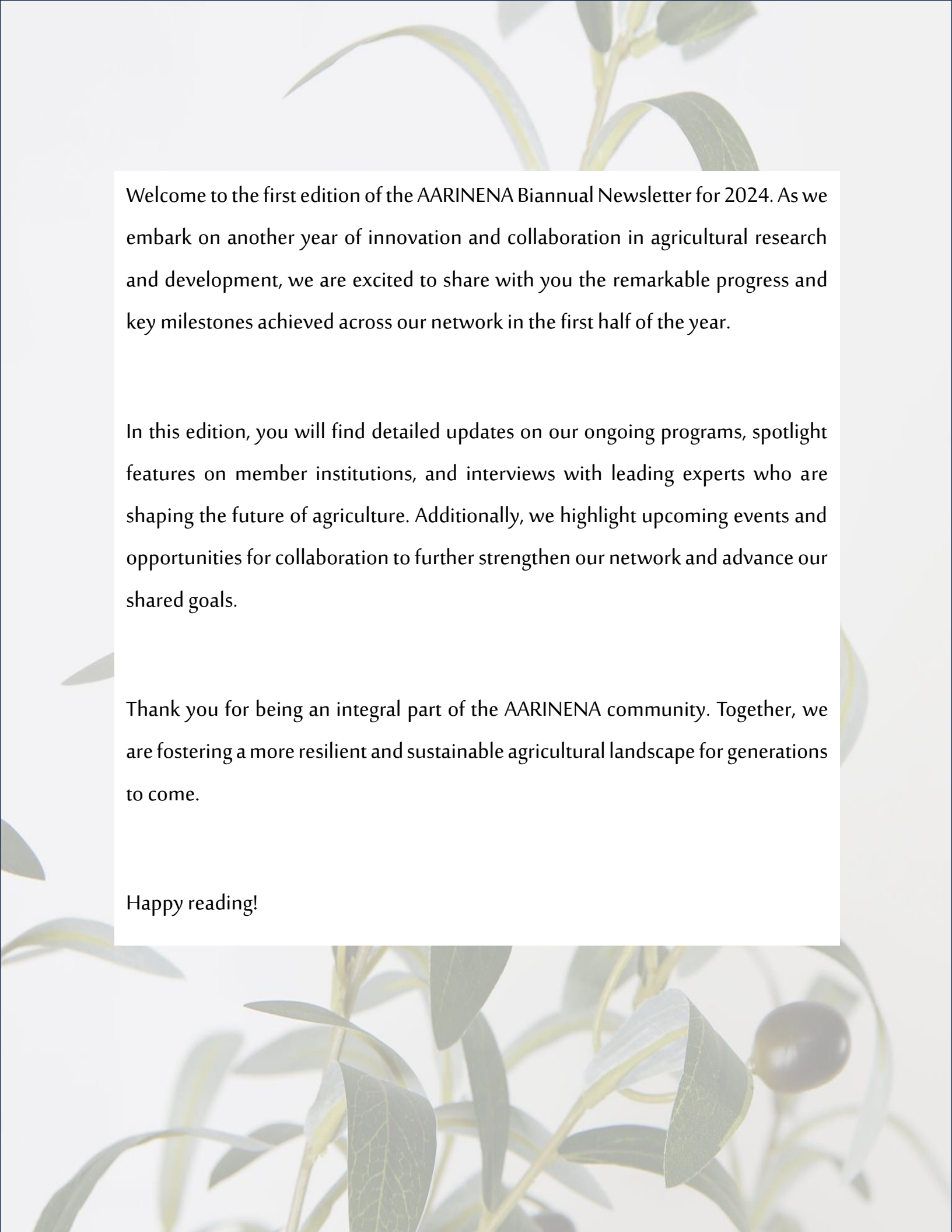
Dr. Rida A. Shibli, AARINENA

Editorial Committee

Executive Secretary:

Dr. Rida A. Shibli

Rayeh Alghsoon



Welcome to the first edition of the AARINENA Biannual Newsletter for 2024. As we embark on another year of innovation and collaboration in agricultural research and development, we are excited to share with you the remarkable progress and key milestones achieved across our network in the first half of the year.

In this edition, you will find detailed updates on our ongoing programs, spotlight features on member institutions, and interviews with leading experts who are shaping the future of agriculture. Additionally, we highlight upcoming events and opportunities for collaboration to further strengthen our network and advance our shared goals.

Thank you for being an integral part of the AARINENA community. Together, we are fostering a more resilient and sustainable agricultural landscape for generations to come.

Happy reading!

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AARINENA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Feb 14-15, 2024

AARINENA held the annual meeting for the Executive Committee members to discuss different activities and achievements made by AARINENA during 2023 – 2024. The meeting was hosted by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resource in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on February 14-15, 2024.

On the first day, the AARINENA team visited several agricultural research directorates and reviewed several field research experiments, under the generous patronage of Dr. Hamdan Al-Wahaibi, President of AARINENA. Everyone praised the efforts made, especially in the field of palm pest control, considering it the primary crop in Oman.

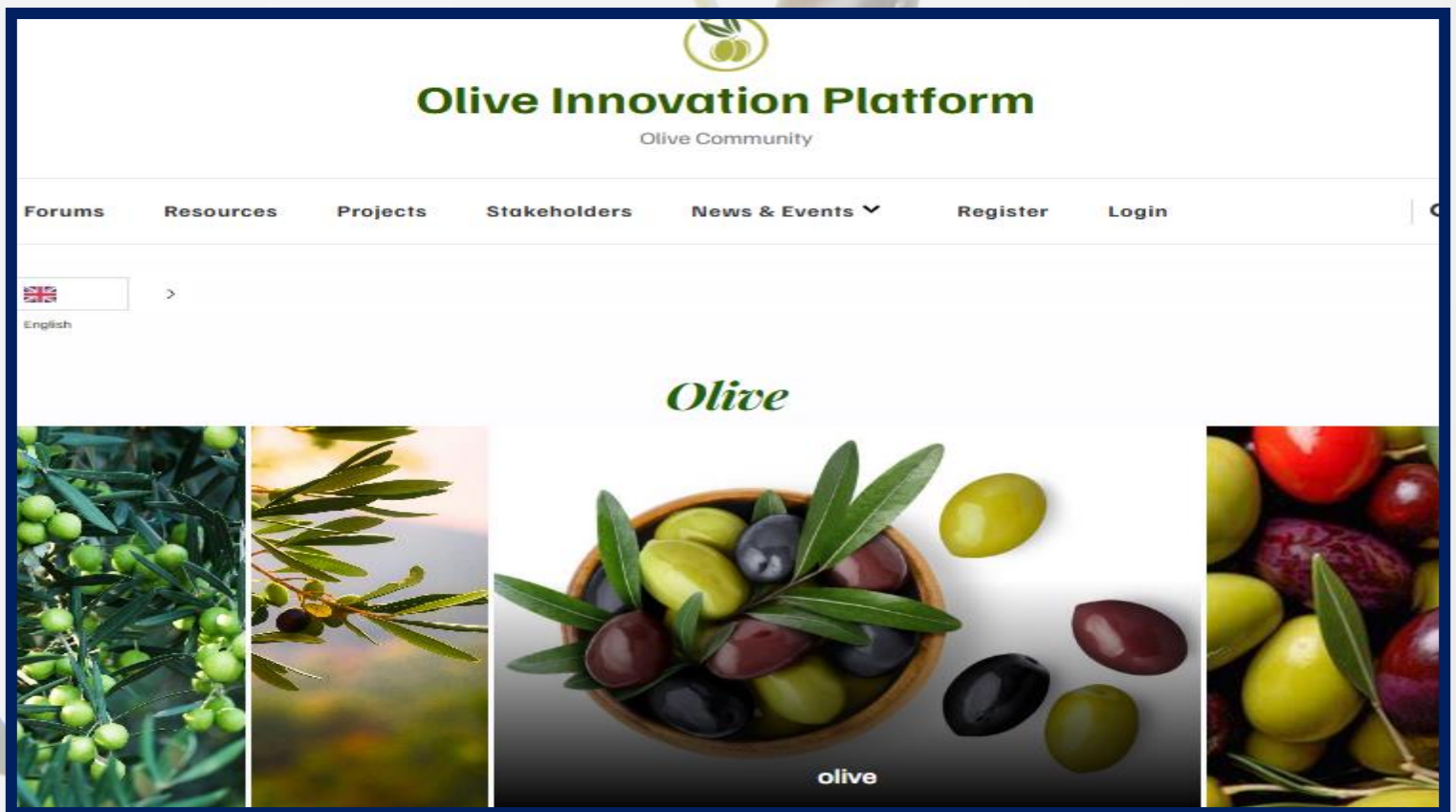
On the second day, during the meeting, the members discussed the achievements and projects undertaken by AARINENA in 2023, as well as the aspirations for 2024. They also discussed the financial situation of the association and put forward a set of recommendations, the most important of which was to activate the role of agricultural colleges in universities, considering them as incubators for future farmers.



Launch of the Olive Innovation Platform by AARINENA

Jun 4, 2024

In June, with the support of FAO, AARINENA launched the Olive Innovation Platform (<https://olive.aarinena.org>). This groundbreaking initiative aims to revolutionize the olive industry in the region by promoting innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.



AARINENA held four webinars during which they made sure to listen to stakeholders and implement their recommendations based on the feedback received. Additionally, stakeholders were given the opportunity to use the platform during the meeting to ensure they became familiar with it and found it easy to use.

Key Features of the Platform

Knowledge Repository: A collection of research papers, articles, and case studies on olive cultivation, pest management, harvesting techniques, and more.

Interactive Forums: Spaces for stakeholders to discuss challenges, share experiences, and collaborate on innovative solutions.

Training and Workshops: Access to online courses, webinars, and workshops conducted by leading experts in the field.

Innovative Tools and Resources: Tools for soil analysis, irrigation management, and disease detection to help farmers optimize their production processes.

Market Insights: Up-to-date information on market trends, consumer preferences, and trade opportunities to help businesses stay competitive.

Project

The olive tree, one of the oldest known cultivated trees in the world, has been a part of Mediterranean civilization since before recorded history. Olive trees possess an amazing ability to survive under unfavorable conditions; however, it is a demanding crop if it is to flourish. Therefore....

[Read More](#)



Our MEMBERS



Our services



Partnership
for
Development



Capacity
Development



Transforming
Agricultural
Research and
Innovation



Regional
Knowledge
Platform



| Amman Jordan | Mon-Fri 9:00AM - 5:00PM



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How You Can Get Involved

We invite all stakeholders in the olive industry to join us in this exciting venture. By participating in the Olive Innovation Platform, you can:

Stay Informed: Keep up with the latest research and technological advancements.

Collaborate: Work with peers and experts to tackle common challenges.

Learn and Grow: Enhance your skills and knowledge through our educational resources.

Innovate: Contribute to the development of new solutions that can drive the industry forward.

Upcoming Events

AARINENA will be hosting a series of webinars and virtual workshops over the next few months. These events will cover various topics, including sustainable olive farming practices, innovative pest control methods, and market expansion strategies.

For Registration

To join the platform, as an individual or an organization, please log in through the following link: <https://olive.aarinena.org>

You can contact us in AARINENA via Email:

r.shibli@cgiar.org and a.aarinena@gmail.com

AARINENA Partnerships Agreements

AARINENA has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Abu Dhabi Environment Network (ADEN) in the United Arab Emirates to establish joint activities, events, and projects related to the localization of specialized scientific knowledge in the fields of environmental agriculture, sustainable development, climate change, and social responsibility. This was confirmed by Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA, following the signing of the agreement on Sunday, March 17, 2024, in the presence of Eng. Emad Saad, an expert in sustainability and climate change, and the President of the Abu Dhabi Environment Network.

اتفاقية تعاون لتوطين المعرفة في مجال الزراعة والبيئة والتنمية المستدامة عمّان، أبوظبي، 17 مارس 2024



شبكة بيئة أبوظبي (ADEN)
الإمارات العربية المتحدة

<https://aarinena.org>
<https://abudhabienv.ae>



اتحاد مؤسسات البحوث الزراعية
(AARINENA)

#شركاء_بالمسؤولية #شركاء_بالمعرفة #شركاء_بالكوكب

Eng. Emad Saad also expressed his appreciation for the cooperation agreement with AARINENA, considering it a significant step towards empowering the targeted groups in the agricultural sector to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to climate variations. It is hoped that this agreement will inspire other institutions towards further collaboration and partnership, moving away from competition, because we are all partners in responsibility, partners in knowledge, partners in our nation, and partners in the planet.

Food Security Forum in the Face of Desertification and Climate Change in the Arab World 2024

Jun 29, 2024

In celebration of the 2024 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, and under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Abdulhakim Elwaer, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), AARINENA held the Food Security Forum in the Face of Desertification and Climate Change in the Arab World 2024. This event took place on Saturday, June 29, 2024, in support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 13, 15, and 17.

The event was held via Zoom, with the attendance of a large number of experts representing some of the most important organizations and institutions involved in the agricultural sector in the Near East and North Africa.



احتفاءً باليوم العالمي لمكافحة التصحر والجفاف 2024 منتدى الأمن الغذائي في ضوء التصحر والتغير المناخي بالعالم العربي



د. المهندس عماد سعد
رئيس شبكة بيئة أبوظبي
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
(ADEN)



د. محمد عبد الرزوف
مدير برنامج أبحاث البيئة والاستدامة
بمركز الخليج للأبحاث، المملكة العربية
السعودية (GRC)



أ. محمد الفوزان
نائب محافظ الهيئة العامة للأمن
الغذائي لشؤون الحبوب بالمملكة
العربية السعودية (GFSA)



د. رشا شبلي
الأمين التنفيذي لاتحاد مؤسسات
البحوث الزراعية في الشرق الأدنى
وشمال أفريقيا (AARINENA)



د. عبد الحكيم الواعر
المدير العام المساعد والممثل الاقليمي
المكتب الإقليمي للشرق الأدنى وشمال
أفريقيا لمنظمة الأغذية والزراعة
(FAO)



د. محمد عبد الحميد داود
مستشار الجودة البيئية، هيئة البيئة
أبوظبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة
(EAD)



د. حنيو الغنماني
مسؤول الشؤون الاقتصادية لسياسات
البيئة والغذاء، لجنة الأمم المتحدة
الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغرب آسيا
(ESCWA)



د. إيهاب جناح
مدير إدارة الموارد المائية
المركز العربي لدراسات المناطق
الجافة والأراضي القاحلة
(ACSAD)



د. حسن مشايخ
المدير التكملي لمنظمة إيكاردا في
لبنان والأردن وفلسطين، المركز
الدولي للبحوث الزراعية في المناطق
الجافة (ICARDA)



د. تركي فيصل الرشيد
أكاديمي مختص في التنمية المستدامة،
رئيس شركة الأعشاب الذهبية
المملكة العربية السعودية



د. إسلام الغازير
أمين سر الجمعية الأردنية
لمكافحة التصحر وتنمية البادية
المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية



د. سعد العزيز عبد الحلق
مسؤول البحوث والدراسات
إدارة أوقاف صالح عبد العزيز الراجحي
المملكة العربية السعودية



د. أشرف صمران
رئيس المجلس العربي للأمن المائي
والغذائي، جمهورية مصر العربية



السبت 29 يونيو 2024 - الساعة 11:00 صباحاً بتوقيت عمان ومكة المكرمة - عبر المنصة الافتراضية (زوم)

The event will feature the participation of 12 experts:

Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary, Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)

Dr. Hassan Machlab, Country Manager for ICARDA in Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Dr. Ihab Jannad, Director of Water Resources Management, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

Dr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer for Environmental and Food Policies, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Dr. Mohamed Abdulhamid Dawood, Environmental Quality Advisor, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (EAD)

Mr. Mohamed Al-Fawzan, Deputy Governor of the General Food Security Authority for Grain Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (GFSA)

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental and Sustainability Research Program, Gulf Research Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (GRC)

Eng. Emad Saad, President of Abu Dhabi Environmental Network, United Arab Emirates (ADEN)

Dr. Ashraf Omran, President of the Arab Union for Water and Food Security (AUWFS)

Dr. Abdulaziz Abdulkhaleq, Research and Studies Officer, Sheikh Saleh Abdulaziz Al Rajhi Endowments Management, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Eng. Islam Al-Mugayrah, Secretary of the Jordanian Society for Combating Desertification and Development of the Badia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Dr. Turki Faisal Al-Rasheed, President of Golden Herbs Company, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

For more details:

<https://youtu.be/qiQkrW0bHvU?feature=shared>

AARINENA Networks Activities

Launch of the Plant Protection Network

Recognizing the paramount importance of safeguarding and protecting agriculture production from all kinds of pests, AARINENA is enthusiastic about establishing a Plant Protection Network. This network aims to bring together experts, researchers, and professionals from our member countries, pooling their collective knowledge and resources to enhance plant protection strategies.

Moreover, the main challenge of the world is to increase the productivity of agricultural crops in a sustainable manner. Invasive pest pressures, pesticide misuse, global warming, water scarcity, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and decreased ecosystem services have serious consequences on food security and life on the earth. Global efforts should be directed to maximize yields through working together to find solutions to the challenges facing food and agriculture. To maintain and increase agricultural productivity, advanced research, and cooperation in the field of plant protection is needed.



Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud

Coordinator of the Plant Protection Network

Webinar entitled "**Pesticides: Persistent Organic Pollutants**", which was presented by Dr. Tawfeeq Al-Antari, from the University of Jordan, Jordan, on Mar 10, 2024. This important session was moderated by Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud, the coordinator of AARINENA's Plant Protection network, and it involved important information about the Pesticides. The meeting perceived fruitful discussions among the attendees from the different members of AARINENA from the North Africa and Near East (NENA) region.

For more details:

<https://youtu.be/uwS-LpaaX8Y?feature=shared>

تخزين المبيدات



المبيدات شديدة السمية للبيئة

الهيئة الوطنية للأغذية والدواء
Saudi Food & Drug Authority

إرشادات تخزين المبيد



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان دافئ ولا تتركها تحت أشعة الشمس المباشرة



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان يمكن أن يصل إليه الأطفال والحيوانات الأليفة



لا تخلط مع مبيدات أخرى



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان يمكن أن يصل إليه الأطفال



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان يمكن أن يصل إليه الأطفال



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان يمكن أن يصل إليه الأطفال



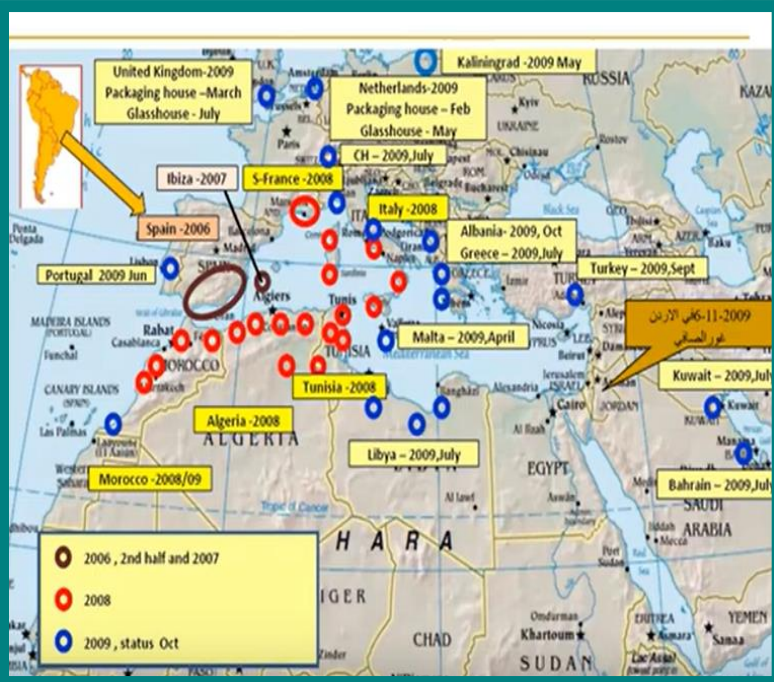
لا تستخدم المبيدات بعد انتهاء صلاحيتها



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان يمكن أن يصل إليه الأطفال



يجب ألا تخزن في مكان يمكن أن يصل إليه الأطفال



Webinar entitled "**Tomato Leaf Miner (*Tuta absoluta*) and Its Control Methods**", which was presented by Dr. Shareef Rawashdeh, from the National Agricultural Research Center in Jordan, on May 19, 2024. This important session was moderated by Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud, the coordinator of AARINENA's Plant Protection network, and it involved important information about the *Tuta absoluta*. The meeting perceived fruitful discussions among the attendees from the different members of AARINENA from the North Africa and Near East (NENA) region.

For more details:

<https://youtu.be/K7-geYbHCY0?feature=shared>

Webinar entitled "**Community Responsibility in Environmental Protection**", which was presented by Eng. Emad Saad, an expert in sustainability and climate change, and the President of the Abu Dhabi Environment Network in UAE, on Mar 19, 2024. This important session was moderated by Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud, the coordinator of AARINENA's Plant Protection network, and it involved important information about the role of non-experts' practices in environmental conservation. The meeting perceived fruitful discussions among the attendees from the different members of AARINENA from the North Africa and Near East (NENA) region.

For more details:

<https://youtu.be/gbiPu5SYKKs?feature=shared>



Date Palm Network

Webinar entitled "Harvesting Methods and Post-Harvest Techniques for Date Palm Trees", which was presented by Dr. Amal Zenhom, Agricultural Research Center in Egypt, on Feb 1, 2024. This important session was moderated by Dr. Muhammad Kamal Abbas, the coordinator of AARINENA's Date Palm network, and it involved important information about the harvesting methods of date palm and key post-harvest storage and processing techniques. The meeting perceived fruitful discussions among the attendees from the different members of AARINENA from the North Africa and Near East (NENA) region.

For more details:

<https://youtu.be/a82vTzSGySU?feature=shared>

طرق الحصاد المختلفة

طرق الإرتقاء لقمة النخلة

١. الطرق التقليدية

٢. الطرق الميكانيكية



٥. التفريغ

• يجب أن يتم بعناية ودقة وذلك تجنباً لإحداث أي أضرار ميكانيكية



أهم المعايير التي نفرق بها بين جودة التمور

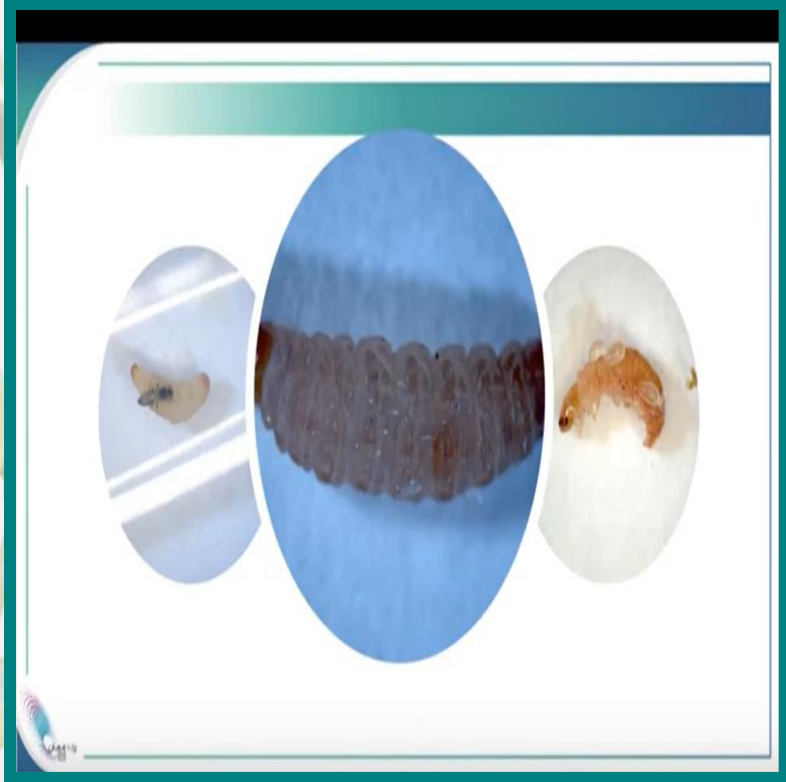


- انفصال القشرة أو التقشر
- حجم الثمار
- نسبة الرطوبة في التمرة
- تجانس اللون للتمر في نفس الصنف
- عدم تواجد الحشرات داخل الثمار في وقت النضج والتخزين ويمكن تفاديه باستخدام التغطية بالسلال والتبخير

Webinar entitled "**Biological Control of the Red Palm Weevil in the Sultanate of Oman**", which was presented by Eng. Samia Al-Naebi, an expert in sustainability and climate change, and the President of the Abu Dhabi Environment Network in UAE, on Mar 19, 2024. This important session was moderated by Dr. Muhammad Kamal Abbas, the coordinator of AARINENA's Date Palm network, and it involved important information about the red palm weevil and its biological control methods in Oman. The meeting perceived fruitful discussions among the attendees from the different members of AARINENA from the North Africa and Near East (NENA) region.

For more details:

<https://youtu.be/cNWqCm8ZYWg?feature=shared>



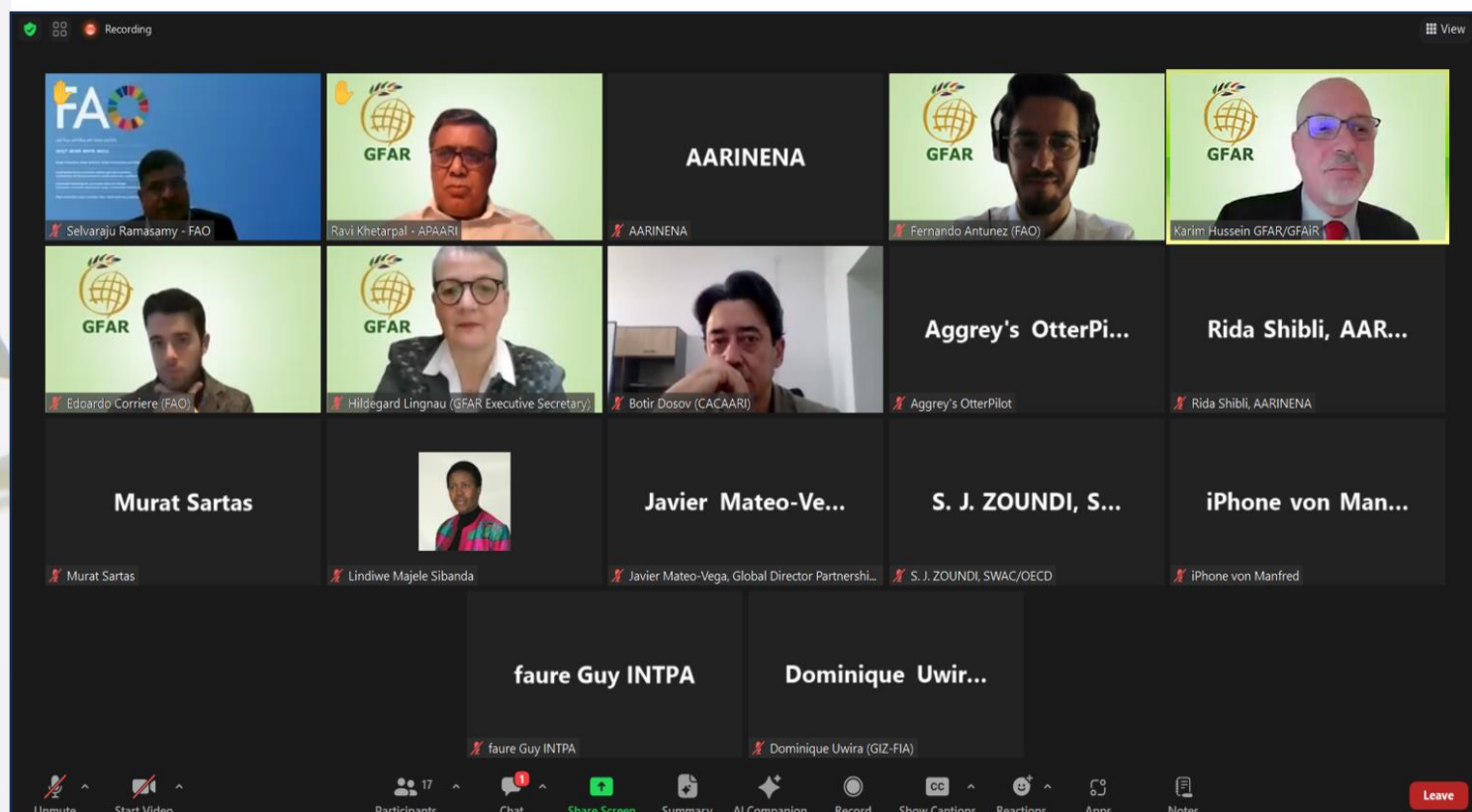
AARINENA Participations with Partners and Members

A Global NARS Consortium

Jan 18, 2024

AARINENA association, represented by Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the global NARS consortium. GFAR has been entrusted with developing a Global National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) Consortium based on the Declaration signed in Bangkok on March, 2023 by its Regional Fora. The GNC aims to strengthen and amplify the global voice of NARS by defining them as “all public and semi-public stakeholders involved in research and development in a country, including national agricultural research institutes, universities, and government laboratories”. As a result, GFAR pursues and contributes to the success of the project by hosting and facilitating inter-regional face-to-face dialogues among regional and subregional AR&I to strengthen their multi-stakeholder governance, partnership management, management of change, and MEL possibly with co-hosting with the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP).

This regional meeting aims to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange and to prepare the global launch of the GNC in June 2024. Identification, a preliminary validation and detailed information gathering of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) within the NENA region have been accomplished in a cooperation with the CGIAR Regional Director.



GFAR/GFAiR Questionnaire & learning exercise: Workshop

Jan 18, 2024

AARINENA association, represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the virtual workshop for a cross-learning exercise among Collective Actions organized by GFAR following the survey conducted in December 2023.

Two sessions were held on January 16 and 18, 2024, to discuss the results that were shared with the participants.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a presentation slide titled "GNC: Where we are?". The slide features the GFAR logo on the left and the APAARI logo on the right. In the center, there is a circular portrait of Mr. Karim Hussein, Strategic Advisor at GFAR. The Zoom interface includes a top bar with "Recording" and "You are viewing Sami's screen" notifications, and a participant list on the right side. The participant list shows names and avatars for various attendees, including Rida Shibli, Thiva Bubpra..., Vietnam National Plan..., TH DOA Margaret C. Y..., Bangladesh: Mr. Must..., Susantha Jayasinghe (...), Rishiraj Dutta (ADPC), Laurie (NARI), Norihito KANAMORI (J...), Martina Spisiakova, Rinzin Wangchuk, Do..., Eunjung Choi(RDA), KOYAMA, Osamu (JIRC...), Laurent L'HUILLIER - L..., BSIP Lingtan, Fernando, DOA, Tika Karki, PARC-Pakistan, and Nawodanie SLCARP. The bottom toolbar contains icons for Unmute, Start Video, Participants (53), Chat, Share Screen, Summary, AI Companion, Record, Show Captions, Reactions, Apps, Whiteboards, Notes, and a Leave button.

The Effects of the War in Gaza on Food Security in Jordan

Jan 27, 2024

Dr. Rida Shlbli, the Executive Secretary of AARINENA, participated in the proceedings of a scientific seminar organized by the National Coalition Party in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The seminar aimed to discuss the effects of the war in Gaza on food security in Jordan, considering the changes in food supply methods in the Middle East since October 7th due to regional events.

This seminar reflects AARINENA's commitment to engage with the living reality of the Near East. Dr. Rida discussed the reality of food security in Jordan before and after the war, addressing the challenges and ways to overcome them. The discussion took place in partnership with Dr. Fadel Al-Zu'bi, an expert and international consultant in food security issues, along with Dr. Radeena Al-Batarseh, the head of the food security dossier in the party.



Private Sector Dialogue on "Engaging the Private Sector in Accelerating Agrifood Systems Transformation in the Near East and North Africa (NENA)"

Jan 30, 2024

FAO has been engaged in promoting dialogues with the private sector in the NENA region. In 2021, FAO initiated a dialogue with the private sector in the region to identify opportunities for private sector engagement and action around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and particularly the SDG #2.

In the preparations for the Ministerial segment of the Thirty Seventh session of the Near East Regional Dialogue (NERC 37) which held in Amman in March 2024, FAO facilitated the organization of an interactive dialogue with the private sector on "Engaging the Private Sector in Accelerating Agrifood Systems Transformation in the Near East and North Africa (NENA)" which represents a unique opportunity to collaborate, share insights, and collectively shape the future of agrifood systems in the region.

This dialogue was organized in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Group Business Forum – THIQAHA.

This engaging session aims to bring together diverse stakeholders from small, medium, and large enterprises, regional organizations supporting private sector such as the Union of Arab chambers, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, as well as regional financial institutions such as AGFUND, IFAD, IFC, ICD, to discuss and strategize collaborative efforts that will drive sustainable progress and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs within the region.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



IsDB
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank



FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

#NERC37

Engaging the Private Sector in
Accelerating Agrifood Systems
Transformation in the Near East
and North Africa

30 January 2024, 11:00–14:30 (Cairo time)

FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) - Senior Officers Meeting

Feb 5-8, 2024

Building on the outcomes of the 35th and 36th Sessions of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC), the deliberations at NERC 37 seeks to forge a regional understanding and defines an action plan, with shared ownership and support towards the implementation of actions to accelerate such transformation. The discussion focuses in this context on FAO's global and regional framework, programme and priorities to this end.

NERC37 is hosted by Jordan and was held in two segments. The Senior Officers Meeting took place virtually from 5 to 8 February 2024 where ministers of agriculture, partner organizations, sister agencies and senior officials of member countries met to elaborate on regional challenges and priorities in the NENA region. This ensured the effectiveness of FAO's impact in the region and helped in defining its work priorities for the next biennium.

These priorities were determined through engaging roundtable and panel discussions with all member countries to identify best practices to transform agrifood systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

#NERC37

Senior Official Meeting of the 37th Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC37)

5-8 February 2024 | Amman, Jordan

Side Events during the Senior Officers Meeting - NERC-37

Feb 7-8, 2024

The side events held on February 7-8, 2024, during the Senior Officers Meeting of the 37th Near East Regional Conference (NERC-37) in Amman, showcased a range of critical issues and innovative solutions related to agri-food systems in the Near East and North Africa. These events provided a platform for experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue, share knowledge, and explore collaborative opportunities.

The side events at NERC-37 provided valuable insights into the pressing issues facing agri-food systems in the Near East and North Africa. The interactive sessions facilitated knowledge exchange, showcased innovative solutions, and fostered collaboration among stakeholders, contributing significantly to the conference's goals of advancing sustainable agriculture and food security in the region.



**FAO Regional Conference
for the Near East**

#NERC37

**Senior Official Meeting of the
37th Regional Conference for the
Near East (NERC37)**

5-8 February 2024 | Amman, Jordan

Official Launch of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services (AFRAS)

Feb 8, 2024

FAO Regional Office for the Near East in collaboration with IFAD and GFRAS organized the official launch of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services on 8 February 2024 as a side event of the Near East Regional Conference NERC 37 held in the context of NERC Senior Officers Meeting. The launch, which was officially opened by FAO and IFAD, introduced the institutional structure of AFRAS, featured key messages from AFRAS community and presented the AFRAS webplatform. The forum is primarily dedicated to networking among RAS stakeholders; information sharing and exchange of experience; and knowledge management.

Dr. Rida Shibli discussed the role of AARINENA in serving the agricultural sector in the Near East and North Africa region. The key points he addressed included:

AARINENA's Role in Serving the Agricultural Sector: Dr. Shibli emphasized the importance of AARINENA in supporting and developing the agricultural sector in the region. This includes providing technical and scientific support to farmers, improving agricultural practices, and increasing agricultural productivity.

Success of AFRAS: Dr. Shibli highlighted the crucial roles that AARINENA can play in ensuring the success of the AFRAS initiative. These roles include coordinating among various stakeholders, providing training and technical support, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise among member countries.

Importance of Cooperation: Dr. Shibli stressed the importance of cooperation among all stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, the private sector, and farmers. This cooperation is essential to achieving common goals and enhancing food security in the region.

These points reflect AARINENA's commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural development and achieving food security in the Near East and North Africa through effective collaboration and partnership among all involved parties.

Collaboration with AFRAS

1 Knowledge Sharing: AARINENA and AFRAS can exchange valuable knowledge, expertise, and best practices in agricultural research, development, and advisory services. This collaboration can help both organizations enhance their understanding of regional agricultural challenges and identify innovative solutions.

2 Capacity Building: By working together, AARINENA and AFRAS can facilitate capacity-building initiatives for agricultural researchers, extension agents, and policymakers in Arab and African countries. This includes training programs, workshops, and seminars aimed at improving agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience.

3 Resource Mobilization: Collaborative efforts between AARINENA and AFRAS can attract funding and resources from international donors, governments, and other stakeholders. Pooling resources allows for the implementation of larger-scale projects and initiatives that address common agricultural issues in the Arab and African regions.

The Ministerial Meeting to Assess the Status of the Red Palm Weevil Control Trust Fund

Feb 26-27, 2024

AARINENA Association, represented by its Executive Secretary Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the ministerial meeting held to follow up on the implementation of the framework strategy and select the best techniques to combat the red palm weevil. This meeting took place on February 26-27, 2024.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the ceremony honoring the winners of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in its sixteenth session, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Four years after the conference "Developing a Framework Strategy for the Eradication of the Red Palm Weevil," which took place from March 9-10, 2019, there have been increasing reports of red palm weevil infestations. This necessitated an urgent meeting attended by specialists, national officials, regional and international organizations, public institutions, and private companies involved in combating the red palm weevil to address this important issue and study the status of its spread in the affected countries. Combating the weevil requires the combined efforts of all nations.



37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Mar 4-5, 2024

The second and final segment of NERC37 is the Ministerial Session that took place through a hybrid modality on 4 and 5 March 2024. The purpose of the high-level discussions is to frame the deliberations and gather different perspectives from the member countries on priorities for action.

The Ministerial Session resulted in a regional agreement on the way forward and joint action to achieve a sustainable agrifood system.



The 3rd Edition of The Water-Energy-Food Nexus Conference

Mar 5-6, 2024

Dr. Rida Shibli, representing AARINENA, participated in the 3rd edition of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Conference, which was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology. Dr. Rida spoke about the state of agriculture in Jordan and the main challenges facing this sector. He also discussed the strategies of the national plan for climate change adaptation and the key priorities for the upcoming period.

The two-day event was co-organised by the University of Jordan and the German Agency for International Cooperation. In his opening remarks, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of involving stakeholders and local communities in developing strategies to address the challenges related to water, energy, food and environmental systems.



The prince also emphasised the need to foster a sense of citizenship and belonging through collective action.

Citing World Bank data, Prince Hassan highlighted that 40 per cent of the world's population faces water scarcity, with projections that by 2040, one in four children will live in regions facing "acute" water scarcity.

Reports from the Food and Agriculture Organisation draw attention to the need to increase food production by 70 per cent by 2050 to meet the needs of a projected global population of 9.7 billion while reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture, he added.

The prince also advocated the creation of a regional water and energy community that connects the Mashreq countries, drawing parallels with the European Coal and Steel Community model.

He also called for prioritising human settlement and dignity, alongside maximising societal investment to promote stability and economic modernisation and ensuring an equitable distribution of benefits across regions.

His Highness also referred to the repercussions of the war against Gaza, including the impact on the Gazans, as well as critical sectors such as agriculture, water, energy and food security.

The Challenges Facing the Agriculture and Food Security in Jordan Due to Climate Change, and the Importance of a Just Transition

Dr. Rida Shibli

Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa, AARINENA

The Way Forward for Food Security

Food security is a complex condition requiring a holistic approach to all forms of malnutrition, the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, resilience of food production systems and the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources

The Way Forward for Food Security

An urgent need to protect the most vulnerable people	Maintaining the food supply chain	Mitigating the effects of COVID-19 pandemic throughout the food system and increase the food production	Building better resilient food systems	Investment in agricultural RDI & accelerating the pace towards more productive, sustainable, efficient, & equitable value chains
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His Highness also referred to the repercussions of the war against Gaza, including the impact on the Gazans, as well as critical sectors such as agriculture, water, energy and food security.

Acting German Ambassador to Jordan Florian Rendel stressed the need for a clear methodology to address Jordan's water resource challenges in the face of increasing demand.

Launching Water Footprint Tool & Guidance, Plus AI Company Insights on Reducing FLW in the UAE

Mar 7, 2024

Dr. Rida Shibli, representing AARINENA, participated in the 3rd edition of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Conference, which was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology. Dr. Rida spoke about the state of agriculture in Jordan and the main challenges facing this sector. He also discussed the strategies of the national plan for climate change adaptation and the key priorities for the upcoming period.

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This webinar unveils the Water Footprint Tool and Guidance document. This session provides detailed instructions on its application, alongside firsthand insights from Winnow, an AI-driven company actively combating Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in the UAE. Supported by the UK government, this webinar aims to empower UAE businesses in addressing FLW challenges.

The main objective of this webinar was to gain knowledge on:

- Introduction to the Water Footprint Tool
- Step by step instructions on the Guidance document on the utilization of the Tool
- Training for using the Water Footprint tool.
- Best practices in reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in UAE.

Did you know that when food is lost or wasted you are also losing water?

Did you know there is a tool that calculates the water footprint of food purchased, wasted and redistributed in the UAE?



Thursday 7th March 2024

13:30-15:00 (UAE)
09:30-11:00 (UK)

DISCOVER

Join us for the launch of the **Water Footprint Tool and Guidance document**, featuring step-by-step instructions on its utilization. Gain insights directly from Winnow an AI-based company actively involved in reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in the UAE

Speakers

Seta Tutundjian- CEO and founder, Thriving solution.
Rachel Devine- Senior Analyst, WRAP
David Jackson- Director of Marketing & Public Affairs- Winnow
Pre-recorded- City University of London



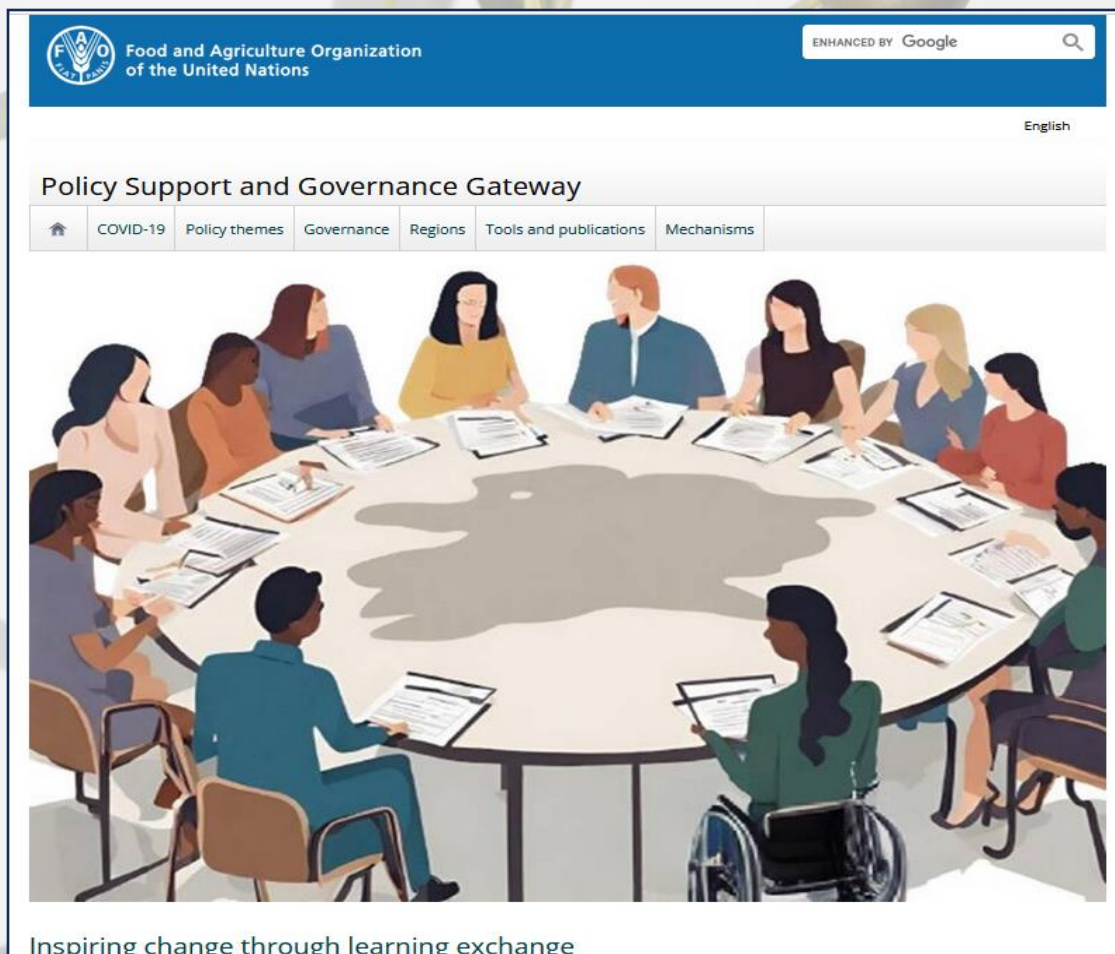
Peer-to-peer learning dialogue: multistakeholder governance for agrifood systems transformation

Mar 7, 2024

A total of 57 participants from 14 countries around the Mediterranean and beyond gathered in an online dialogue on 7 March 2024 to share a collective and interactive learning experience in which different perspectives were presented and discussed.

The dialogue was organized by FAO's Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) in the framework of the SFS-MED Platform, a multi-stakeholder initiative to advance sustainable agrifood systems in the Mediterranean region, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Italy and co-led by FAO, the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

The dialogue was part of the Systems Change Learning Programme, a new ESF initiative that aims to build capacity for and commitment to agrifood systems transformation through collective learning.



GFAR Steering Committee meeting

Mar 22, 2024

At the sidelines of the VIII Global Conference on Family Farming organized by WRF from March 19 to 21 in Vitoria - Gasteiz, the Global Forum for Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAiR) convened its annual Steering Committee (SC) meeting. The hybrid meeting served as a platform to update members on recent important achievements, such as the successful conclusion and delivery of the EC-funded project and the transition in hosting from FAO to CGIAR/ABC from Feb 1st, 2024, following the signing of a hosting agreement.

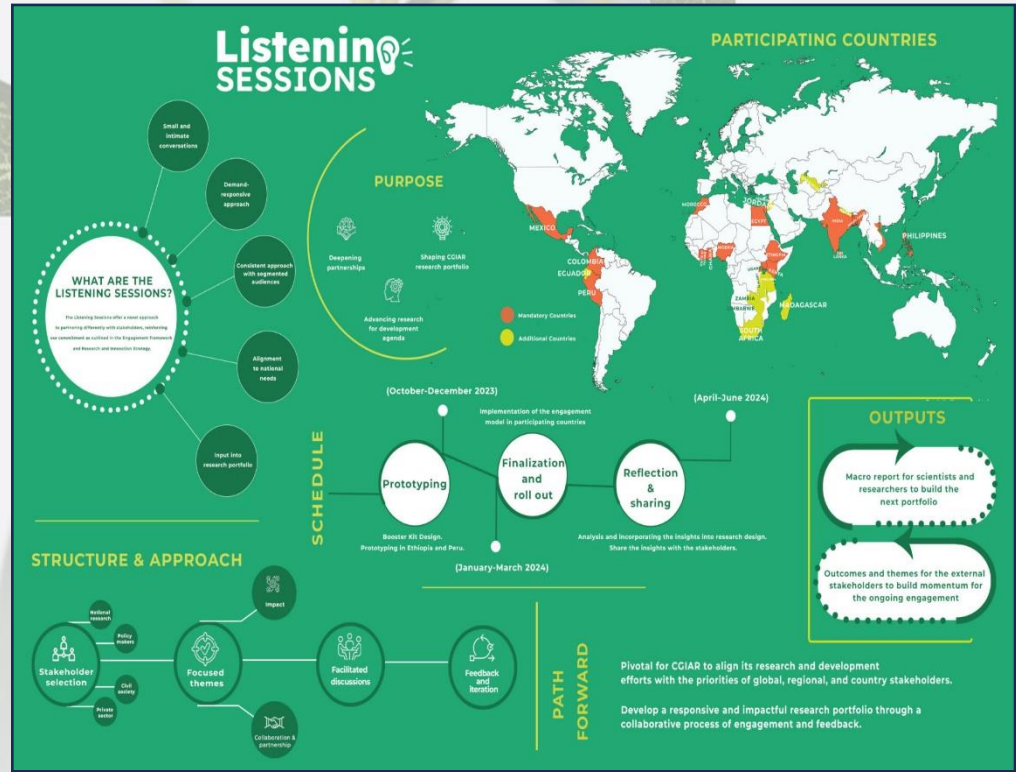
The discussions during the SC meeting focused on the establishment of the Global NARS Consortium (GNC) and GFAiR's Collective Actions (CAs). The meeting also noted the need for improvements in carrying out the collective actions which are at the heart of GFAiR. Additionally, it was emphasized that GFAiR should now work in a more decentralized manner through its key partners, the Regional Networks to show its global presence and optimize the use of resources.



CGIAR Listening Session in Jordan

Mar 25, 2024

CGIAR conducted “Listening Sessions” to engage with key partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries in 32 countries across the Global South to inform the development of its 2025-2030 portfolio of research programs. In the Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) region, sessions were held in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Uzbekistan.



CGIAR Listening Session in Jordan

The Jordan Listening Session held on 25 March 2024, in Amman, at the Water, Energy, and Environment Center at the University of Jordan, was attended by 24 participants from our host and main agriculture research partner National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), as well as experts from the water, social development, agriculture, energy, environment, and climate change sectors. The session was co-organized and co-convened by CGIAR’s regional office and Centers, including IWMI, ICARDA, and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. The session aimed to gather valuable insights and directions to guide CGIAR research activities and deepen collaboration for future transformative partnerships.

Listening Session participants made these connections between national priorities and the CGIAR Impact Areas:

- Nutrition, Health, and Food Security
- Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs
- Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion
- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
- Environmental Health and Biodiversity
- Collaboration: Effective Modalities and Mechanisms

GFRAS Webinar “Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Digital Extension Services”


Apr 16, 2024

An insightful webinar exploring the transformative potential of AI-driven extension services in agriculture. Discover how advancements in artificial intelligence are revolutionizing digitalization efforts within the agricultural sector, unlocking new opportunities for enhanced advisory services and knowledge dissemination. Gain valuable insights into leveraging AI technologies for sustainable agricultural development and improved livelihoods.


GFRAS Webinar

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 [Zoom Webinar](#)
[Register here](#)

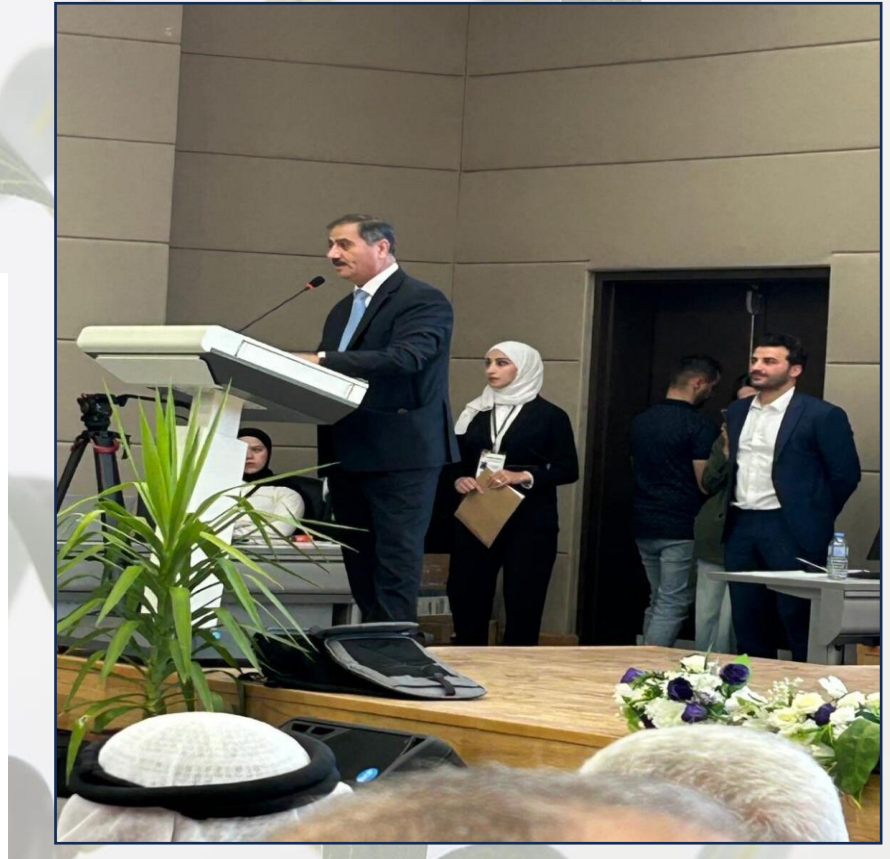
 16 April 2024
15-16:30 UTC+1

The Middle East and North Africa Conference on Adapted Physical Activity

Apr 22, 2024

Dr. Rida Shibli, the Executive Secretary AARINENA, participated in the proceedings of the Middle East and North Africa Conference on Adapted Physical Activity, organized by the Middle East Region for Adapted Physical Activity in collaboration with the Jordan Society for Scientific Research, Entrepreneurship, and Creativity, the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity, and the West Asia Para Federation, held at Hashemite University from April 21st to 23rd, 2024.



This event serves as an excellent platform for scientific exchange and collaboration among researchers and enthusiasts in the field of adapted physical activity, with participation from no fewer than 200 researchers from around the world and countries of the Middle East region, showcasing the latest innovations and research in this field.

The Scientific Day and National Agricultural Exhibition at Mutah University

Apr 22, 2024

The Executive Secretary of AARINENA, Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the activities of the Scientific Day and National Agricultural Exhibition at Mutah University, held under the theme: "Towards Jordanian Food Security in Light of Climate Change and Global Political Conditions" on April 22nd, 2024.

During the Scientific Day, Dr. Rida delivered a presentation titled "The Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Food Security," in which he addressed the issue of climate change and its effects on agricultural production in the Middle East and North Africa region, as well as its impact on Jordan and the measures taken to mitigate its effects.

Several researchers from universities, public, and private sectors participated in the Scientific Day activities.



Prevalence of Undernourishment (%) & the Number of Undernourished (million) in Jordan

Year	2007-2009	2009-2011	2011-2013	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2021-2022
%	6.7	7.2	8.6	9.0	9.0	8.6	8.7	8.5	16.9
Million	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0

Healthy Soils for Food System Transformation – Innovative Agronomic Solutions for Africa

May 7-9, 2024

In response to the recommendation of its policy organ, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Environment (DARBE), the African Union (AU) hosted the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

The summit, which held from 7 – 9 May, 2024, was organised in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and partners.

The Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit deliberated on Africa’s recent widespread decades-long decline in soil quality of farmland – a phenomenon that continues today and negatively impacts the agricultural production capacity and food security in the continent.

It was within this framework that Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), in collaboration with the CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy Initiative, hosted on the sidelines of the summit, a side event on healthy soils for food system transformation – innovative agronomic solutions for Africa.

Join
Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)
and the Excellence in Agronomy Initiative (EIA)

For a side event on
Healthy Soils for Food System Transformation:
Innovative Agronomic Solutions for Africa

Dr. Martin Fregene
Director, Agro and Agroindustry, AfDB

Ms. Wangiku Guehu
Programme Manager, EIA

Dr. Solomon Gizaw
Head, TAAT CH

Dr. Mandivkasi Nkomo
Chief Growth Officer, EIA

Dr. Paul Deme
Senior Principal Scientist, Global Head Agronomy Division, CIP

Dr. Jordan Chamberlin
Senior Economist, Sustainable Agrifood Systems (SAS) Program (ACID SOILS dashboard)

Dr. Bruno Fran
TAAT scaling Expert

Dr. Jean Fikwe Dossa
TAAT Soil Fertility Leader & Director, Soil Health & Agric Productivity, IFDC/TAAT Soil Fertility Leader & Director, Soil Health & Agric Productivity, IFDC

Tuesday 7th May 2024
Tent 4 Lawns, KICC, Nairobi

»»»»»»

Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit (AFSH 24)
Join virtually: <https://cutt.ly/EIA-TAAT>

17h00
18h30 (EAT)

Scan to Register on
zoom

IITA **AAATE** **AfricaRice** **CIP** **FARA** **ICARDA** **ICRISAT** **IFDC** **ILRI** **IWMI** **WorldFish** **World Vegetable Center** **CGIAR**

Conference of "Olive Oil: The Miracle of the Mediterranean Basin"

May 28, 2024

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Ali bin Nayef, Honorary President of the Jordanian Women's Network for Olive Oil, the scientific forum on "Olive Oil: The Miracle of the Mediterranean Basin" was inaugurated on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. The event was organized by the network in cooperation with the International Olive Council and the Bandolia Foundation. Her Royal Highness called for enhancing the network's role to increase the conscious consumption of extra virgin olive oil, emphasizing the importance of the olive sector in sustainable economic and social development, as olive tree cultivation is essential for climate change adaptation.

AARINENA participated through Dr. Rida Shibli and Dr. Mohammad Malkawi, who gave a presentation on the recently launched Olive Innovation Platform supported by the FAO. It was also emphasized that women have a vital role in the agricultural sector, a principle that AARINENA naturally upholds.



The Virtual Community of Practice (CoP) for the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities Organized by APAARI

May 31, 2024

Organized by APAARI, this webinar aimed to sustain the positive outcomes achieved in pesticide residue mitigation and enhance trade opportunities through biopesticides.

Experts from academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, and policymakers from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond participated in the symposium. The aim was to foster a thriving community committed to promoting sustainable agricultural practices.



Virtual Community of Practice (CoP)

for the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities



31 May 2024



2 PM (Bangkok)



d.senadheera@apaari.org



Agrifood Systems Change Learning Workshop: The SFS-MED Experience

Jun 6-7, 2024

On June 6th and 7th, AARINENA (Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa) actively participated in the Agrifood Systems Change Learning Workshop: The SFS-MED Experience. The event was held in the Iran room (foyer) at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, bringing together key stakeholders, experts, and organizations committed to transforming agrifood systems in the Mediterranean region.

The workshop, part of the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Mediterranean initiative, focused on fostering collaboration and sharing innovative strategies to address critical challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainable agriculture. Participants engaged in intensive discussions, presentations, and interactive sessions aimed at developing actionable solutions for resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.2024.

Dr. Rida Shibli, AARINENA's Executive Secretary, participated in the workshop, contributing AARINENA's experience and insight on the latest research and developments in the agricultural sector. His involvement underscored AARINENA's commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural practices and policies in the Near East and North Africa.

The workshop featured several highlights, including expert presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions.



The 2nd CoP on Biopesticides

Jun 24, 2024

Linking academia, industry, and policy makers is crucial for the commercial outreach and adoption of biopesticides. This collaboration enhances public and environmental health, supports sustainable agriculture, and addresses the growing demand for safer pest control methods.

To this effect, the CoP focused on sharing knowledge on a success story from India about the collaboration of academia, industry, and policy makers for the commercial outreach and adoption of biopesticides, as well as ongoing efforts in innovative pest control techniques in Africa Region.



Asia-pacific Biopesticide Community of practice **ABCOP**



WHAT IS COP ?

- A a group of people who share a common interest, profession, or passion and come together to collectively learn, share knowledge, and improve their skills through regular interaction and collaboration.

COP FOR BIOPESTICIDES ?

- There is a need to bring together stakeholders to share knowledge and engage in the use of biopesticides.
- It is essential to promote the use of biopesticides with an innovative approach for pest management and to enhance safe trade opportunities in a sustainable way.

JOIN OUR DYNAMIC PLATFORM!

- ★ Showcase your skills
- 📄 Knowledge management Tools
- 🚀 Innovative projects
- 👉 Be the driving force in our next meeting!

Write to us about CoP :
d.senadheera@apaari.org
ravi.khetarpal@apaari.org

24 June 2024 | **2pm-3pm Bangkok time**

Harness and share knowledge on biopesticides in our informal yet vital space, where innovation meets collaboration!

<https://www.apaari.org/>