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Enhancing Food Security in Arab Countries Project

Young Agricultural Scientists Program

Within the framework of the Food Security Project, funded by AFESD and IDB, The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Lands (ICARDA) and the Islamic Development Bank launch the **Young Agricultural Scientists Program**. The program is competitive and career-enhancing and will enable participants gain research experience, become familiar with the latest research techniques, and learn to work within a team. The candidates will work with ICARDA's scientists on the collaborative programs with their respective countries.

The Young Agricultural Scientists Program (YASP) at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is designed to bridge the skills gap – the acute shortage of agricultural researchers in the target countries. The YASP will directly strengthen national research capacities, and also reduce the attrition rate of bright young graduates leaving from agriculture, by providing them with motivation for career advancement. Specifically the YASP will:

- Provide a new generation of young agricultural scientists in the target countries competent in research
- Strengthen national research capacities by filling gaps in human resources necessary for effective research programs.

Fields of Study

Under the Young Agricultural Scientists Program, eligible candidates may apply only for studies in wheat improvement: **Plant breeding, Pathology, Entomology and Seed Systems**. Research topics of the selected candidates will be part of the annual work plans and focus of the food security project. Candidates will be encouraged to participate in seminars and workshops during their stay at ICARDA to broaden their perspectives and strengthen their analytical and presentation skills. A number of specific outputs will be generated through this training to include the following:

- Young agricultural scientists who acquired enhanced capabilities in research for sustainable development.
- Publications based on the collaborative research outcomes.
- Strengthened NARS with higher capacity in agricultural research for sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation.

Candidate's Profile

The project will accept candidates who are employed by national programs. The candidates will spend one to two years working alongside ICARDA scientists to acquire research competence

on-the-job. The young scientists will be working and whose institutions will guarantee return to their jobs. Preference will be given to PhD degree holders. Candidates should be in the age of less than 40 years.

Selection of Eligible Candidates

A committee will select candidates who are eligible, motivated young men and women on competitive basis. ICARDA will notify selected applicants through their national institutions and will arrange logistics so that the selected candidates join ICARDA research stations. ICARDA will cover research support, international and local travel, en-route expenses, insurance, accommodation and a modest daily subsistence allowance.

Program Management and Coordination

The Capacity Development Unit (CDU) of ICARDA will manage the YASP program. Contact point will be Mr. Afif Dakermanji, a.dakermanji@cgiar.org