

AARINENA Biannual Newsletter

January – June 2026

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Welcome to AARINENA's biannual newsletter, a window into the vibrant progress of agricultural research and innovation across the Near East and North Africa. In recent months, our networks have advanced climate-smart practices, strengthened partnerships with international organizations, and empowered young researchers through training and collaboration. Together, we are cultivating resilience, driving innovation, and building a sustainable future for agriculture in our region.



The future of agriculture depends not only on what we grow, but how we grow together.



IN THIS ISSUE

AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting 2026	1
AARINENA Executive Secretary Visits TAGEM	3
New Partnerships	4
AARINENA Joins GSM-FACC 2026 as Strategic Partner	5
AARINENA Strengthens Collaboration with AGRICO 2026	6
AARINENA Elected to the GCHERA Steering Committee	7
Celebration of the International Year of Women Farmers 2026	8
AARINENA Networks	9
Participations with Partners and Members	14



AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting 2026 Reinforces Regional Commitment to Agricultural Innovation and Cooperation

Bringing Regional Leaders Together

The AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting 2026 was successfully held on 14–15 May 2026 in İzmir, Türkiye, hosted by the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM). The meeting brought together Executive Committee members, representatives of regional and international organizations, and strategic partners to discuss priorities for advancing agricultural research, innovation, and sustainable development across the Near East and North Africa region.



Addressing Regional Challenges Through Collaboration

In their opening remarks, AARINENA President Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay and Executive Secretary Dr. Rida Shibli emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to address pressing challenges related to climate change, food security, water scarcity, and natural resource management. The meeting provided a valuable platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the identification of new opportunities for collaboration.



Reviewing Progress and Achievements

The Executive Committee reviewed AARINENA's accomplishments during 2025, including the successful organization of the 16th General Assembly in Amman, expansion of membership, establishment of new strategic partnerships, and implementation of numerous conferences, webinars, and capacity-building activities. Members also highlighted the significant contributions of AARINENA's thematic networks in strengthening regional scientific cooperation and sharing knowledge across member institutions.



Strengthening Regional and Global Cooperation

Presentations from partner organizations, including GFAiR, FARA, APAARI, and AFRAS, highlighted opportunities for enhanced collaboration in areas such as digital agriculture, rural advisory services, innovation systems, youth engagement, and capacity strengthening. These discussions reaffirmed the importance of regional and global partnerships in addressing common agricultural challenges.



Looking Ahead

In their opening remarks, AARINENA President Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay and Executive Secretary Dr. Rida Shibli emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to address pressing challenges related to climate change, food security, water scarcity, and natural resource management. The meeting provided a valuable platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the identification of new opportunities for collaboration.



Beyond the Meeting: Technical Visits to TAGEM Research Institutes

As part of the AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting 2026 programme, the international delegation conducted a series of technical visits organized by the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM). These visits showcased Türkiye's advanced agricultural research infrastructure, state-of-the-art laboratories, and innovation-driven systems, reflecting its strong capacity in supporting sustainable agricultural development and applied research.



Research and Training Center Directorate, and the Bornova Plant Protection Research Institute Directorate. During the visits, they were briefed on ongoing research programmes, innovative technologies, and applied solutions supporting sustainable agricultural production and natural resource management.



The visits provided a valuable opportunity for knowledge exchange between AARINENA members and TAGEM researchers, strengthening scientific cooperation and reinforcing shared interests in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable production systems, and the integration of research with field-level agricultural development.



AARINENA Executive Secretary Visits TAGEM

Strengthening Institutional Leadership and Regional Collaboration

Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), conducted an official visit to the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM) in Ankara, Türkiye, where she met with Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay, Director General of TAGEM and newly elected President of AARINENA for the 2026–2029 term, following his election during the AARINENA General Assembly held in Amman in December 2025.



Strategic Dialogue on AARINENA's Future Priorities

During the meeting, both sides discussed AARINENA's current activities, strategic direction, and vision for the coming three years. The discussions focused on strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing scientific networking, and advancing sustainable agricultural development across the Near East and North Africa region. Emphasis was also placed on reinforcing AARINENA's role as a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and capacity development among member institutions.



Reinforcing Partnership and Technical Exchange

Dr. Atalay reaffirmed Türkiye's continued commitment to supporting AARINENA and contributing to its regional initiatives, highlighting the importance of joint efforts in addressing shared agricultural challenges. In turn, Dr. Shibli expressed her appreciation for TAGEM's ongoing support and emphasized the value of learning from Türkiye's advanced agricultural research systems and institutional achievements.



Field Visits to Leading TAGEM Institutions

The visit also included technical tours to the National Botanical Garden of Türkiye and the Field Crops Central Research Institute, where Dr. Shibli was briefed on ongoing research activities and innovative practices supporting agricultural development. She commended TAGEM's strong institutional capacity and its integrated approach to linking research, innovation, and field application.



AARINENA Builds New Partnerships Advancing Cooperation Across the NENA Region

AARINENA and CACAARI Sign Cooperation Agreement to Strengthen Inter-Regional Collaboration



AARINENA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI) during the AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting held in İzmir, Türkiye. The agreement was signed by Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay, President of AARINENA, and Dr. Botir Dosov, Executive Director of CACAARI, in the presence of Executive Committee members and representatives of partner organizations.

The agreement establishes a framework for enhanced cooperation between the two regional organizations in agricultural research, scientific exchange, capacity building, and institutional networking. It also promotes the development of joint research initiatives, technical workshops, training programmes, and knowledge-sharing activities that address common challenges, including climate change, water scarcity, food security, and sustainable agricultural development.

This partnership marks an important milestone in expanding AARINENA's international collaboration beyond the Near East and North Africa region. By strengthening ties with CACAARI, both organizations reaffirm their commitment to promoting innovation, facilitating the exchange of expertise, and building resilient agricultural systems through inter-regional cooperation.

AARINENA Partners with the Green Generation Foundation to Advance Youth Engagement and Climate Action



As part of its commitment to expanding partnerships with dynamic organizations across the region, AARINENA signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Green Generation Foundation (GGF), a Jordan-based youth-led organization dedicated to environmental protection, climate action, and sustainable development. The agreement was signed by Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary of AARINENA, and Mr. Abdallah Dreiat, Board Member of the Green Generation Foundation.

The partnership aims to strengthen collaboration in areas of mutual interest through joint programmes, capacity-building activities, knowledge exchange, and initiatives that encourage youth participation in agricultural research, innovation, and climate resilience. It also seeks to strengthen the connection between scientific research, community engagement, and policy dialogue to support sustainable food systems and environmental stewardship.

Through this collaboration, AARINENA continues to broaden its network of strategic partners while investing in the next generation of agricultural and environmental leaders. The partnership reflects a shared vision of empowering young people, promoting innovation, and building more resilient agricultural and food systems across the Near East and North Africa region.

AARINENA Joins GSM-FACC 2026 as Strategic Partner



AARINENA is proud to announce its formal recognition as a Strategic Partner of the Global South Ministers, Farmers, Academia and Chambers of Commerce Summit, Awards & Expo 2026 (GSM-FACC 2026), a flagship initiative operating under the Global South Integrated Development Framework (GS-IDF). This recognition reflects AARINENA's growing international role in advancing agricultural research, innovation, food security, climate resilience, and sustainable rural development across the Near East and North Africa and beyond.

The announcement follows AARINENA's active participation in the GSM-FACC Steering Committee inauguration, where representatives of governments, research institutions, academia, farmers' organizations, and development partners came together to strengthen cooperation in support of agricultural transformation across the Global South. As part of this strategic partnership, AARINENA has also confirmed its membership in the Governance, Policy and Institutional Affairs Sub-Committee, where it will contribute its expertise in agricultural research, institutional development, policy dialogue, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Through its extensive network of national agricultural research systems, universities, regional organizations, international partners, and development agencies, AARINENA will actively support the objectives of GSM-FACC 2026 by promoting knowledge exchange, innovation, investment, and stronger partnerships among stakeholders from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The Association looks forward to working closely with GSM-FACC partners to advance sustainable agricultural development, strengthen food systems, and contribute to meaningful outcomes that improve livelihoods and resilience throughout the Global South.

AARINENA Joins GSM-FACC Summit as Strategic Partner; Participation Confirmed in Governance, Policy & Institutional Affairs Sub-Committee



Dr. Rida A. Shibli
Executive Secretary AARINENA

Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay
President AARINENA

AARINENA Joins GSM-FACC 2026 as Strategic Partner; Participation Confirmed in Governance, Policy & Institutional Affairs Sub-Committee

The Global South Ministers, Farmers, Academia and Chambers of Commerce (GSM-FACC) Summit, Awards & Expo 2026 is pleased to announce the formal inclusion of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) as a strategic partner within the broader Global South Integrated Development Framework (GS-IDF).

This follows AARINENA's active engagement during the inauguration of the GSM-FACC Steering Committee, held on Friday after the keynote address delivered by H.E. Amb. Carla Barroso Carneiro, President of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP).

ASGON and GSEF extend their sincere appreciation to AARINENA for its constructive participation, collaborative spirit, and clear commitment advancing agricultural innovation, food security, and sustainable development across the Global South.

AARINENA's Global Partnership Strengthens the GSM-FACC Vision

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) maintains extensive partnerships with global development agencies, regional research networks, national farming associations, and policy-shaping institutions to promote agricultural innovation, food security, and sustainable rural development. These partnerships include collaborations with international agricultural research centres, regional innovation platforms, and farmer-led organisations that support climate-resilient agriculture and knowledge-driven transformation.

Associations with similar mandates across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as women farmers' associations, policy makers, and leading Chambers of Commerce, will likewise be co-opted as partners in the conduct of the forthcoming GSM-FACC Summit, Awards & Expo 2026. Their inclusion ensures broad representation, institutional depth, and a unified Global South approach to agricultural transformation, trade liberalisation, and inclusive development.

AARINENA Confirmed as Member of Governance, Policy & Institutional Affairs Sub-Committee

We are pleased to confirm AARINENA's participation in the Governance, Policy & Institutional Affairs Sub-Committee, where its leadership and technical expertise will play a vital role in shaping policy coherence, institutional strengthening, and multi-stakeholder engagement across the GS-IDF ecosystem.

ASGON and GSEF warmly welcome AARINENA's designated representatives and look forward to their substantive contributions to the sub-committee's work.

Congratulations to Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay

We also extend warm congratulations to Dr. Mustafa Altuğ Atalay on his election as President of AARINENA for the 2026-2028 term. His leadership will further reinforce AARINENA's role as a key driver of agricultural research, innovation, and regional cooperation.



AARINENA General Assembly Meeting Held in Amman: Dr. Mustafa Altuğ ATALAY Elected President for 2026-2028

Strengthening Collaboration for GSM-FACC Summit Awards & Expo

AARINENA's participation strengthens the collective ambition of GSM-FACC 2026 to bring together ministers, policy makers, farmers, academia, private sector actors, and leading Chambers of Commerce to advance shared Global South priorities in food systems transformation, agricultural innovation, and sustainable development. To consolidate this partnership and outline next steps.

About GSM-FACC 2026

The Summit, Awards & Expo 2026, held under the GS-IDF and aligned with the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF), is a flagship platform advancing cooperation, innovation, and investment across the Global South. It convenes high-level leaders, policy makers, and institutions to drive integrated development solutions, with a core focus on strengthening agricultural systems and promoting inclusive, sustainable growth.

AARINENA Strengthens Collaboration with AGRICO 2026

THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE AGRICO'26

"Connecting Ideas, Empowering Agriculture"

17TH-18TH SEPTEMBER 2026 | BALI, INDONESIA



AGRICO agroconference.tiikm.com

AARINENA is pleased to strengthen its collaboration with the organizers of the 13th International Conference on Agriculture (AGRICO 2026), which will be held on 17–18 September 2026 in Bali, Indonesia, under the theme "Powering the Future of Sustainability for More Prosperous Farming." As part of this collaboration, Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary of AARINENA, has been invited to serve as a Plenary Speaker, recognizing AARINENA's growing international leadership in agricultural research, innovation, and sustainable development.

Through its close cooperation with the conference organizers, AARINENA is supporting the promotion of AGRICO 2026 across its regional network of national agricultural research systems, universities, research institutions, and development partners.

The Association is encouraging researchers, academics, policymakers, and young scientists from the Near East and North Africa region to participate in this global forum, which provides an important platform for scientific exchange, international networking, and the dissemination of innovative research.

AARINENA's participation in AGRICO 2026 reflects its continued commitment to building strategic international partnerships and expanding opportunities for its members to engage with leading global experts. The Association looks forward to contributing to discussions on sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, food security, and agricultural innovation while strengthening collaboration between the Near East and North Africa region and the international research community.

The 13th International Conference on AGRICULTURE (AGRICO 2026)
17th - 18th SEPTEMBER 2026 | BALI, INDONESIA
Theme: "Powering the Future of Sustainability for More Prosperous Farming"

MEET OUR WORLD-RENOUNDED SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIR PROF. DR. SAMI ABUBAKER Former Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology Al-Sharqia Applied University Jordan	CONFERENCE CHAIR PROF. DR. SYA K. BALASUBRAMAN Head of Department of Agricultural Technology Faculty of Agriculture University of Putra Malaysia Malaysia	CONFERENCE CHAIR PROF. DR. SAMAN SENEWEERA Assoc. Professor Honorary Director of Agriculture Food and Consumer Sciences University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. ULRIK PAUL SCHULTZ LINDQUIST Professor, Head of Center World Agro Centre The University of Southern Denmark Denmark	KEYNOTE SPEAKER PROF. CHRISTINE HELEN FOSTER University of Birmingham United Kingdom
PLENARY SPEAKER DR. ARLENE L. GONZALES Assoc. Professor of Technology (ICT) Teacher Perseus Program, State University (UNSW) College of Education Field and Sustainable Development Philippines	PLENARY SPEAKER ASSOC. PROF. JAGJIT PLANE Associate Professor India	PLENARY SPEAKER DR. HUIK LYAN Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Education and Communication Senior Lecturer, Center of Excellence in Sustainable Agricultural Innovation (CEASAI) and Institute (CI) 2020 Cambodia	PLENARY SPEAKER DR. KAYODE A. SANMI Senior Lect Renmin Normal University China	PLENARY SPEAKER DR. RIDA A. SHIBLI Director, Arab Region Center for Scientific Research University of Jordan Member, Arab Center for Agricultural Technology at Wageningen University Netherlands

WHAT AWAITS YOU AT THE CONFERENCE?!

- INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PRESENTATION PLATFORM
- KEY INSIGHTS FROM RENOWNED GLOBAL SPEAKERS
- INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS & EXPERT-LED PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION
- PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
- INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

FREE PUBLICATION AVENUES IN AGRICO 2026

Crossref | Scopus | CABI | Scopus | Springer | Elsevier

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW
agroconference.tiikm.com

JOIN US AT ASIA'S LEADING AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR

Logos of participating institutions: UNISA, etc.

AARINENA Executive Secretary Elected to the GCHERA Steering Committee



AARINENA is proud to announce the election of its Executive Secretary, Dr. Rida Shibli, as an Ordinary Member of the Steering Committee of the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) for the 2025–2027 term. Dr. Shibli was nominated by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and was elected unanimously during the GCHERA General Assembly.

The election represents an important milestone for both Dr. Shibli and AARINENA, strengthening the Association's engagement with the global higher education community in agriculture and life sciences. The GCHERA Steering Committee serves as the executive body of the Confederation, providing strategic leadership, overseeing its operations, and guiding the implementation of its mission between General Assembly meetings.

Commenting on the election, Dr. Shibli expressed her appreciation to GCHERA members for their confidence and to APAARI for its nomination and continued support. She reaffirmed AARINENA's commitment to strengthening collaboration between agricultural research institutions and higher education organizations, fostering innovation, promoting capacity development, and advancing sustainable agricultural development through stronger international partnerships.

This appointment further enhances AARINENA's global visibility and reinforces its role as an active regional partner in shaping the future of agricultural research, higher education, and innovation at the international level.

AARINENA Celebrates the International Year of Women Farmers 2026

As momentum builds toward the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 (IYWF 2026), AARINENA proudly reaffirms its commitment to this global UN initiative. In alignment with FAO-led efforts and regional priorities, AARINENA continues to champion the role of women farmers as key drivers of agricultural transformation, food security, and climate resilience across the Near East and North Africa region.

In collaboration with APAARI, CACAARI, FARA, and AFRAS (FAO), alongside a broad network of partners, AARINENA is implementing a quarterly webinar series dedicated to celebrating women farmers, strengthening knowledge exchange, and advancing inclusive and climate-smart agricultural systems.

Webinar 1: Launching the International Year of Women Farmers 2026

30 March 2026

The first webinar marked the official launch of AARINENA's engagement in the International Year of Women Farmers 2026. Held under the theme "International Year of Women Farmers 2026", the session brought together regional and international experts to highlight the global significance of the initiative and to set the foundation for a year of coordinated action.

Discussions emphasized the importance of recognizing women farmers' contributions to food systems, enhancing their access to knowledge and resources, and strengthening their role in agricultural research, innovation, and rural development.

We are launching!
WEBINAR SERIES
 Celebrating **International Year of Women Farmers 2026**
 Theme: **Recognizing Women Farmers in Research and Extension**

Logos: APAARI, AARINENA, FARA, Arab Forum For Rural Advisory Services (AFRAS)

Monday 30 MARCH, 2026 Starts at **10:30 AM** Jordan Time

Speakers

- Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V**, Director, Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy / APIRAS
- Dr. Ranjitha Puskur**, Principal Scientist, Gender and Livelihoods IRI
- Dr. Lipi Das**, Principal Scientist, ICAR - Central Institute for Women and Agriculture
- Prof. Olubukola Babalola**, Professor and Director, Food Security and Safety North-West University South Africa
- Dr. Abeer Al-Balawneh**, National Agricultural Research Center Jordan
- Ms. Liliana Sin**, Program Coordinator, CACAARI

Webinar 2: Women Farmers Leading Climate-Resilient Farming

23 June 2026

The second webinar focused on the theme "Women Farmers Leading Climate-Resilient Farming", showcasing the leadership role of women in adapting to climate change and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Speakers highlighted innovative approaches led by women farmers in climate-smart agriculture, risk management, diversification, and ecosystem-based solutions. The session reinforced the critical role of gender-responsive strategies in building resilient food systems.

Logos: APAARI, AARINENA, FARA, AFRAS, GIZ, ADB

Session Theme: Women Farmers Leading Climate-Resilient Farming

Celebrating **International Year of Women Farmers 2026**

The webinar will focus on:

- Women's leadership in climate change adaptation and resilience-building
- Climate-smart and nature-positive agricultural practices
- Risk management, diversification, and ecosystem-based approaches

Speakers:

- Tomoko (Toko) Kato**, Senior Food Security and Nutrition Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Ayşe Özge ÜLKER**, Environmental scientist and researcher, Soil, Fertilizer and Water Resources, Central Research Institute, Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Rama Alzher**, Gender Specialist, FAO Iraq
- Anna Hovhannisyan**, Co-founder, Corner Business Platform, Armenia
- V. Geethalakshmi**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India
- Pham Thi Hanh Tho**, Project Manager, Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development (CASRAD), Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS)

AARINENA Networks

Sharing Expertise and Innovations Across the Region

AARINENA Networks: New Coordination Structure



In line with AARINENA's continuous efforts to strengthen its thematic networks and enhance regional collaboration, a new coordination structure has been established for all AARINENA technical networks. This step aims to improve efficiency, expand engagement across member institutions, and better align network activities with regional agricultural priorities.

The newly appointed network coordinators, representing national, regional, academic, and research institutions, are as follows:

- 1. Forgotten Foods, Neglected Crops and Underutilized Species (FF-NUS) Network:** Dr. Khaled Abu Laila — National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), Jordan
- 2. Agribusiness Network:** Dr. Suhaib Ahmed — Private Sector, UAE
- 3. Honeybees Network:** Dr. Mohammed Rababeh — Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Jordan
- 4. Biotechnology Network:** Dr. Tamara Al-Qudah — University of Jordan (UJ), Jordan
- 5. Date Palm Network:** Dr. Mohammed Kamal Abbas — Egypt
- 6. Medicinal and Herbal Plants Network:** Dr. Safaa Mohammed Al Farsi — Sultanate of Oman (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources)
- 7. Olive Network:** Dr. Ajmi Larbi — Olive Tree Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia

- 8. Plant Genetic Resources Network:** Dr. Ali Ilkhan — Türkiye (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
- 9. Water Use Efficiency Network:** Dr. Alia Alghsoon — Philadelphia University, Jordan
- 10. Animal Production Network:** Dr. Abdul Moneim Al-Yassin, Dr. Lotfi Mousa — Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)
- 11. Plant Protection Network:** Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud — Mutah University, Jordan

First Introductory Meeting of Network Coordinators

Following the announcement of the new coordination structure, an introductory virtual meeting was convened with all newly appointed network coordinators. The meeting provided a platform to introduce the coordinators, review the overall vision of AARINENA networks, and discuss preliminary expectations for the upcoming phase of joint work.

The discussion focused on strengthening inter-network collaboration, revitalizing knowledge exchange mechanisms, and enhancing the role of networks in addressing regional agricultural challenges such as climate change adaptation, sustainable production systems, resource efficiency, and innovation uptake.

Within the framework of activating AARINENA's thematic networks, a series of high-level webinars has been successfully implemented, bringing together regional and international experts to address key agricultural, environmental, and innovation-related challenges. These webinars have served as dynamic platforms for scientific exchange, capacity building, and the promotion of sustainable solutions across the NENA region.

🌿 **Branch Wilt Disease on Trees: Diagnosis and Management Approaches**

8 January 2026

Speaker: Dr. Adel Awadelgeed Abdalla Ahmed — Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Crop Protection (Plant Pathology), University of Gezira, Sudan

Coordination: Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud — Coordinator, Plant Protection Network, AARINENA (Mutah University, Jordan)

Focus: This webinar addressed branch wilt disease affecting woody tree species, focusing on its causal agents, symptomatology, and epidemiology. The session highlighted recent advances in plant pathology research and discussed integrated and sustainable management strategies aimed at reducing disease impact and improving tree health under varying environmental conditions.

Link:

https://youtu.be/22rvZglZf_Q?si=7TCAehOaqTSjWdJv



Webinar Invitation

The Plant Protection Network
of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)

is pleased to invite you to attend the scientific webinar entitled:

Branch Wilt Disease on Trees
مرض الذبول الفصني على الأشجار

Speaker
Dr. Adel Awadelgeed Abdalla Ahmed
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Department of Crop Protection (Plant Pathology)
University of Gezira, Sudan

Coordinator
Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud
Coordinator of Plant Protection Network – AARINENA
Mutah University, Jordan

🌊 **Flood Risk Mitigation and Management: Nature-Based and Sustainable Solutions**

19 January 2026

Speaker: Prof. Radwan Al-Weshah — Professor of Water Resources Engineering, The University of Jordan

Coordination: Dr. Alia Alghsoon — Coordinator, Water Use Efficiency Network, AARINENA

Focus: This webinar explored integrated and nature-based approaches for flood risk mitigation, emphasizing sustainable water resource management strategies that enhance both environmental protection and community resilience in the face of climate variability.

Link:

<https://youtu.be/4bs4X71YdzU?si=WZqLKX346EZnO7IW>



Webinar Invitation

The Water Use Efficiency Network
of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)

is pleased to invite you to attend the scientific webinar entitled:

**Flood risk mitigation and management
Natural based and sustainability solutions**

Speaker

Prof. Radwan Al-Weshah
Professor of Water Resources Engineering
The University of Jordan
Jordan

Coordinator

Dr. Alia Radwan
Researcher in AI applications in water and food security systems
Water Use Efficiency Network Coordinator

💡 **From Idea to Application: How Innovation Drives Business Creation**

26 January 2026

Speaker: Dr. Khaled Khreisat — Executive Director, Jordanian Association for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Promotion (JAIP)

Coordination: Jordanian Scientific Association for Research and Innovation (in partnership with AARINENA and JAIP)

Focus: The session highlighted the innovation pathway from concept development to market application, showcasing how research, creativity, and academia-industry collaboration can be transformed into viable business ventures that contribute to economic development.

Link:

https://youtu.be/qQTvHMA_4wY?si=kYL-RRIO_OXG0-UN

يسر الجمعية الأردنية للبحث العلمي والريادة والإبداع وبالشراكة مع اتحاد مؤسسات البحوث الزراعية في الشرق الأدنى وشمال أفريقيا (أرينينا)، والجمعية الكيميائية الأردنية وشركة منصة دمج الأكاديميا بالصناعة JAIP أن تدعوكم لحضور ورشة عمل

(From Idea to Application)
How Innovation Drives Business Creation

الموافق 2026-1-26 الساعة السادسة مساءً عبر منصة زووم

د. خالد خريسات المدير التنفيذي لشركة JAIP

نرجس مسح رمز QR للتسجيل ، وسنتم التواصل مع الحضور عبر البريد الإلكتروني.

adminstration@thejaip.com +962 7 8696 6918

🚀 What Can Space Technology Offer Us?

9 February 2026

Speaker: Dr. Qais Al-Omari — Head of Training Department, Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education, Royal Jordanian Geographic Center

Coordination: Dr. Alia Alghsoon — Coordinator, Water Use Efficiency Network, AARINENA

Focus: The webinar examined the growing role of space technologies in agriculture, environmental monitoring, and natural resource management, with a focus on how satellite-based data can support evidence-based and climate-smart decision-making.

Link: <https://youtu.be/BWB3Ys3YbFA?si=N-jZHGvmb5SGkyJA>

Webinar Invitation

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

is pleased to invite you to attend the scientific webinar entitled:

ماذا تقدم تكنولوجيا الفضاء لنا؟
What Can Space Technology Offer Us?

Speaker: Dr. Qais Al-Omari
Head of the Training Department, Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education
Royal Jordanian Geographic Center
Jordan

Coordinator: Dr. Alia Radwan
Researcher in AI applications in water and food security systems
Water Use Efficiency Network Coordinator
Jordan

🕷️ Toxicity of Acaricides Against the Egg Stage of the Two-Spotted Spider Mite

29 January 2026

Speaker: Eng. Esraa Walid Salem — Plant Protection Researcher, National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), Jordan

Coordination: Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud — Coordinator, Plant Protection Network, AARINENA (Mutah University, Jordan)

Focus: This technical session assessed the laboratory effectiveness and safety of selected acaricides against mite egg stages, contributing to improved integrated pest management (IPM) strategies and more sustainable crop protection practices.

Link: https://youtu.be/t_Z1jbf3YrY?si=MO6i2CVZoft40wkb

Webinar Invitation

The Plant Protection Network of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)

is pleased to invite you to attend the scientific webinar entitled:

Toxicity of Some Acaricides Against Egg Stage of The Two-Spotted Spider Mite *Tetranychus urticaea* Koch (Acari: Tetranychidae) Under Laboratory Conditions

Speaker: Eng. Esraa Walid Salem
Plant Protection Researcher
National Agricultural Research Center
Jordan

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud
Coordinator of Plant Protection Network - AARINENA
Mutah University, Jordan

🌱 Eco-Friendly Management of Fusarium Wilt in Cucumber Using Garlic Extract

16 February 2026

Speaker: Eng. Bilal Mohammad Sharman — Plant Protection Researcher, NARC, Jordan

Coordination: Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud — Coordinator, Plant Protection Network, AARINENA

Focus: This session presented findings on the use of garlic extract as a natural antifungal agent, demonstrating its potential as an environmentally friendly alternative to chemical pesticides in managing Fusarium wilt disease.

Link: <https://youtu.be/5VH5bVgWnt8?si=zWVLjOo-Tpliz89l>

Webinar Invitation

The Plant Protection Network
of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
(AARINENA)

is pleased to invite you to attend the scientific webinar entitled:

The effect of using garlic extract as an environmentally friendly approach and a sustainable agricultural practice in controlling Fusarium wilt disease in cucumber plants
أثر استخدام مستخلص الثوم كنهج صديق للبيئة ولممارسات الزراعة المستدامة في مكافحة مرض الذبول الفيوزاري في ثمار نبات الخيار

Speaker 
Eng. Bilal Mohammad sharman
Plant Protection Researcher
National Agricultural Research Center
Jordan

Coordinator 
Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud
Coordinator of Plant Protection Network -
AARINENA
Mutah University, Jordan

**Global Bacteriophage Biocontrol Platform:
Antibiotic-Free, Science-Led, Deployment-Ready**
23 April 2026

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Sabah Al-Jasim — Founder & CEO, Applied Bio Research Inc., Canada–United Kingdom
Coordination: Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud — Coordinator, Plant Protection Network, AARINENA
Focus: This webinar introduced bacteriophage-based biocontrol technologies as innovative, antibiotic-free solutions for managing bacterial plant diseases, highlighting their readiness for global-scale agricultural deployment.

Link:
<https://youtu.be/saPrzuQ8VZA?si=HTNQMIYELTaiVti0>

Webinar Invitation

The Plant Protection Network
of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
(AARINENA)

is pleased to invite you to attend the scientific webinar entitled:

**Global Bacteriophage Biocontrol Platform:
Antibiotic-Free | Science-Led | Deployment-Ready**
المنصة العالمية لمكافحة الجيوبية بالعائيات:
خالٍ من المضادات الحيوية | قائم على العلم | جاهز للتطبيق

Speaker 
Prof. Dr. Sabah Al-Jasim
Founder & CEO of Applied Bio Research Inc
A specialist in biotechnology with more than 40
international patents
Canada – United Kingdom

Coordinator 
Prof. Dr. Firas Al-Zyoud
Coordinator of Plant Protection Network
AARINENA
Mutah University
Jordan

Biodiversity and Its Role in Biological Control
29 April 2026

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Amira Negm – Plant Protection Research Institute, Egypt

Topic: The most important pests affecting major fruit crops in Egypt

Prof. Dr. Hossam El-Gammaly – Plant Protection Research Institute, Egypt

Topic: The role of biodiversity in the biological control of mole crickets

Dr. Karim El-Shaarawy – Plant Protection Research Institute, Egypt

Topic: Neem tree: a habitat for pests and biological enemies

Prof. Dr. Rasha Zainhem – Plant Protection Research Institute, Egypt

Topic: Pests affecting stored products and methods of control

Dr. Ahmed Said Send – Plant Protection Research Institute, Egypt

Topic: The role of mites in biological pest control

Coordination: Prof. Dr. Salwa Abd El-Samad – Plant Protection Research Institute, Egypt

Focus: The session emphasized the critical role of biodiversity in strengthening biological pest control systems, focusing on ecological interactions that support resilient and sustainable agroecosystems.

Link:
<https://youtu.be/eD8ub4Te03M?si=mnRu2hMOhyFg8wfh>

Speaker

**التنوع البيولوجي وتأثيره على دور
المكافحة الحيوية**


د. أميرة شعراوي
شجرة النخيل: بيئة خصبة
للآفات والإعلاء الحيوية


أ. د. هوسام الجمالي
دور التنوع الحيوي في مكافحة
الجيوبية لآفة الحشد الحريفية


د. كريم الشاروي
أ. د. أميرة نجم
أهم الآفات التي تصيب الخمر
مخضبة القمح في مصر


أ. د. رشا زينهم
أهم الآفات التي تصيب الخمر
المخرزة وقرق متكتها


د. أحمد سعيد سند
دور الأكاروسات في
المكافحة الحيوية للآفات


أ. د. سلمى عبدالصمد
Coordinator

🌾 Wheat Genetic Resources and Sustainability in Southeastern Anatolia, Türkiye

5 May 2026

Speaker: Prof. Hüsni Aktaş — Professor of Field Crops and Wheat Breeding, Mardin Artuklu University, Türkiye

Coordination: Dr. Ali Ilkhan — General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM), Türkiye

Focus: This webinar explored the rich genetic diversity of wheat in Southeastern Anatolia and discussed sustainable conservation strategies to safeguard genetic resources and enhance long-term food security.

Link:

<https://youtu.be/UmYbMgMiUbU?si=JOhVRZVQvU2hWl9Z>

The Potential of the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Turkey in Terms of Wheat Genetic Resources and Sustainable Conservation

إمكانات منطقة جنوب شرق الأناضول في تركيا من حيث الموارد الوراثية للقمح والحفاظ المستدام عليها

Speaker: Prof. Hüsni AKTAŞ
Professor of Field Crops & Wheat Breeding
Mardin Artuklu University
Türkiye

Coordinator: Dr. Ali ILKHAN
Wheat Breeder
General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM)
Türkiye

<https://zoom.us/j/99613819948?pwd=Plg3OHhVTST97hwOvtJjeDorRemDas.1>
Meeting ID: 996 1381 9948
Passcode: 708947
May 05, 2026 11:00 AM Amman and Ankara Time

🌿 Wild Plants and Seeds in the Context of Climate Change

30 June 2026

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Alptekin Karagöz — Expert in Wild Plant Seeds and Genetic Resources, Ankara University, Türkiye

Coordination: Dr. Ali Ilkhan — General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM), Türkiye

Focus: The session addressed the future of wild plant species under changing environmental conditions, highlighting conservation approaches to protect seed diversity and strengthen biodiversity resilience.

Link: <https://youtu.be/KfXZa1wrC2M?si=xJxJ1Lo-QID-IJUC>

The Possible Future of Wild Plants and Their Seeds in Changing Environmental and Climate Conditions

مستقبل النباتات البرية وبذورها في ظل التغيرات البيئية والمناخية

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Alptekin Karagöz
Expert in wild plant seeds, genetic resources, and in-situ conservation
Seed Gene Bank Manager (1986–2008), Turkish Field Crops Research Institute
Ankara University
Türkiye

Coordinator: Dr. Ali ILKHAN
Wheat Breeder
General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM)
Türkiye

<https://zoom.us/j/99482760086?pwd=VDQyCSN4ZSgpmN3kUcVhYNDZw.1>
Meeting ID: 994 8276 0086
Passcode: 879942
June 30, 2026 11:00 AM Amman and Ankara Time

🔬 Nanotechnology: Bridging Research and Applications for Sustainable Development in the Arab World

2 July 2026

Speaker: Dr. Rund Abu-Zurayk — Principal Researcher, Materials Engineering and Nanotechnology, University of Jordan

Coordination: Dr. Tamara Said Al Qudah — Plant Biotechnology and Plant Tissue Culture Researcher, University of Jordan

Focus: This webinar explored the transformative potential of nanotechnology in linking advanced scientific research with real-world applications. The session highlighted its growing role in supporting sustainable development across the Arab region, with particular emphasis on innovations in material science, agricultural biotechnology, and emerging interdisciplinary solutions that enhance efficiency, productivity, and environmental sustainability.

Link: <https://youtu.be/ykashi0sqrQ?si=qcSzWa-UXptvraC>

تكنولوجيا النانو: ربط البحث العلمي بالتطبيقات من أجل التنمية المستدامة في الوطن العربي

Nanotechnology: Bridging Research and Applications for Sustainable Development in the Arab World

Time: Thursday July 2, 2026
11:00 AM Jordan Time

Focus: Meeting ID: 932 7813 5643
Passcode: 239166

Speaker: الدكتورة رند أبو زريك
باحث رئيس في هندسة المواد وتكنولوجيا النانو
الجامعة الأردنية
الأردن

Coordinator: الدكتورة نغم سعيد القضاة
باحث في مجال التفاعلات الحيوية النباتية وزراعة الأنسجة النباتية
الجامعة الأردنية
الأردن

Dr. Rund Abu-Zurayk
Principal Researcher of Materials Engineering and Nanotechnology
University of Jordan
Jordan

Dr. Tamara Said Al Qudah
Plant Biotechnology and Plant Tissue Culture Researcher
University of Jordan
Jordan



Stay informed and connected by joining our future webinars for in-depth insights and regional collaboration.

<https://aarinena.org/>



Participations with Partners and Members Conferences, Workshops and Webinars

On the Ground: AARINENA's In-Person Engagements

Workshop on Enhancing Investment in Scientific Research 11 April 2026 Amman, Jordan



Under the patronage and participation of HRH Princess Basma bint Ali, Founder of the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan, the workshop “Enhancing Investment in Scientific Research” was convened in Amman to highlight the pivotal role of research as the cornerstone of sustainable development and innovation. Organized by the Jordan Society for Scientific Research, Entrepreneurship and Creativity (JSSREC) in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Garden, the event brought together representatives from universities, research institutions, development organizations, and experts from Jordan and across the region.

In her opening remarks, HRH Princess Basma bint Ali emphasized that scientific research forms the foundation for any nation's progress, underscoring the importance of investing in knowledge creation to address environmental and societal challenges. She showcased the Royal Botanic Garden's initiatives—including the National Seed Bank, Plant Database, and Educational Garden—as models for linking science, conservation, and community engagement.

Discussions throughout the workshop focused on strengthening the research ecosystem in Jordan and the wider Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. Participants explored ways to enhance funding mechanisms, foster collaboration between academia and the private sector, and promote innovation in key areas such as agriculture, food security, climate resilience, water management, and sustainable resource use.



AARINENA reaffirmed the Association's commitment to advancing collaborative agricultural research, capacity building, and regional knowledge exchange. AARINENA stressed that investing in scientific research is essential for achieving agricultural sustainability, improving livelihoods, and building resilient food systems across the region.

8th International Date Palm Conference
28 April – 1 May 2026
Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- A side event for the Consortium for Red Palm Weevil Control Program (C4RPWC), focusing on scalable pest management solutions.
- Scientific sessions covering biotechnology, climate-smart cultivation, sustainable use of by-products, and innovations supporting food security.



Under the generous patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, affiliated with the Erth Zayed Philanthropies Foundation, organized the Eighth International Date Palm Conference (IDPC 2026) in collaboration with United Arab Emirates University, AARINENA, and leading international partners

Representing AARINENA, Dr. Rida Shibli chaired the session “Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering, and Tissue Culture Propagation.” This session explored advanced topics such as micropropagation, genetic stability, molecular markers, acclimatization techniques, and innovative biotechnological approaches for improving date palm production and conservation.

Under the generous patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, affiliated with the Erth Zayed Philanthropies Foundation, organized the Eighth International Date Palm Conference (IDPC 2026) in collaboration with United Arab Emirates University, AARINENA, and leading international partners.



Through its active participation, AARINENA reaffirmed the importance of regional and international cooperation in promoting scientific research, innovation, and sustainable management of date palm resources, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions facing climate challenges.



The conference provided a premier global platform to advance scientific research, agricultural innovation, and sustainability in the date palm sector. Key highlights included:

- Launch of the UAE’s first AI-powered digital platform documenting local date varieties.

Regional Fora Meeting
7 June 2026
Antalya, Türkiye



The Regional Fora convened in Antalya to discuss the future of agricultural research and innovation across diverse regions. Leaders from Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe, Central Asia, Africa, and the Near East emphasized the importance of cross-regional collaboration, resource mobilization, and digital transformation in agrifood systems. The meeting highlighted shared challenges such as declining public funding, climate resilience, and the need to empower women and youth in agriculture. Participants reaffirmed the role of the Regional Fora as platforms for knowledge exchange, foresight, and collective action, ensuring that research outputs are more demand-driven and accessible to farmers and policymakers.

GFAiR Steering Committee Meeting
8 June 2026
Antalya, Türkiye



The following day, the GFAiR Steering Committee gathered to chart the organization's strategic direction. Members underscored GFAiR's unique global network as its greatest strength, calling for stronger visibility and clearer communication of its value to donors and partners. Discussions focused on the Theory of Change, equitable partnerships, and the operationalization of the Global NARS Consortium (GNC). The Committee agreed on the need to "join forces" for resource mobilization and to consolidate achievements under current funding, while preparing for future sustainability. The meeting reinforced GFAiR's role as a neutral, multi-stakeholder platform that connects research institutions, regional fora, and global partners to advance innovation in agrifood systems.



Digital Dialogues: Webinars & Online Platforms

Society for Underutilized Legumes (SUL)

25 February 2026

Online

AARINENA reinforced its collaboration with the Society for Underutilized Legumes through participation in the 33rd Academic Lecture Series. The lecture, delivered by Joanna Kane Potaka, Secretary General of GFAiR, focused on Harnessing Global Opportunities in Underutilized Legumes Value Chains. The event highlighted innovative approaches to promote neglected crops for food security and sustainability—an area closely aligned with AARINENA's regional agricultural development goals.

THE 33RD ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

Topic: Harnessing Global Opportunities in Underutilized Legumes Value Chains.

Speaker: JOANNA KANE POTAKA, Secretary General, GFAiR, France

DATE: Wed 25th Feb. 2026
TIME: 14:00hrs (WAT)
VENUE: Online

Join Us: secretary@sul.legumes.org
<https://www.julegumes.org/index.php/jul>
publish in Journal of Underutilized Legumes

Partners: [Logos of various agricultural organizations]

You are invited to the SUL 9th International Scientific Conference & Annual General Meeting, Oct. 2026, Amadu Belle University, Zaria, Nigeria.

AI in Smallholder Agriculture: Hype or Game Changer?

26 February 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the webinar “AI in Smallholder Agriculture: Hype or Game Changer?” organized by SAFIC and Kilimo AI. The session highlighted how AI can strengthen smallholder farming through diagnostic tools, advisory platforms, and decision-support systems, while stressing the importance of transparency and collaboration. This engagement underscores AARINENA's role in promoting responsible digital innovation for sustainable agriculture.

Webinar Insights

AI in Smallholder Agriculture

Hype or game changer?

“AI presents an opportunity to organize agricultural data and deliver personalized, actionable information to farmers. The goal is to separate hype from real value by identifying where AI genuinely improves smallholder production and livelihoods. Farmers ultimately need solutions that help them make profitable decisions at the end of each season.”

Dr. Denis Mujibi
Associate Director
Strathmore Agri-Food Innovation Center (SAFIC)

Visit our website www.safic.strathmore.edu

Advancing Access to Justice for Women Farmers

5 March 2026

Online

AARINENA joined the Rome-based Agencies' event “Advancing Access to Justice for Women Farmers” commemorating International Women's Day and the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026. Organized by FAO, IFAD, and WFP, the session brought together women farmers from diverse regions to share experiences and innovative practices, alongside remarks from agency leaders and the Government of Sweden. Interpretation was provided in multiple languages, ensuring inclusive participation. This engagement reflects AARINENA's commitment to empowering women farmers and advancing equitable access to justice in agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Advancing Access to Justice for Women Farmers

5 MARCH 2026 | 10:00-12:00 CET
FAO HQ & Webcast

International Water Management Institute (IWMI, CGIAR)

9-12 March 2026

Online

AARINENA engaged with the IWMI MENA Office in a three-part online mini-series on Scaling Resilient Nature-Based Water Solutions in MENA. The sessions covered evidence and learning (March 9), financing and measurement with a focus on women’s empowerment (March 11), and pathways to scale (March 12). Organized by IWMI, a CGIAR Research Center, the series highlighted innovative approaches to water resilience, gender-inclusive financing, and practical implementation pathways for nature-based solutions. This collaboration reflects AARINENA’s commitment to advancing sustainable water management and climate resilience across the region.

المرونة AI Murunah+
Building Climate Resilience through Enhanced Water Security in MENA

Advancing Positive Gender-Norms for Resilient Families and Communities

Scaling Resilient Nature-Based Water Solutions in MENA

Webinar Mini-Series, March 9–12, 2026 | Zoom

Evidence & Learning	Finance & Measurement	Pathways to Scale
Scaling resilient nature-based water solutions in MENA: Impacts and learning to guide implementation pathways	What Gets Measured Gets Scaled: Tracking Women’s Empowerment in Nature-Based Solutions Financing	Scaling resilient nature-based water solutions in MENA: Pathways to scale
What works on the ground	What gets measured gets scaled	Scaling out, policy, and institutions
March 9, 2026 11:00-12:15 UTC +2	March 11, 2026 11:00-11:55 UTC +2	March 12, 2026 10:00-11:15 UTC +2

FAO International Women’s Day Webinar

10 March 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in FAO’s regional webinar “Women Farmers in the NENA Region: Advancing Visibility, Knowledge, and Inclusion” commemorating International Women’s Day. The event spotlighted women farmers’ contributions addressed barriers to their full participation in agrifood systems and reinforced the objectives of the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026
Advancing visibility, knowledge, and inclusion for women farmers in the NENA region

Tuesday, 10 March 2026
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (Cairo time)

#InternationalWomensDay #IWD2026
#YearOfTheWomanFarmer #IYWF2026

FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC38)

24-26 March 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the 38th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC38), chaired by the UAE. The conference focused on Innovating for Transforming Agrifood Systems, addressing climate-smart agriculture, drought resilience, supply chains, and bioeconomy innovations. This engagement reinforces AARINENA’s commitment to advancing sustainable agrifood systems and regional cooperation.



Regional Digital Agriculture & AI Dialogue (FAO/AFRAS)

1 April 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the regional webinar “Data Ecosystems for AI in Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region”, which launched the Regional Digital Agriculture and AI Dialogue. Organized by FAO and AFRAS, the event convened government representatives, academia, research institutions, innovation hubs, and private sector actors to discuss how robust data ecosystems can enable responsible and impactful AI in agrifood systems. This engagement highlights AARINENA’s commitment to advancing digital transformation and fostering inclusive innovation across the Near East and North Africa.

Regional AI Dialogue for Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region
Webinar 1: Data Ecosystems for AI in Agrifood Systems

Wednesday, 1 April 2026 | 13:30-15:00 (Cairo Time)

Virtual meeting

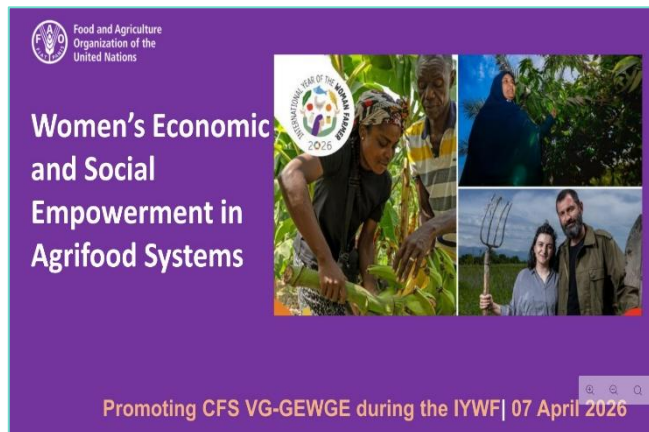
FAO 80+

FAO Webinar on Women's Empowerment (VG-GEWGE)

7 April 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the FAO regional webinar "Advancing Women's Economic and Social Empowerment through the VG-GEWGE", jointly organized by FAO's Sub-Saharan Africa (RAF), Near East and North Africa (RNE), and Europe and Central Asia (REU) offices. The session, held as part of the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, presented key documents and tools including the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality (VG-GEWGE) programme, a new e-learning course, and the Status of Women in Agrifood Systems report. This engagement highlights AARINENA's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women across agrifood systems.



FAO Webinar on Digital RAS in NENA

8 April 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the FAO/AFRAS regional webinar "Scaling Digital Rural Advisory Services (RAS) in the NENA Region: Opportunities, Innovations, and Practical Recommendations." The session convened policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to explore how digitalization can strengthen extension systems and better support farmers. Key messages emphasized the need for integrated and coordinated digital solutions, shifting from information delivery to localized decision-support, and embedding digital RAS within national frameworks. Practical innovations such as AI-driven advisory tools and climate-informed services were showcased, with inclusivity for women, youth, and marginalized groups highlighted as critical for effective digital transformation. This engagement reflects AARINENA's commitment to advancing resilient, farmer-centric digital advisory systems in the region.



FAO Dialogue on Private Sector in Agrifood Transformation

14 April 2026

Online

AARINENA took part in the FAO-led dialogue "The Role of the Private Sector in Agrifood Transformation and Climate Resilience in the NENA Region." The event convened private sector entities and development partners to explore how businesses can accelerate sustainable agrifood systems transformation amid mounting climate pressures and overlapping crises. FAO presented its 2025–2030 Private Sector Engagement Strategy, emphasizing climate-resilient agriculture, water-saving technologies, innovative financing, and stronger collaboration with SMEs and cooperatives. Participants highlighted the need for integrated value chains, predictable policies, and de-risked investment environments to unlock private sector leadership. This engagement underscores AARINENA's commitment to fostering innovation, resilience, and inclusive partnerships in agrifood systems.



ISAAA AfriCenter (Africa Science Dialogue)

22 April 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the webinar “Mother Earth in Our Hands: Weaving Stronger Bonds for Planetary Health” organized by ISAAA AfriCenter under the Africa Science Dialogue platform. The session, held on International Mother Earth Day, brought together experts from FAO, WHO, UNEP, ILRI, and other institutions to discuss climate resilience, One Health, and sustainable solutions for planetary health.

LIVE WEBINAR
ISAAA AFRICENTER PRESENTS A LIVE WEBINAR

Mother Earth in Our Hands:
Weaving Stronger Bonds for Planetary Health

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 |
11:00am – 12:00pm EAT (UTC+3)

<https://webinar.africdialogue.org/>

SPEAKER
Carol Theka
Principal Environmental Officer,
Environmental Affairs
Department, Malawi

SPEAKER
Nelson Ole Relyia
Co-Founder / CEO,
Nahabul Museum Conservancy,
Kenya

MODERATOR
Peter Theuri
Head of Digital Communications,
ISAAA AfriCenter

HOST
Margaret Karembu,
PhD, MBS
Director, ISAAA AfriCenter, and
Chair, Africa Science Dialogue

#MotherEarthDay
#COHESA
#AfricaScienceDialogue

Click here to REGISTER

ISAAA AfriCenter COHESA AFRICA SCIENCE DIALOGUE

FAO Webinar on Climate-Smart Agriculture through RAS

30 April 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the FAO/AFRAS webinar “Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture through RAS in NENA: Scalable Solutions & Actionable Pathways.” The session highlighted the growing challenges of climate change in the region, including water scarcity, land degradation, and climate variability. Policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and farmer organizations discussed scalable CSA practices, the role of Rural Advisory Services (RAS) in accelerating adoption, and actionable policy pathways for sustainability. This engagement reflects AARINENA’s commitment to promoting climate-smart agriculture and strengthening farmer-centered advisory systems in the Near East and North Africa.

ARAB FORUM FOR
RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

ADVANCING CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE THROUGH RAS IN NENA
SCALABLE SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONABLE PATHWAYS

Image of a woman in a pink headscarf working in a field.

CABI Global Action on Pesticide Risk Reduction

19 May 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the CABI webinar “Global Action on Pesticide Risk Reduction”, which convened leading stakeholders from government, research, and the private sector to launch a shared commitment to coordinated global action. Building on consultations with CABI Member Countries and partners in 2025, the session addressed common challenges and priority actions to reduce pesticide risks. Discussions focused on safeguarding farmers, consumers, landscapes, and international trade while supporting the transition to safer and more sustainable food systems. This engagement highlights AARINENA’s commitment to advancing responsible pesticide management and promoting sustainable agrifood systems worldwide.

REDUCING PESTICIDE RISK

CABI PlantwisePlus

Image of a person in a yellow protective suit using a pesticide sprayer in a field.

CABI Development Consortium (14th Meeting)

21 May 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the 14th Development Consortium meeting convened by CABI, which gathered 21 external participants from research institutions, private sector companies, and development partners. The meeting reviewed updates to the BioProtection Portal, now expanded to 54 countries and covering over 77% of the global biologicals market. Evidence from India showed that farmers using the Portal were 94% more likely to adopt biopesticides, underscoring its impact. Practical experiences from Canada highlighted the Portal’s value in supporting biocontrol decisions and integrated pest management.

The session also introduced CABI’s Global Partnership for Pesticide Risk Reduction, aimed at supporting lower-risk pest management through policy, research, and production initiatives. Looking ahead, the Portal’s 2026 objectives include expanding country coverage, diversifying income sources, and exploring biostimulant integration. The 15th Consortium meeting will be held at ABIM in October 2026 in hybrid format.

AGRINFO Webinar on EU Antimicrobial Rules

28 May 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the AGRINFO webinar “New EU Rules on the Use of Antimicrobials in Farmed Animals”, which outlined Regulation 2023/905 coming into force on 3 September 2026. The session guided stakeholders on compliance steps to avoid trade disruptions, covering honey, aquaculture, dairy, eggs, and meat exports. This engagement highlights AARINENA’s role in supporting regional partners to align with EU food safety and antimicrobial resistance standards.



FAO-UNIMED Webinar on Academic Collaboration

4 June 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the FAO-UNIMED webinar “Strengthening Academic Collaboration through the FAO eLearning Academy: Free, Multilingual, Certified Courses.” The session presented opportunities for universities to integrate FAO’s free, certified courses into curricula, with a focus on plant health and food systems. This engagement highlights AARINENA’s commitment to fostering academic cooperation and capacity-building across the Mediterranean.



FAO Regional AI Dialogue (Webinar 2)

17 June 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in FAO’s second Regional AI Dialogue webinar “Local Barriers and Human Capital for AI in Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region.” The session highlighted challenges such as limited digital literacy, connectivity gaps, and human capital constraints, while showcasing practical solutions and policy pathways to foster inclusive AI adoption. This engagement reinforces AARINENA’s commitment to advancing digital transformation and capacity-building in agrifood systems.



FAO/AFRAS Webinar on Crop Protection & Food Safety

29 June 2026

Online

AARINENA participated in the FAO/AFRAS webinar “Strengthening Rural Advisory Services for Sustainable Crop Protection and Food Safety in the NENA Region.” The session addressed climate change, pest outbreaks, and food safety challenges, emphasizing integrated pest management, farmer-centered advisory approaches, and stronger linkages between RAS, plant protection, and food safety systems. This engagement highlights AARINENA’s commitment to advancing sustainable agrifood systems and regional cooperation.





Contact Us:

Email: r.shibli@cgiar.org, a.aarinena@gmail.com

Website: <https://aarinena.org>