

# AARINENA

NEWSLETTER

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From the heart of **NENA** region, we cultivate hope, innovation, and unity—empowering our people and lands for a flourishing future

JUL – DEC 2024 Vol. 29, No. 2

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



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Dr. Khalil Ammar, ICBA

To be nominated, CSOs

Dr. Rida A. Shibli, AARINENA

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### Executive Secretary:

Dr. Rida A. Shibli

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Website: <https://aarinena.org>



Welcome to the second edition of the AARINENA Biannual Newsletter for 2024. As we continue to drive innovation and collaboration in agricultural research and development, we are excited to share the significant progress and key achievements made across our network in the second half of the year.

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

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

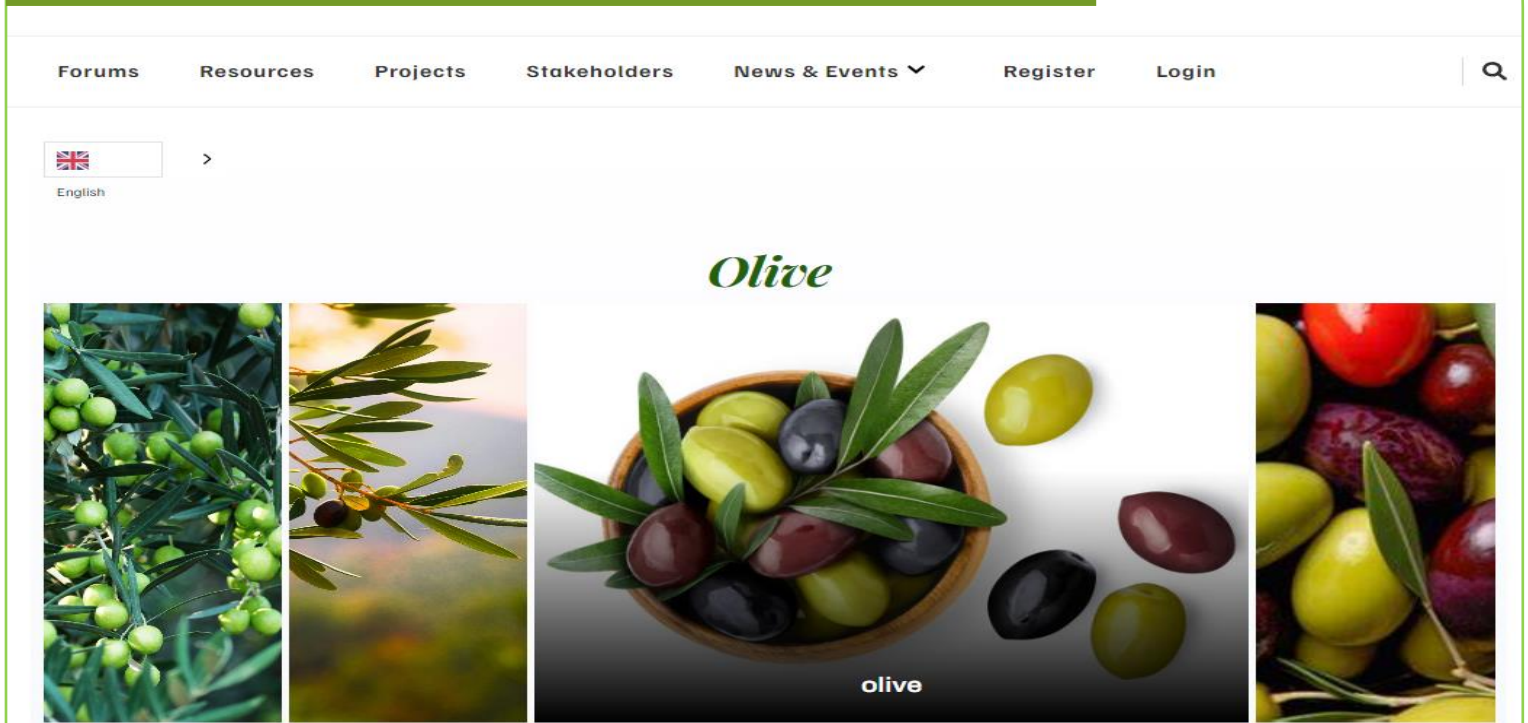
Happy reading!

**Contact Us:**

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Website: <https://aarinena.org>

# OLIVE PLATFORM



JUN, 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.



## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

# 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](mailto:r.shibli@cgiar.org) and [a.aarinena@gmail.com](mailto:a.aarinena@gmail.com)

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.

Join us today!

Username\*  
Length must be between 3 characters and 15 characters.

Email\*  
✉ Email

I agree to receive an email confirmation with a link to set a password.

After registration you will receive an email confirmation with a link to set a new password

[REGISTER](#)

[Login](#)

# PARTNERSHIPS

## THE ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION (ALECSO), JUL 20, 2024

AARINENA and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) signed an MoU to enhance collaboration in agricultural research, education, and innovation across the Arab region. The agreement emphasizes sustainable practices, knowledge exchange, and capacity building through joint initiatives, workshops, and training programs. This partnership aims to address regional challenges, promote agricultural resilience, and advance food security. Leaders from both organizations underscored the significance of this alliance in fostering innovation and strengthening the Arab region's agricultural sector.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ON BEHALF OF THE DAVIS CAMPUS, AUG 3, 2024

AARINENA has signed an MoU with the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis campus. This partnership aims to foster collaboration in agricultural research, innovation, and knowledge exchange. The agreement focuses on leveraging the expertise of both organizations to address challenges in agriculture and enhance sustainability in the region. The MoU reflects a commitment to advancing agricultural development through joint initiatives and shared resources.



## THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF SAHARAN AGRICULTURE IN ALGERIA, SEP 31, 2024

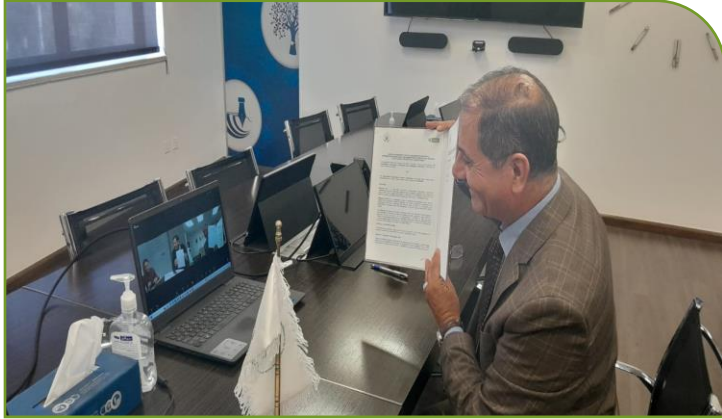
AARINENA and the Higher School of Saharan Agriculture in Algeria signed an MoU to strengthen collaboration in agricultural research and education for arid regions. The agreement focuses on sustainable practices, knowledge sharing, and capacity building through joint projects and training programs. This partnership aims to address Saharan agriculture's challenges, fostering innovation and improving food security. Leaders from both institutions highlighted its importance for advancing agricultural development in the region.





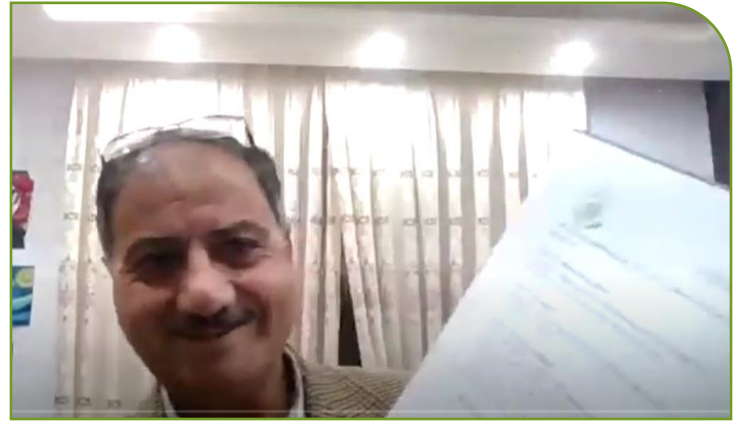
## CABI BIOPROTECTION PORTAL, OCT 10, 2024

AARINENA and CABI signed an MoU to promote sustainable pest management in the NENA region through the CABI BioProtection Portal. The partnership focuses on capacity building, awareness campaigns, and expanding access to biological pest control solutions, supporting sustainable agriculture and environmental resilience.



## DIGITAL GREEN ORGANIZATION, DEC 9, 2024

AARINENA has signed an MoU with Digital Green, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization working in various countries. This partnership aims to enhance agricultural development through digital solutions. Mr. Rikin Gandhi, CEO of Digital Green, is leading the organization's efforts to empower farmers with innovative technologies and knowledge-sharing platforms.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (UCANR), OCT 20, 2024

AARINENA and The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster regional agricultural research and innovation. This agreement will enable both organizations to collaborate on key agricultural projects and initiatives, with a focus on advancing sustainable farming and addressing climate challenges in the region. The MoU highlights the importance of strengthening partnerships between UCANR, AARINENA, and local institutions like the University of Jordan.



# Networks Activities

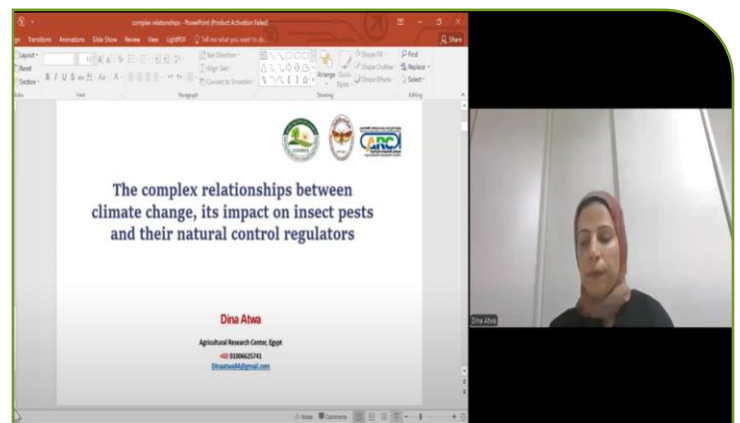
## THE ROLE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY IN PLANT PROTECTION, JUL 11, 2024

The webinar explores innovative applications of nanotechnology in enhancing crop protection, improving pest management, and supporting sustainable agriculture.



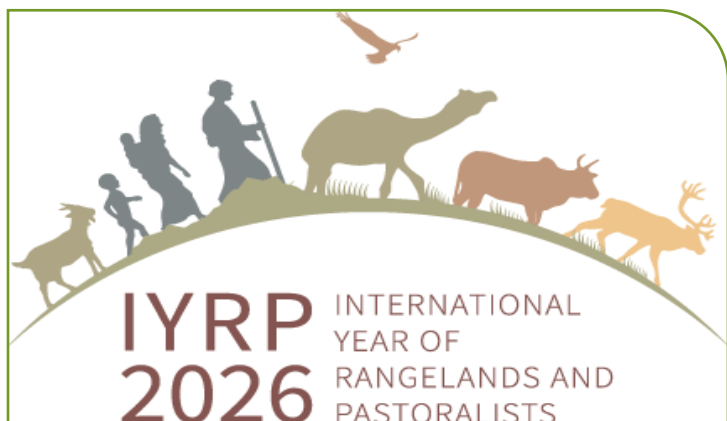
## THE ROLE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY IN PLANT PROTECTION, JUL 25, 2024

The webinar addressed the impact of climate change on insect pests and their natural control regulators. It explored how changing climate conditions alter pest populations and the effectiveness of natural pest management. It discussed the implications for agriculture and pest control strategies, offering insights into adapting to these environmental challenges.



## HIGHLIGHTS ON ACSAD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPING DEGRADED NATURAL RANGELANDS IN ARAB COUNTRIES, JUL 17, 2024

The webinar, presented by Dr. Mohieddin Qawas from ACSAD, highlighted the organization's contributions to rehabilitating degraded natural rangelands in Arab countries, focusing on sustainable practices and innovative approaches.



## OBSESITY AND DIETARY APPROACHES FOR TREATMENT, JUL 31, 2024

The webinar focused on obesity and methods for treating it through diet. It discussed effective dietary strategies for managing and preventing obesity, highlighting the importance of balanced nutrition in promoting health. The session provided valuable insights into addressing this growing health issue and offered practical dietary recommendations.

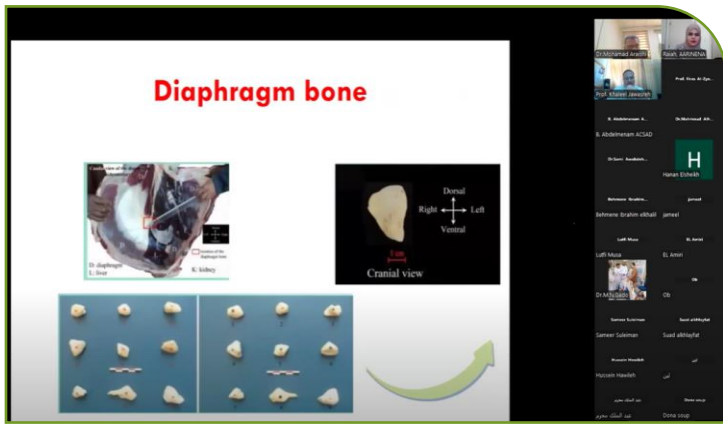






## CAMEL HERDS MANAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR MOST COMMON DISEASES, AUG 7, 2024

The webinar focused on camel herd management, emphasizing the most common diseases affecting camels. It discussed strategies for maintaining healthy herds, disease prevention, and treatment options. Key points included identifying symptoms of prevalent diseases and understanding the impact on camel productivity. The session offered valuable insights for improving camel husbandry practices and ensuring herd sustainability.



## IMPORTANCE OF PLANT DIVERSITY IN SYRIAN DESERT RANGELANDS, AUG 14, 2024

The webinar highlighted the importance of plant diversity in natural rangelands, particularly in the Syrian Desert. Experts discussed how maintaining diverse plant species is crucial for ecosystem health, livestock nutrition, and sustainability. The session emphasized strategies for conserving plant diversity in arid regions and improving land management practices to support both environmental and agricultural resilience.



## METHODS FOR REHABILITATING DEGRADED NATURAL RANGELANDS IN ARAB COUNTRIES, AUG 19, 2024

The webinar focused on methods and techniques for rehabilitating degraded natural rangelands in Arab countries. Experts discussed sustainable approaches to restore these ecosystems, improve soil health, and enhance vegetation cover. The session emphasized the importance of community involvement, proper land management practices, and the role of indigenous plants in rangeland restoration efforts. Solutions tailored to the unique environmental challenges of the region were also explored.



## THE FIRST FORUM OF THE PLANT PROTECTION NETWORK, AUG 22, 2024

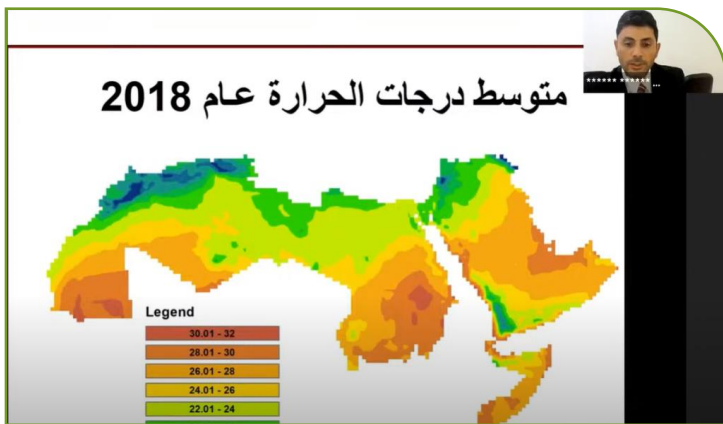
The first forum of AARINENA's Plant Protection Network covered key topics like water's role in cherry orchard diseases, the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on honeybees, and the economic significance of plant diseases in Sudan. Other discussions included the role of flowering plants in supporting biological control and the economic effects of the tomato leaf miner pest.





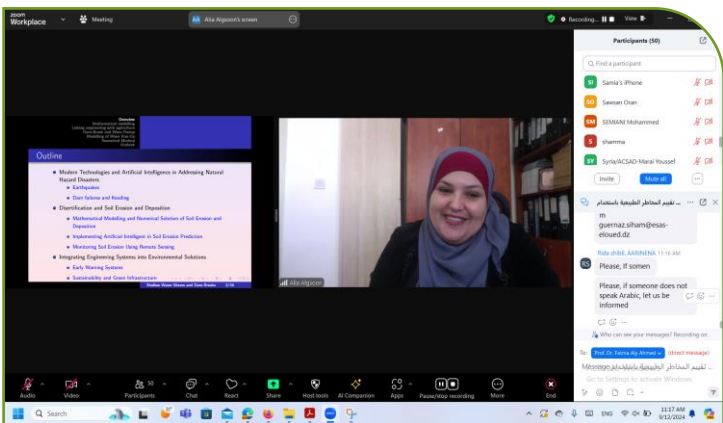
## ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON LIVESTOCK IN ARAB RANGELANDS, AUG 27, 2024

The webinar analyzed the relationship between climate change and livestock in Arab rangelands, focusing on how climate shifts affect animal productivity and rangeland health. Experts discussed the impacts of temperature, precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events on grazing resources and livestock health. The session aimed to identify strategies for mitigating these effects and improving the resilience of livestock systems in the region.



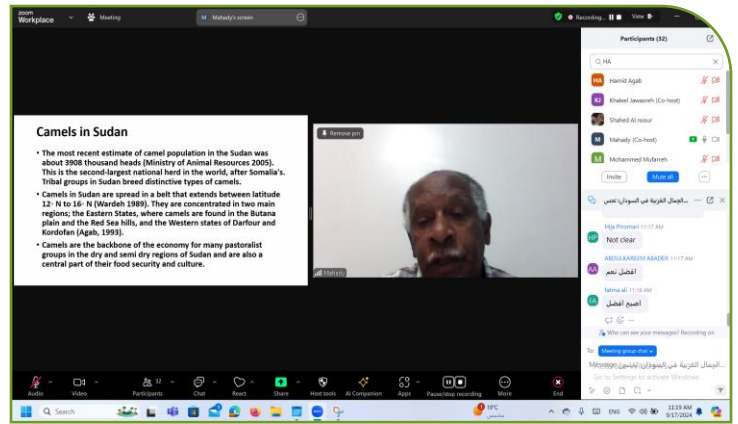
## SHALLOW WATER WAVES AND DAM-BREAKS: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR NATURAL HAZARDS ASSESSMENT, SEP 12, 2024

The webinar explored advanced techniques for assessing natural hazards associated with shallow water waves and dam-break scenarios. Experts discussed innovative modeling approaches and tools to predict and mitigate the impacts of these hazards. The session provided insights into improving risk management and enhancing preparedness for such events, with a focus on practical applications and case studies.



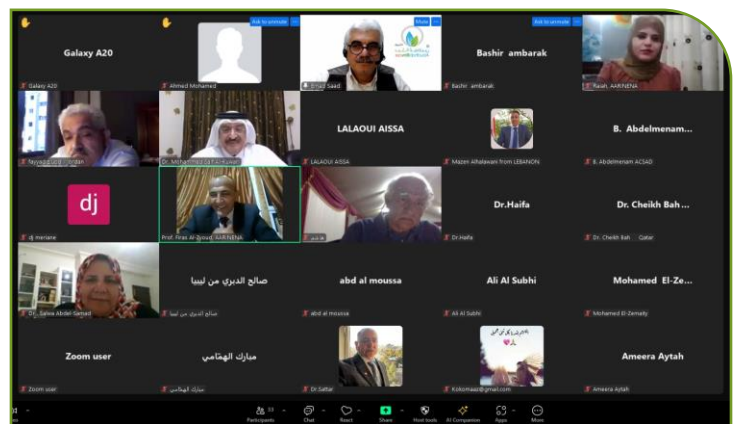
## DROMEDARY CAMELS OF THE SUDAN: GENETIC IMPROVEMENT FOR RACING ABILITY, SEP 17, 2024

The webinar focused on the genetic improvement of Sudanese dromedary camels for racing performance. It explored breeding techniques, genetic markers, and strategies to enhance racing abilities while preserving the camels' cultural and economic importance. Experts shared insights into the role of selective breeding in boosting competitiveness and maintaining camel health.



## HISTORY OF CLIMATE CONFERENCES (1995-2024), SEP 21, 2024

AARINENA, in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Environment Network, hosted a webinar on the history of climate conferences from 1995 to 2024. The session highlighted milestones in global climate negotiations, their achievements, challenges, and their influence on environmental sustainability and policies.





## ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF UNDERGROUND FORCES ON SHALLOW WATER WAVES AND DAM-BREAKS USING ADVANCED ENGINEERING MODELS, SEP 26, 2024

The webinar delved into the effects of underground forces on shallow water waves and dam-break phenomena, utilizing advanced engineering models. Experts discussed cutting-edge techniques to assess and predict these events, focusing on improving hazard mitigation and risk management strategies.



Webinar Two

**Analyzing the Impact of Underground Forces on Shallow Water Waves and Dam-breaks Using Advanced Engineering Models**

**Speaker: Dr. Alia Radwan**  
Philadelphia University, Jordan

PhD and Post-Doctorate in Mechatronics Engineering and Artificial Intelligence, Durham University – United Kingdom  
Specialized researcher in the fields of artificial intelligence and its applications in reducing environmental risks such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and dam collapses



## THE NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DATE PALM FARMS IN JORDAN, OCT 3, 2024

The webinar focused on the National Platform for Date Palm Farms in Jordan, highlighting the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to enhance date palm farming practices. It aimed to discuss innovative technological solutions to improve productivity, sustainability, and the overall management of date palm cultivation in Jordan. The event emphasized the role of AI in addressing challenges such as disease management and optimizing farm operations.





## THE SECOND FORUM OF THE PLANT PROTECTION NETWORK, OCT 10, 2024

The second forum of the Plant Protection Network was held virtually, featuring a diverse agenda with presentations from speakers from various countries, including Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, and Algeria. The lectures covered topics such as smart agriculture, the impact of climate change on plant diseases, natural plant protection methods, and adaptation and mitigation strategies in Palestine. The forum concluded with a discussion session where speakers and participants exchanged ideas and experiences.

**الملتقى الثاني لشبكة وقاية النبات**  
الخميس، 10 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2024  
11:00 صباحاً بتوقيت العاصمة الأردنية عمان

**إدارة الملتقى**



أ.د. فراس الزهور  
مُنسق شبكة وقاية النبات/ أرمينيا  
جامعة مؤتة، الأردن



د. هاني حسين  
المركز الجيوي للبحوث في الزراعات الكبرى  
باجة - تونس



د. هيثم الجندى  
شركة جروفك  
الأردن



أ.د. سلوى عبد الصمد  
مركز البحوث الزراعية  
مصر



د. جميلة مريان  
جامعة فرحات عباس  
الجزائر



د. عمير استانبولي  
الجامعة العربية الأمريكية  
فلسطين



د. ريم فهايم  
وزارة الزراعة والإصلاح الزراعي  
سوريا



## LEVERAGING MACHINE LEARNING FOR SEDIMENT PREDICTION: A KEY TOOL IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, NOV 18, 2024

The webinar explored the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in tackling climate change. Experts discussed AI's role in enhancing agricultural productivity, optimizing water use, and monitoring environmental conditions. AI's capacity to process vast amounts of data was emphasized as crucial in predicting weather patterns, improving crop yields, and identifying climate-related risks. The event also focused on AI's ability to support sustainable practices by analyzing real-time data to make informed decisions. Collaboration between technology developers, researchers, and policymakers was identified as key to successfully integrating AI into climate adaptation strategies. Solutions tailored to local contexts and ensuring equitable access were also stressed.



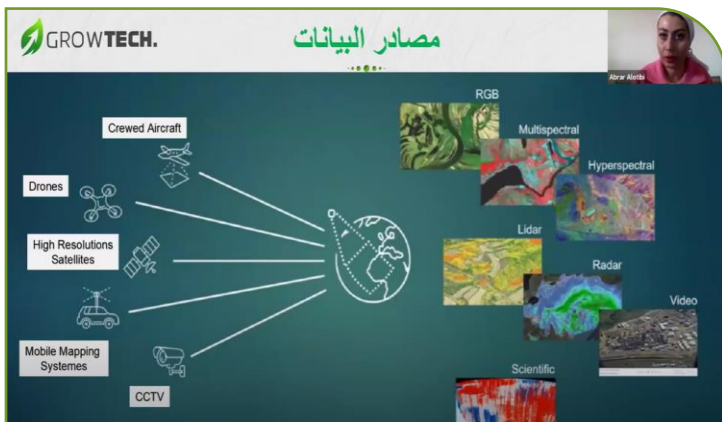
### Leveraging Machine Learning for Sediment Prediction: A Key Tool in Climate Change Mitigation

Speaker: Dr. Alia Radwan  
Philadelphia University, Jordan

PhD and Post-Doctorate in Mechatronics Engineering and Artificial Intelligence,  
Durham University – United Kingdom  
Specialized researcher in the fields of artificial intelligence and its applications in reducing environmental risks such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and dam collapses

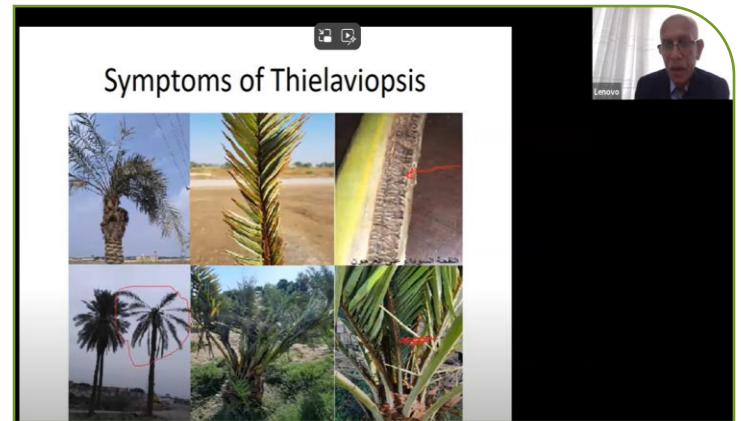
### GEOAI IN PRECISION AGRICULTURE: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INTEGRATED FARM MANAGEMENT, NOV 21, 2024

The webinar focused on precision agriculture and the innovative role of GeoAI (Geospatial Artificial Intelligence) in integrated farm management. Experts highlighted how GeoAI can optimize farm operations by analyzing spatial data to improve crop management, irrigation, and resource allocation. The discussion centered on how GeoAI tools can assist farmers in making data-driven decisions, enhancing productivity, and reducing environmental impact. The integration of satellite imagery and sensor data with AI models was also emphasized as key to providing accurate insights for better farm management. The event underscored the importance of adopting advanced technologies to achieve sustainable and efficient agricultural practices.



### BLACK SCORCH DISEASE ON DATE PALMS: ITS CAUSES, CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO INFECTION, AND TREATMENT METHODS, NOV 25, 2024

The webinar provided an in-depth exploration of Black Scorch disease, a critical issue impacting date palms. It addressed the primary causes of the disease, the environmental and biological factors contributing to infection, and various methods for treatment and management. The session presented valuable insights and practical solutions for researchers, farmers, and agricultural experts involved in date palm cultivation.



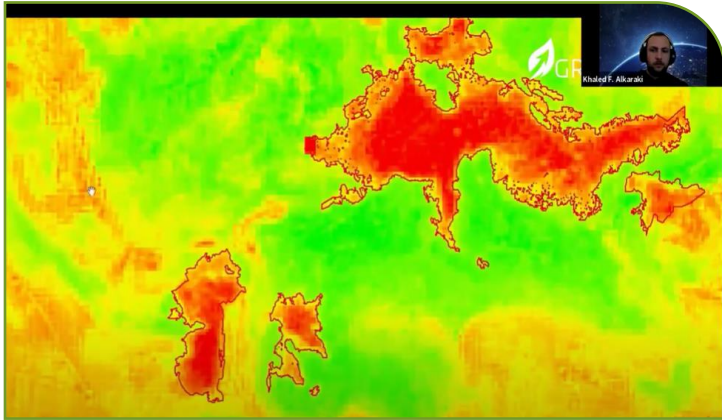
### A CASE STUDY OF DATE PALM FARMS: EARLY DETECTION OF THE RED PALM WEEVIL, NOV 28, 2024

The webinar focused on a case study of date palm farms, highlighting early detection methods for the red palm weevil. It covered innovative monitoring techniques, prevention strategies, and practical solutions to address this significant pest affecting date palm cultivation. The discussion provided valuable insights for farmers and agricultural professionals aiming to protect and sustain their date palm plantations.



## INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND FOREST MONITORING USING SPATIAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A CASE STUDY OF THE WADI AL-SHAM FIRE - AJLOUN, DEC 5, 2024

The webinar focused on integrated forest management and monitoring using spatial artificial intelligence. It explored a case study on a forest fire in Ajloun, highlighting the application of AI technologies to monitor and manage forest areas. The session demonstrated how these tools were used to enhance fire detection, response, and prevention strategies.



## HOW WE BUILT FARMER.CHAT, A MULTIMODAL GENAI ASSISTANT FOR AGRICULTURE, USING AGENTIC REASONING AND RETRIEVAL AUGMENTED GENERATION (RAG) PIPELINES, DEC 9, 2024

The webinar, presented by Digital Green with contributions from FAO, focused on the development of an AI-driven assistant for agriculture. It highlighted the use of advanced technologies, including agentic reasoning and retrieval augmented generation (RAG) pipelines, to create a multimodal tool that provides tailored advice and enhances decision-making for farmers. The session demonstrated how these innovations can improve agricultural productivity through intelligent, data-driven solutions.operations.

**V3: Farmer.Chat AI Coach**

- Location & season-specific voice, text, image, and video trusted advice
- Usage informs fellow farmers, researchers & service providers
- 300,000+ farmers across India, Kenya, Ethiopia, & Nigeria
- Use cases: Self-guided learning, group facilitation, direct to farmer, service providers

## The THIRD forum of the Plant Protection Network, DEC 19, 2024

The third forum of the Plant Protection Network featured presentations from experts across Syria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan, focusing on various aspects of plant protection in the context of climate change. Topics included the impact of climate change on major crop diseases in Syria, the benefits of stored pests in the natural environment, and the potential risks of wheat tan spot disease in Tunisia due to climate changes. Additionally, the forum highlighted methods for early detection and behavioral manipulation of ambrosia beetles in Jordan. These discussions emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to address emerging plant protection challenges in the region.

**اتحاد مؤسسيهم الجهود الزراعية في الشرق الأدنى، وشمال أفريقيا (أريجنيا)**

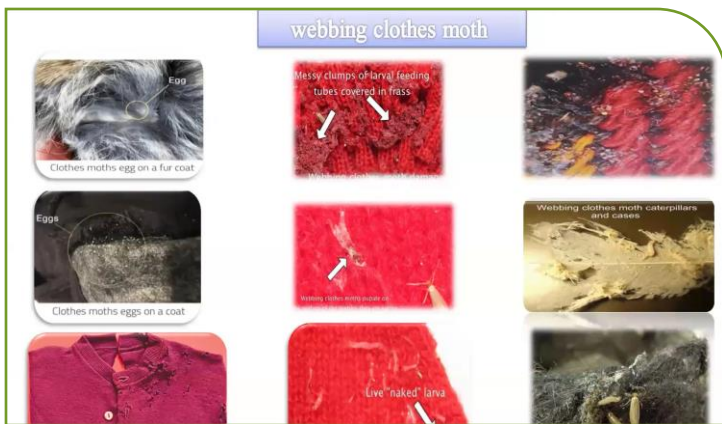
**الملتقى الثالث لشبكة وقاية النبات**  
الخميس، 19 كانون اول / ديسمبر 2024  
11:00 صباحا بتوقيت العاصمة الأردنية - عمان

**إدارة الملتقى**

- الدكتورة رشاد زينهم  
معهد بحوث وقاية النباتات  
مصر
- الدكتورة ريم فياض  
وزارة الزراعة  
سوريا
- أ.د. فراس الزويد  
مُنسق شبكة وقاية النبات/ أريجنيا  
جامعة مؤتة، الأردن
- المهندسة اسراء سالم  
المركز الوطني للبحوث الزراعية  
الأردن
- الدكتورة سلمى التيساوي  
المعهد الوطني للعلوم الفلاحية  
تونس

## MAJOR PESTS AFFECTING CLOTHING AND TEXTILES: HOW TO PREVENT AND CONTROL THEM, DEC 26, 2024

The webinar focused on the major pests that affect clothing and textiles, offering insights into prevention and control methods. It covered various types of textile pests, their impact on materials, and practical approaches to safeguard clothing and fabrics from damage. The session provided valuable knowledge on identifying pests, understanding their behaviors, and implementing effective pest control strategies to protect textiles from infestation.



## BIOCHAR: A STARTING POINT FOR A GREEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY, DEC 30, 2024

A webinar explored the transformative potential of biochar in advancing a green circular economy within agriculture and agro-industry. Experts and practitioners discussed its applications in enhancing soil fertility, reducing agricultural waste, and sequestering carbon, highlighting its role in promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The event emphasized biochar's significance in fostering innovation and achieving environmental and economic sustainability in the agricultural sector.

# Participations with Partners



## STRENGTHENING URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION. JUL 2, 2024

AARINENA participated virtually in the launch event of the report “Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition,” held by FAO and UN-Habitat at their headquarters in Rome. The event aimed to address the growing challenges of ensuring food security and nutrition in urban and peri-urban areas, emphasizing innovative solutions to build resilient and sustainable food systems in light of urbanization and climate change.



## SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON WATER DESALINATION IN JORDAN. JUL 1-3, 2024

AARINENA participated in the scientific symposium on water desalination in Jordan, organized by the Jordan Innovation and Development Forum from July 1 to 3, 2024. The event, held in Amman, was attended by Dr. Rida Shibli, who represented AARINENA. Dr. Shibli’s participation underscored AARINENA’s commitment to exploring sustainable water management solutions in the region, particularly focusing on projects like the National Carrier Project and innovations in desalination technologies.



## SCIENTIFIC EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ADVANCEMENTS IN JORDAN'S PALM SECTOR, JUL 15, 2024

Under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Khaled Hneifat, the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) and the Jordan Dates Association (JODA) successfully organized a scientific event focusing on Jordan's palm sector. The event brought together researchers, industry experts, and stakeholders to discuss advancements in palm cultivation and the date industry in Jordan.



## GFAiR STEERING COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE TO REVISE GFAiR'S CHARTER, JUL 18, 2024

AARINENA participated in the GFAiR Steering Committee Sub-Committee meeting to review and update the GFAiR Charter, contributing to the enhancement of its governance framework and strategic direction.



## REPORT LAUNCH: THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD (SOFI).

**JUL 24, 2024**

The "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024" report emphasizes the critical need for innovative financing tools and reforms to enhance food security and nutrition worldwide. It highlights the importance of defining and tracking food security financing to achieve sustainable solutions. The report also informs upcoming global agendas, including the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. For more details, visit the full report: <https://shorturl.at/7G9PF>.



## THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF AFRAS,

**JUL 29-31, 2024**

AARINENA participated in the 1st Annual Meeting of AFRAS, contributing valuable insights on regional agricultural development and sustainable practices. The meeting provided a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration among agricultural stakeholders. AARINENA's involvement emphasized its commitment to advancing food security and agricultural innovation across the Arab region.



## FOCUSED DISCUSSION ON ENHANCING APPLIED RESEARCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN JORDAN, AUG 4, 2024

AARINENA participated in a focused discussion session organized by Edvise ME, a leading development consultancy, as part of the USAID-funded Higher Education for Innovation and Growth (HEIG) program. The session aimed to explore public policies and systems affecting applied research in Jordanian universities, particularly in collaboration with the private sector. Key topics included challenges, incentives, funding, and intellectual property related to applied research, with the goal of enhancing collaboration between higher education institutions and industry to drive innovation and economic growth.



## MEETING WITH KACST, KSA, AUG 11, 2024

AARINENA held a Zoom meeting with King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) to explore potential collaboration opportunities. The discussion focused on shared interests in agricultural innovation, scientific research, and technology development. Both organizations explored ways to strengthen partnerships and enhance mutual efforts in advancing sustainable agricultural practices, with a focus on technology-driven solutions to address regional challenges.



## THE FIRST BEEKEEPING FORUM IN JORDAN (FBFJ-2024, SEP 6-7, 2024

The First Beekeeping Forum in Jordan (FBFJ-2024), held under the patronage of Dr. Rida Shibli and AARINENA, lasted for two days and featured discussions on sustainable beekeeping practices, pest management, and honey production. The lectures were broadcasted online via Zoom, allowing a wider audience of AARINENA members and partners to benefit from the sessions. The forum aimed to strengthen the local beekeeping industry through knowledge sharing and collaboration.





**APAARI ASSOCIATE MEMBERS  
QUARTERLY MEET 2024, SEP 18, 2024**

The APAARI Associate Members Quarterly Meet 2024 addressed key updates and discussions, including an overview of ongoing activities, projects, and the new strategic plan. The meeting also covered recent developments regarding APAARI's legal status, followed by an open discussion to engage members and gather input.



**ACCELERATING ACTION: UNVEILING THE  
FUTURE OF ARAB FRIENDS OF CHAMPIONS 12.3  
FOR FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION, SEP 30,  
2024**

AARINENA participated in the "Accelerating Action: Unveiling the Future of Arab Friends of Champions 12.3 for Food Loss and Waste Reduction" event. The initiative aimed to address food loss and waste, aligning with the global effort to achieve SDG Target 12.3 by 2030. The event gathered

leaders from various sectors to mobilize action towards halving food waste and reducing losses in production and supply chains. AARINENA's participation reflects its commitment to agricultural research and innovation to combat food waste in the NENA region.



**WEBINAR ON CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF  
INTEREST – INCLUSIVE DIGITAL AGRICULTURE,  
SEP 30, 2024**

AARINENA was invited to participate in a webinar for the "Inclusive Digital Agriculture" Collective Action, aimed at empowering small-scale farmers through digital innovations. The project focuses on overcoming barriers such as digital literacy, access to technology, and policy support. It also includes a digital readiness assessment to address adoption challenges in the NENA region. The initiative seeks to improve agriculture and food security through digital solutions, collaboration, and capacity building, while promoting sustainable practices and effective governance in agricultural technology adoption.

**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL PAKISTANI  
DATES FESTIVAL IN KARACHI, OCT 4-6, 2024**

AARINENA, represented by Dr. Rida Shibli, participated in the First International Pakistani Dates Festival in Karachi. The event, organized by the Khalifa International Award, emphasized sustainable date palm cultivation and innovation. It featured exhibitions, workshops, and discussions on export strategies, strengthening cooperation between agricultural institutions in the Near East, North Africa, and South Asia. AARINENA's involvement highlighted its commitment to supporting agricultural development and enhancing global trade in dates.



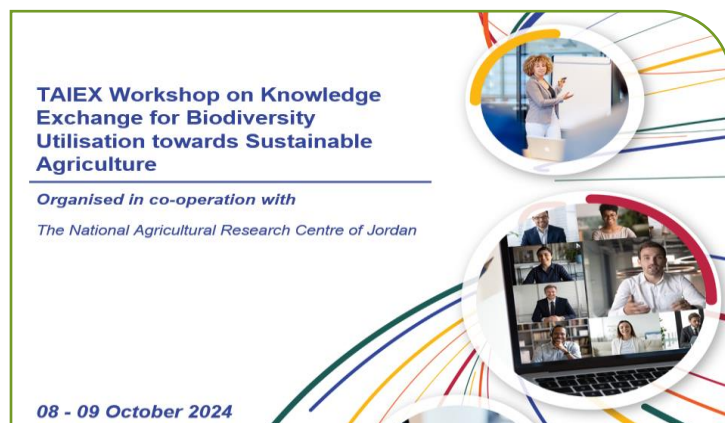
## LAUNCH OF THE REPORT ON MAPPING AFFORDABLE AND TRANSFERRABLE CLIMATE-SMART TECHNOLOGIES FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, OCT 7, 2024

The event showcasing the report “Mapping of Affordable and Transferrable Climate-Smart Technologies for Smallholder Farmers” was successfully held, highlighting innovative solutions to food insecurity. Organized by IFAD, FAO, and the Islamic Development Bank, it focused on technologies in postharvest management, water saving, pest control, e-commerce, fintech, and green energy. The mapping identified 349 technologies, with 120 deemed highly viable for improving food security. Experts and stakeholders from targeted countries contributed valuable feedback on the findings during the presentation.



## TAIEX AGR 86232 WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY UTILIZATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, OCT 8-9, 2024

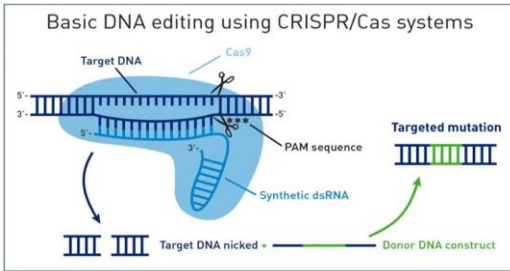
AARINENA participated in the TAIEX Workshop on Knowledge Exchange for Biodiversity Utilisation Toward Sustainable Agriculture in Amman, Jordan. The workshop, supported by the European Commission's TAIEX initiative, focused on integrating biodiversity conservation with sustainable agricultural practices to enhance resilience and productivity. AARINENA contributed to discussions on challenges, strategies, and knowledge sharing, reinforcing its commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture through regional collaboration and research.



## THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF ANBAR, OCT 8-10, 2024

AARINENA actively participated in the Third International Agricultural Scientific Conference at University of Anbar in Iraq, showcasing its commitment to fostering regional collaboration in agricultural research and innovation. The organization contributed insights into sustainable agricultural practices, highlighted successful initiatives, and explored potential partnerships to address shared challenges in the region's agri-food systems.

- More recently, CRISPR and TALEN offered much more precise and convenient editing techniques.



## GFRAS WEBINAR: EXTENSION SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, OCT 9, 2024

The GFRAS Webinar on Extension Support for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation, part of the "New Extensionist Learning Kit" Series, provided a comprehensive overview of climate change and its impacts on agriculture. The webinar emphasized the critical role of Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) in enhancing the resilience of rural and farming communities, offering valuable strategies and insights for addressing climate challenges effectively.

## UCANR DELEGATION VISITS JORDAN TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH AARINENA, OCT 20, 2024

A high-level delegation from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR), led by Dr. Glenda Humiston, Vice President of UCANR, visited Jordan to explore opportunities for collaboration in

agricultural research and sustainable farming practices. The delegation, which included experts in irrigation, horticulture, and agricultural water management, met with key Jordanian stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, NARC, and JUST University, as well as AARINENA. They also visited date farms in the Jordan Valley to assess local agricultural practices and discuss future partnerships.



## THE GFAIR 3-IN-1 HYBRID MEETING, OCT 21-25, 2024

AARINENA participated in the GFAiR 3-in-1 hybrid meeting in Uzbekistan, where agricultural research and innovation stakeholders gathered to address sector challenges. AARINENA's involvement emphasized its commitment to fostering regional collaboration, sustainable agriculture, and the exchange of knowledge to enhance agricultural development across regions.





**THE 11TH DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM MEETING OF THE CABI BIOPROTECTION PORTAL, OCT 23, 2024**

AARINENA participated in the 11th Development Consortium Meeting of the CABI BioProtection Portal, covering topics such as progress on annual targets, the Portal's role in sponsor activities, and its international engagement with organizations like FAO and the UN. The meeting also highlighted updates on the Portal's promotion and plans for 2025, reinforcing AARINENA's commitment to sustainable crop protection and global collaboration.



**VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE ON RURAL AND AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION, OCT 28, 2024**

AARINENA participated in a virtual roundtable on "Cooperative Development for Rural and Agrifood Systems Transformation in the Near East and North Africa Region." The roundtable, organized as a preparatory step for the Regional Dialogue by FAO NENA and the International Cooperative Alliance, facilitated strategic discussions between governments and cooperatives to advance the transformation of rural and agrifood systems in the region. Experts from various governmental bodies, international organizations, and cooperatives came together to address the key challenges and opportunities for regional development.



**ACCELERATING FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN THE ARAB REGION, OCT 30-31, 2024**

AARINENA participated in the regional forum on accelerating food systems transformation in the Arab region, organized by the Food Security Council/Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with ESCWA, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, FAO, the World Food Programme, and UNIDO. The forum, held in Amman, Jordan, focused on enhancing food systems transformation through good governance, effective implementation strategies, and regional cooperation. Discussions centered on the latest data on food security and nutrition, the impact of interconnected crises, and strategies for building resilient and sustainable food systems, contributing to preparations for the +4 Food Systems Summit in 2025.



**THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL JORDANIAN DATES FESTIVAL, NOV 10-12, 2024**

AARINENA participated in the 6th International Jordanian Dates Festival in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II. The event, organized by the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Dates Association, showcased Jordan's date industry and its historical significance. The festival highlighted the increasing importance of date farming in Jordan, with discussions on development strategies and knowledge exchange among global date industry experts. AARINENA contributed to the exchange of expertise in date farming and sustainable agricultural practices.



**MEETING WITH ZAMZAM UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SOMALIA, DEC 11, 2024**

The meeting, held with Zamzam University from Somalia, focused on exploring potential collaborations and sharing insights on agricultural development. The discussions centered around leveraging innovative technologies and best practices to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. Both parties explored opportunities for joint initiatives, capacity building, and knowledge exchange to support the growth of the agricultural sector in Somalia.



**MEETING WITH UN NOUVEAU VISAGE, DEC 14, 2024**

A meeting was held between AARINENA and representatives from Un Nouveau Visage, a humanitarian organization based in France. During the meeting, both parties discussed the potential for collaboration, focusing on how their combined efforts could support vulnerable communities in Jordan and beyond. The representatives from Un Nouveau Visage shared insights into their ongoing projects in 14 countries and expressed interest in working together with AARINENA to make a meaningful impact. The discussion emphasized the value of partnership in advancing shared goals for humanitarian work and community support.



**AARINENA JOINS THE 2024-2026 TAP STEERING COMMITTEE**

AARINENA is pleased to announce its representation in the 2024-2026 The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Steering Committee through Dr. Rida Shibli. This appointment reflects AARINENA's commitment to fostering agricultural innovation and collaboration on a global scale. We congratulate all new members and observers of the Steering Committee and look forward to working together to advance the Tropical Agriculture Platform's mission of strengthening capacity development for agricultural innovation systems worldwide.

