



Australian Government
AusAID

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

BETWEEN
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY IN SYRIA(JICA)
AND
THE AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(AusAID)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN
THE DRY AREAS (ICARDA)
ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN FOR “ENHANCING HUMAN
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ”

WHEREAS the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, hereinafter referred to as “**ICARDA**”, established in 1977 as an autonomous, non-profit, international research center supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), is headquartered in Aleppo, Syria;

WHEREAS the Australian Agency for International Development, hereinafter referred to as “**AusAID**” is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program of which the objective is to assist developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest;

WHEREAS the Japan International Cooperation Agency, hereinafter referred to as “**JICA**” is an independent administrative institution under the law concerning the Independent Administrative Institution Japan International Cooperation Agency (Law No. 136, 2002), aiming to contribute to the promotion of the international cooperation as well as the sound development of Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions.;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereby resolve to abide by this Framework Agreement concerning the program on “Enhancing Human Resources Development in Iraq”, consisting of a number of training courses to be held during the period starting April 2010 through March 2013. These activities will be carried out in accordance to the following Articles and Conditions:

AT

BACKGROUND

The countries of the region of Central and West Asia and North Africa have similar agro-ecologies and share similar problems of limited water and arable land resources. The low level of agricultural research in these countries, especially in the area of crop improvement, brings the national and regional food security at risk. In Iraq, the situation is further aggravated by the military actions, unstable safety and economic sanctions. The issue of food security in Iraq is particularly critical in view of the high population growth rate of 3% per year. There is a need for support the national agricultural research systems in the region, especially in Iraq, through the development of human capacities and raising the prestige of the agricultural research.

THE OBJECTIVE

All of the parties have been contributing for the development of agriculture sector in the dry land countries, especially in Iraq. Through individual long-term efforts, each party has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and experience, which will be utilized to jointly implement this Framework Agreement. Since the parties share many common interests and goals, it is expected that this synergy will promote effectiveness and maximize the outputs of the initiative to enhance the capacity of agricultural researchers in Iraq.

THE PURPOSE

The purpose is to strengthen human resource capacity in agricultural research in the areas of water-use efficiency, drought monitoring, crop improvement, biotechnology and livestock integration, and to support sustainable national agricultural production and development in Iraq, Syria and other dry land countries under the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of recipients of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

ACTIVITIES

In order to achieve the purpose, the parties will jointly implement the training program entitled "Enhancing Human Resources Development in Iraq". Capacity development of scientists will be conducted in the following areas:

1. Water management for improved water use efficiency in the dry areas;
2. Biotechnology application in crop improvement; and
3. Integrated crop and livestock production.

By the end of the training program, each trained personnel is expected to have acquired the following:

1. Up-to-date knowledge and enhanced capacity in the design, implementation, management, analysis, and reporting of agricultural research related to water-use efficiency, drought monitoring, and crop improvement for sustainable agricultural production.
2. Up-to-date knowledge and enhanced capacity in biotechnology application in crop improvement for sustainable agricultural production.
3. Up-to-date knowledge and enhanced capacity in the design, implementation, and management of livestock / crop integration for sustainable agricultural production.

These trained personnel will have acquired the capacity to act as future trainers and transfer their knowledge to other national staff in their countries. Thus the initial investment in training the participants within this program will have a multiplier effect.

AT

ROLE OF THE PARTIES

ICARDA will provide training facilities and take necessary measures for the arrangement and implementation of the training program.

JICA will bear a part of the expenses of the training courses which is equivalent to 50% of total amount of the training program. Detailed cost estimation will be specified in the annual minutes of meetings between JICA and ICARDA.

AusAID will bear a part of the expenses of the training courses which is equivalent to 50% of total amount of the training program. Detailed cost estimation will be presented in the bilateral Agreement between AusAID and ICARDA.

This Framework Agreement is concluded in three originals in the English language, whereby each of the parties shall receive one original, signed by all three parties.

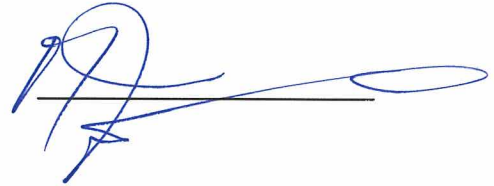
As agreed by the parties and signed by their authorized representatives as shown below, in the presence of the three witnesses named below:



Ms. Akiko Tomita
Chief Representative
JICA Syria Office
Japan International
Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Dr. Mahmoud Solh
Director General
International Center for
Agricultural Research in the
Dry Areas (ICARDA)



Mr. Robert Tyson
Ambassador
Australian Embassy
Baghdad