

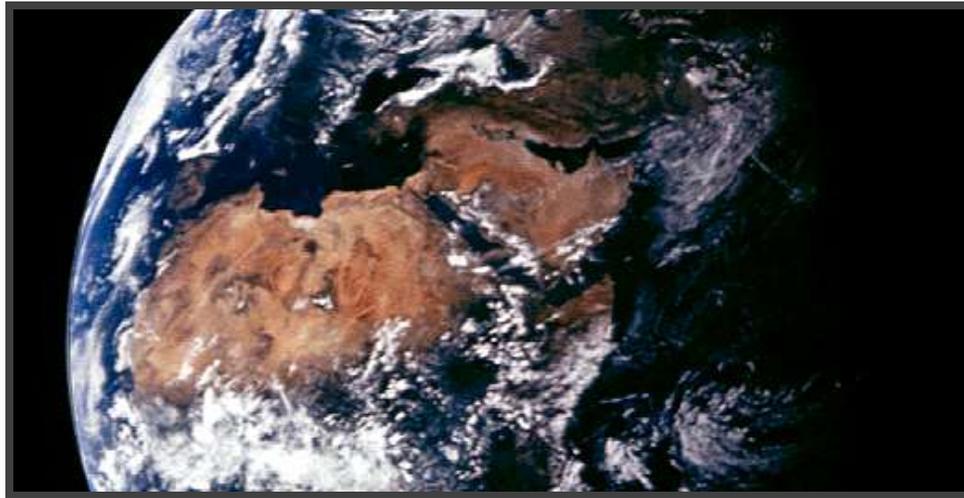


Middle East Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI)

Improving Rural Livelihoods through Sustainable Water and Land-use Management in the Middle East: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria & Yemen



WLI Quarterly Progress Report



June 30, 2010



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Executive Summary

The second quarter of 2010 witnessed the implementation of a number of WLI activities. This included hosting an Educators' Workshop at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, June 28-30, 2010, which brought together academicians, researchers and stakeholders from across the region and the U.S. to discuss areas of collaboration for both short and long-term activities in the areas of distance/e-learning, faculty development, and research linked to the WLI benchmark sites in the region. Based on the outputs of the workshop, a number of activities are under development, namely the two-week training course on 'Extension/Outreach Skills' that will be held at ICARDA, Aleppo next autumn, in collaboration with the University of Florida. As well, the WLI 2nd Steering Committee was held at Shephard Hotel in Cairo, Egypt, on 1 July 2010 to discuss the WLI progress during the first six months of the year, as well as to set up action items for future activity implementation in the WLI countries, in close fulfillment with the 2010 work plan (Annex 1).

1. WLI Educators' Workshop, Cairo, Egypt

A three-day WLI workshop took place at the Desert Development Center of the American University in Cairo, Egypt, 27-30 June, 2010, to develop an understanding of agricultural graduate training needs within the seven participating Middle Eastern countries of the WLI (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen) and to link those needs with participating U.S. universities (University of Florida, University of California, University of Illinois, Texas A&M University, and Utah State University). Moreover, the workshop will provided a unique opportunity for U.S. and regional universities to discuss areas of collaboration for both short and long-term activities in the areas of distance/e-learning, faculty development, and research linked to the WLI benchmark sites in the region. The full report, including the agenda and relevant presentations can be retrieved at [http://www.icarda.org/wli/Educators' Workshop Full Report.htm](http://www.icarda.org/wli/Educators'_Workshop_Full_Report.htm) (Tareq???)

The American University in Cairo (AUC) was the chosen venue for the workshop given its role as a Hub Regional University in the WLI. Located in the newly inaugurated campus, the AUC Desert Development Center (DDC) hosted the workshop. The DDC is an applied research institute promoting sustainable development of Egypt's reclaimed desert areas. The DDC maintains an extensive program of research, training, and informational activities to meet its objectives of increasing the productivity and incomes of desert settlers while conserving and enhancing the natural resource base of the desert environment.

Because of the broad spectrum of stakeholders involved in the project, as well as the need to discuss the parameters of the future education and learning programs between the region and the U.S., convening the project 2nd Steering Committee, which was held at Shephard Hotel in Cairo on 1 July, 2010, it was necessary to hold the three-day

workshop as an important output of the Kick-off workshop that was held early this year in Amman, Jordan. The agenda of the Educators' Workshop is found in Annex 2.

The workshop participants represented a broad spectrum of interests from research centers and Universities, including the following:

- National Agriculture Research and Extension Service (NARES) for the seven Partners countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen);
- US Universities: Texas A&M University (TAMU); University of California – Davis and Riverside (UC-D/R); University of Florida (UF); University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Utah State University (USU);
- Regional Hub Universities: Irrigation Hub at the American University of Cairo (AUC), Rainfed Hub at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Rangeland Hub at the University of Jordan (UJ).

Dr. Fawzi Karajeh, ICARDA/Egypt and Regional Coordinator for the Nile Valley and Sub-Saharan Africa Program, welcomed the participants from all seven of the Middle East Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI) countries – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. The representatives from five U.S. University partners to the WLI – University of California at Davis, University of Florida, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Texas A&M University, and Utah State University – were also welcomed to the workshop.

Dr. Lisa Anderson, Provost of American University Cairo (AUC) welcomed all participants to the new campus of AUC, and recognized, in particular, the efforts of Dr. Tina Jaskolski and the Desert Development Centre (DDC) in hosting the workshop. Dr. Anderson highlighted that the new AUC facilities represent a turning point in high quality education in the region. These facilities plus the collaborative opportunities provided by technology use in education and research have opened the way for local and international university networks. Indeed AUC has positioned itself to be a hub university for local university network on irrigation research.

Dr. Mahmoud Solh, Director General, ICARDA, in his remarks reminded the participants, as they develop understanding and a strategy or roadmap for linking U.S. universities with education and research needs in the Middle East, benchmark sites provide the platform for graduate students to do essential research on key topics valuable to national and regional objectives. Dr. Solh referred to water as a major initiative in US development cooperation in the Middle East region, and that the global response to the 2007-08 food security crisis is an opportunity to renew efforts in agricultural and water research in the region.

Dr. Maged El-Shrbieny, Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and President of National Academy of Science, also reinforced the need for research and education to support the necessary innovations for addressing the growing water scarcity crisis in Egypt and the region.

Final remarks were given by Dr. Saad Nassar, Egyptian Council of Universities, who reminded participants to keep focus on the vast sources of challenges to the problems of water and agriculture to meet the Millennium Development Goals when undertaking the work to lay out a roadmap for collaborative research and education partnerships.



Dr. Fadi Karam, ICARDA and Project Manager for WLI, provided some brief introductory remarks about the WLI program. The main goal of the WLI is to improve the livelihoods of rural household and communities in areas where water scarcity, land degradation, water quality deterioration, food security and health issues are prevalent in the seven participating countries by focusing on economic, social and educational opportunities. The WLI approach is to build upon existing relationships, promote a knowledge-sharing strategy, and focus on scaling up and out learning from integrated benchmark sites. This approach is achieved through three main components: benchmark site characterization and up-scaling of research technologies; capacity-building; and learning and education. Different outputs benefit different target groups, for example, integrated water and land use strategies assist policymakers in decision-making; enhanced knowledge benefits key stakeholders; and farmers obtain improved rural livelihoods.

Dr. Sandra Russo, University of Florida, highlighted that implementation of overall WLI objectives is meant to be achieved through a process of training Middle Eastern Master's and Doctoral students along with current researchers, extensionists and policymakers. As such, the Educator's Workshop was to focus on the capacity-building outcome of WLI by bringing together Deans from all of the partner universities, sharing thoughts and information from senior administrators on next steps to accomplish this objective.

Dr. Russo identified the main purpose of the Educator's Workshop as to finalize and take action on priority knowledge-sharing recommendations on graduate student training, short course training needs, and post-doctoral study and exchange, made during the three agro-ecosystem workshops in 2009. This was to be achieved by accomplishing two main objectives for the Educator's Workshop. One was to complete the education

matrix¹ begun in 2009 by identifying, planning and designing educational programs for students and professionals. Two was to provide an opportunity for Middle East regional and U.S. universities to discuss areas of collaboration for long and short term training activities. The expected outputs from the workshop were to include a Distance Education (DE) needs assessment, a graduate student academic training plan, including a recruitment strategy and how to link it to benchmark site research, a short course training needs assessment building on priority areas identified in 2009, and a specific work plan for activities to be completed by the end of 2010.

The workshop offered a frame for discussions from all participants on the following topics:

- Introduction to Distance Education: U.S. and Middle Eastern Perspectives (Session 1)²
- Linking Middle Eastern Universities' Graduate Education to the WLI (Session 2)
- Overview of Graduate Education Programs in WLI partner US Universities (Session 3)
- Discussion of Middle East Graduate Education Needs as relates to WLI (Session 4)
- Development of Solutions for Middle East Graduate Education Needs (Session 5)
- Graduate Student Education Programs and Linkages to the WLI Benchmark Sites (Session 6)
- Short Courses for Academic Education and Extension (Session 7)

2. WLI 2nd Steering Committee, July 1, 2010, Cairo, Egypt

The WLI 2nd Steering Committee was held at Sheppard Hotel in Cairo, Egypt, on 1 July 2010 to discuss progress that was made in the first half of the year, as well to set up actions items that would be of benefit to the future WLI activities. Chaired by Dr. Kamel Shideed, Assistant Director General - International Cooperation and Communication, ICARDA, the meeting regrouped representatives of the seven partner countries, as well as representatives of the US and regional Universities. The minutes if the meeting can be retrieved at <http://www.icarda.org/wli/Minutes Second Steering Committee.htm> (Tareq???)². The agenda of the Steering Committee is found in Annex 3.

Dr. Kamel Shideed opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and gave the floor to Dr. Scott Christiansen to make an opening statement.

Dr. Scott Christiansen stated that the purpose of this week's meeting was to hold the WLI Educators' Workshop. Each agro-ecosystem is linked to universities. We are

¹ See February 2010 WLI Report, including Table 7 (p.19), for more detailed description.

² All PowerPoint presentations can be found as PDF files on the WLI website, <http://www.icarda.org/WLI/>

reaching out to national universities within each ecosystem and they are then linked to the hub universities, added Dr. Christiansen.

The Water and Livelihood Initiative is important because there are other relevant initiatives going on in the region to which the WLI may link, said Dr. Christiansen. He also added there is a food security initiative called Feed the Future (FTF) underway by the Obama Administration. No countries in the Middle East were included in FTF. However, the WLI can act as a proxy activity to support FTF. John Wilson is now the Director of the Office of Technical Support at USAID and he is supportive of the WLI and is also influential in the planning of a Middle East Water Center of Excellence. WLI should strive to be seen as a logical platform upon which some of the water activities can be launched. Dr. Christiansen briefly mentioned his visit two weeks ago to Cairo and Qatar as a part of the design of the water center. In the next half year the center should be moving from design to implementation.

Dr. Christiansen noted that he would like to reach out to IWMI and IFPRI since they have been part of the WLI since the start – hoping they will use the WLI platform to create proposals that can bring funding to the project through their good offices, allowing full-cost recovery for the main WLI workers, much the same way that ICARDA did the early planning to establish the WLI and is staffing up with people employed by the project. It is up to them how to prepare their water and policy proposals that reflect their own strategic plans under the WLI umbrella.

Dr. Hamdy Khalifa, representing Prof. Ayman Abu Hadid, the President of Agricultural Research Center in Egypt, gave a speech on the Government of Egypt recent policy to complete its strategy for 2030 of sustainable agriculture development, including (i) sustainable use of soil and water; (ii) raising the degree of food security; (iii) increasing competitiveness of products; (iv) improving rural livelihoods and (v) reducing poverty

Dr. Fadi Karam gave an overview of WLI progress between February and the present. This included an outline of administrative tasks completed (designation of focal points among WLI partners, identification of thematic group members, and highlighting related WLI activities that took place in 2010), discussion of work completed at the benchmark sites (designation of Site Advisory Groups, initiating bio-physical and socio-economic data collection), the status of the characterizations within each country, and the work plan of events for 2010. Proposed activities include the continuation of baseline studies at the benchmark sites and the organizing of a two-week training course on outreach and extension skills in the Middle East in October 2010 and a workshop involving extension policy, and continue coordination meetings with national programs, including a meeting for the Palestinian team in Amman and a meeting for Iraqi team in Aleppo in July 2010.

The Steering Committee meeting came out with the following action items;

- A small group representing the steering committee will review and approve the WLI Educators' Workshop report on behalf of the steering committee. The group will include Drs. Russo, Christiansen, Oweis, Kafawin, Shideed, and Ashour.
- By July 31, we should receive the final version of the work plan and budget for 2010 activities.
- As part of the amended work plan that will be edited, workshops on gender and methodologies should take place in September 2010.
- Kamel Shideed is the ICARDA representative on the steering committee and the project manager will be represented as an ex officio member.
- ICARDA will review MOUs among WLI partners and create formal MOUs with WLI universities in anticipation of future collaboration.
- The WLI management team should make increased efforts at reaching out to IWMI and IFPRI participate in WLI activities.
- Scott Christiansen will share a set of indicators related to FTF that are being developed on food security for the WLI to also use and report on.
- Scott Christiansen requested that data from the benchmark be placed on a protected site so that WLI stakeholders can engage the U.S. side in support of resource mobilization.
- Scott Christiansen will follow up with the USAID contact in Iraq (Christine Sheckler) regarding Ahmad Al Falahi's discussions with the mission office.
- ICARDA will work with CODIS in public awareness materials

3. Activities under development

A number of activities are in the planning phases, with the expected dates to be carried out during the second quarter of year 2010. This includes benchmark characterizations, further development of the WLI Wiki, partnership with UF to develop education and training-related activities and bilateral mobilization efforts with USAID country missions to raise funds for the WLI bilateral proposals.

3.1 Benchmark characterizations

The WLI project management team began recruiting experts to conduct a two-month socio-economic study at each WLI benchmark. Because varying levels of socio-economic data exist at each benchmark site, there is a need to fully develop and homogenize inputs across all benchmark sites. For example, the benchmark sites of Egypt and Jordan build on the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)-funded CWANA Water

Benchmark Site Project. As a result, pre-existing data is available to use. The remaining WLI benchmark sites in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine are new sites and do not have existing data. Accordingly, national experts will work with the WLI focal points in each country to develop and/or update the socio-economic studies. Terms of reference (TOR) were developed and sent to NARES institutions to aid in advertising to appropriate candidates. The hired consultant will be responsible for reviewing existing studies and available literature on sustainable rural development and rural livelihoods, defining weaknesses and opportunities for improving rural livelihoods, reporting on developments on food security, developing indicators to evaluate human development at the benchmark site, and developing gender-related data at the benchmark site. The advertisement for the socio-economic studies consultant, which includes a full description of responsibilities, can be found in Annex 3. Support in conducting the socio-economic studies will be provided by ICARDA's Social, Economic & Policy Research Program (SEPRP).

- **First WLI Coordination Meeting for Lebanon and Syria, ICARDA, 10 June 2010**

Within the frame activity of the benchmark characterization in the WLI countries, a coordination meeting was organized at ICARDA, Aleppo, on 10 June 2010, for the WLI teams in Lebanon and Syria. The scope of the meeting was to assist the national teams in both countries in for the achievement of the baseline studies, and to plan the implementation of the 2010 work plan, regarding the bio-physical and socio-economic characterizations of the Orontes benchmark sites. A total of 12 people, including the WLI focal points in Lebanon (Eng. Randa Massaad) and Syria (Dr. Awadis Arslan), covering different research fields and specializations, as well as two experts (Safaa Mazahreh and Samia Akroush) from the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan and scientists from the Integrated Water and Land Management Program at ICARDA participated in the meeting.

Fadi Karam gave a presentation on bio-physical and socio-economic characterization, including the templates for bio-physical data collection, as well as the terms of reference and the indicators for the socio-economic study. The agenda of the meeting is found in Annex 4.

- **Training course on 'Bio-physical and socio-economic characterizations' for Iraq and Palestine benchmark sites (Amman, 4-6 August 2010).**

As agreed to at the Educators' Workshop in Cairo, the WLI project management team developed a set of criteria to aid NARES institutions begin biophysical characterization and livelihoods assessment of each benchmark site, as a first step towards developing baseline studies. Because each benchmark site has varying degrees of characterization already documented, it is necessary to standardize the data among all benchmark sites to ensure consistency and to harmonize the information.

A training workshop on Site Selection and Characterization was organized by ICARDA ILWM Program in cooperation with WARP and the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Amman, Jordan, during 4 and 5 of August for 12 participants from Palestine and Iraq.

The training is part of the Water Livelihood Initiative (WLI) USAID supported project, which is implemented by ICARDA in seven countries in the region and focused on the conservation of the scarce water resources.

The workshop aimed at training project staff in both Iraq and Palestine on the criteria for selecting the project site, where the project activities will be implemented, and the parameters that need to be considered for the biophysical and socioeconomic characterization of the selected site.

Dr. Faisal Awawdeh, DG of NCARE and Dr. Nasri Haddad, ICARDA RC for WARP gave statements in the opening and both stressed the importance of water in the region and the urgent need for collaboration among the countries to address this priority problem. The trainers are staff from NCARE and ICARDA , and covered in the training several topics including data collection and analysis, the use of GIS facilities and community characterization. It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian team has gained an excellent experience since Jordan is hosting ICARDA Badia Benchmark site which is part of a regional project started six years ago and still on going

Dr. Fadi Karam gave an introductory presentation during the opening session on the WLI and the plan for baseline studies in the benchmark sites. The agenda of the training course is found in Annex 5.

3.2 Further Development of the WLI Wiki (Tareq, please add here your inputs, this section is from the previous report, you may adjust it)

Based on discussions at the WLI kick-off workshop in February, a number of items related to the WLI Wiki were updated, with an overall goal of strengthening stakeholder participation and streamlining the knowledge-sharing process. The following items were added to the Wiki:

- Thematic groups on Decision Support Modeling, Education, Extension, Policy, and Water Systems were created to list focal points for each group, as well as list training priorities and discussion points.
- Due to the upcoming educators' workshop in June 2010, the Wiki page covering the thematic group on education had a number of additions. A draft agenda page for the educators' workshop was created for comment and discussion. A glossary of educational terms and training priorities were also added for comment and discussion.

- At the request of participants at the kick-off workshop, a detailed step-by-step instruction guide was placed on the home page to help stakeholders navigate the Wiki and upload/download information.
- A number of relevant articles were uploaded onto the Wiki, including a UN-ESCWA report on socio-economic vulnerabilities to drought, an FAO report on gender equity and rural development, the UN-ESCWA glossary of terminologies (English-Arabic), the UNDP Human Development Report (2008), a call for papers for a major international conference on environmental management in Jordan, November 2010, as well as an announcement for a new ICARDA competition for young scientists in wheat improvement.

3.3 Partnership with UF to develop education and training-related activities

ICARDA is working closely with UF to develop training activities benefitting WLI stakeholders. Initial activities will be designed for extension agents, scientists, and farmers. This will be followed by a technically-skilled training course on GIS and remote sensing. UF is taking the lead by contacting US universities to take an inventory of what is available from US institutions. A training needs assessment will also be conducted to assess regional university and NARES priorities. The gathered information will be posted onto the Wiki upon availability.

3-3.1) Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Florida (Tareq please add here your input)

3-3.2) Training course on 'Extension/Outreach Skills'

Planning has begun for the convening of a training course for two weeks, scheduled for autumn 2010 at ICARDA, Aleppo on 'Extension/Outreach Skills. The overall objective of this course is to offer the up-to-date information/skills on conducting effective Outreach/Extension programs in the Middle East. The course will bring together WLI candidates to discuss specific extension needs and relevant activities that can be carried out under the WLI. Some of the major topics will include the following:

- Developing work plans for specific training needs at the benchmark sites;
- Discussing advancement in research-extension synergies, and transfer of technologies to farmers and end-users;
- Evaluating impacts of outreach programs;
- Preparing newsletters, articles, fact sheets, and Bulletins and other types of information delivery for end-users;
- Preparing outreach programs for in media delivery;

- Completing assignments with farmers and end-users.
- Discussing gender issues and its integration into WLI activities

3.4 Bilateral Mobilization efforts with USAID Country Missions

In an effort to mobilize funds for the bilateral components of the WLI, efforts have been made at lobbying USAID country mission offices to promote the work of the WLI. Specifically, meetings were held in Yemen and Jordan with USAID officials to discuss current activities and obtain feedback on potential support for bilateral programs.

4-a) USAID Office Jordan (Tareq, can you report on the Jordan updated bilateral proposal? Hiring the expert, Helena Berlund, etc...)

USAID WLI Activity Manager Scott Christiansen held a meeting with Ross Hagan and Hugh Winn at USAID Jordan in Amman on February 9, 2010 to discuss potential funding of the Jordan bilateral proposal. Feedback from this meeting indicated that adjustments to portions of the Jordan bilateral proposal would need to take place in order to raise its appeal with USAID Jordan. Specifically, it was recommended that the proposal be developed as a natural resource management project, rather than an agricultural production project.

As a conclusion and action item, it was recommended that ICARDA initiate a re-writing of the Jordan bilateral proposal using the recommendations from Dr. Christiansen's meeting. Accordingly, a consultant will be retained to work with ICARDA and Jordanian stakeholders to revise the bilateral proposal.

MS Helen Bradbury, a hired expert to edit the new WLI proposal for Jordan, worked on the modification of the WLI Jordan document in cooperation with experts from NCARE, ICARDA and the USAID. The new document addressed and incorporate the comments raised by the USAID office in Jordan, based on discussion with the Jordanian partners.

Dr. Faisal Awawdeh, Director General of the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension in Jordan, and Dr. Nasri Haddad, Regional Coordinator of the West Asia Regional Program at ICARDA had a meeting with HE Eng. Saeed Masri, Minister of agriculture in Jordan on July 11, 2010. The scope of the meeting was to brief the Minister on the progress that has been made so far with WLI project, and the need for the support of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) and Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), by requesting USAID in Amman to support the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts to implement the project as a priority area to the government of Jordan.

As a result of this meeting, MOPIC sent out a support letter to USAID Mission in Jordan. The letter was sent directly to the USAID from the MOPIC with a copy to the Ministry of Agriculture. A similar support letter from the Minister of Water and Irrigation (MWI) is

also expected to be sent out to the USAID country mission in Amman to seek support to the WLI Jordan.

4-b) USAID Office Cairo (Tareq)

4-b) USAID Office Yemen (Tareq can you update this paragraph)

A meeting was held between officials from the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture and USAID Yemen in Sanaa' on April 14, 2010. The Yemeni participants briefed USAID Yemen on the WLI and their interest in garnering support for the bilateral components of the WLI. Although bilateral funding is not currently available, the meeting was a good opportunity for the WLI stakeholders in Yemen to directly communicate with USAID Yemen and lobby their support towards the bilateral program. An action item agreed by Yemen stakeholders and the WLI Project Management Unit (PMU) resulting from this meeting was to hold a training activity in Yemen in order to raise the visibility of the WLI in Yemen.

4-c) USAID Office – Beirut

Within the awareness campaign to raise funds for the WLI bilateral proposals, a meeting was held at ICARDA Terbol Station in Lebanon with the economic growth officer of USAID Beirut office on 25 June, 2010, to which participated the WLI project coordinator, Fadi Karam, as well as the manager of ICARDA-Terbol Station, Hassan Machlab. The objectives of the meeting were to (i) acquaint the USAID-Lebanon with the WLI project and (ii) explore the prospects of funding the Lebanese project component by USAID-Lebanon.

Both parties agreed to maintain close coordination in issues pertaining to common activities between USAID-Lebanon and the WLI project, including invitations to attend and participate in workshops or any other project-related activities. They also agreed on opportunities for bilateral funding from USAID-Lebanon that should be explored after the completion of the rural appraisals of the benchmark site and identification of concrete development proposals that could be linked to economic & rural development. Finally, a copy of the draft project document for Lebanon was given to Mr. Frenn for his review.

Mr. Frenn explained to ICARDA the type of projects & activities funded by USAID in Lebanon which are targeted towards economic and rural development including small

business empowerment and market value chain. Fact sheets about those projects are available online at www.usaid.gov/lb

Annex 1: First Year WLI Work Plan

1. Administrative Tasks

- Establish the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Note that the structure was changed in this meeting and it was agreed that one more member may be added to represent regional universities after the regional universities meet and elect a chairperson.

Project Manager (ex-officio)National	7
IWMI Representative	1
IFPRI Representative	1
US Universities	1
ICARDA ADG-ICC	1
Regional University WLI Chairman	Appoint when chair elected
Current members	11

- Recruit a community leader to help with nomination of Site Advisory Group (SAG) members for each benchmark site. The characterization process will help the team to identify additional members and a formal selection can be made at the end of the year (up to 10 people – involve existing community groups, associations, etc.)
- Establish National Technical Committees (NTC) where they are not yet formed. The NTC oversees the activities in each country and assures consistency across sites by agro-ecosystem.
- NTC and ICARDA Regional Coordinators outline the TORs that describe the composition of teams and duties to characterize each of the benchmark sites.
- Assign research teams to carry out baseline studies (including good institutional balance and gender equity)
- Suggest adoption of the quarterly and annual report outline shown in Annex 1.

2. Baseline Studies

- ICARDA to develop a framework for the livelihoods assessment (i.e. socio- economic data collection) that builds from but expands upon the data collected and methods used in the Water Benchmark Project methodology. (Select a minimum data set that will set the baseline for more in-depth research by graduate students and that responds to the constructive criticism that much more data were collected than effectively used in the Water Benchmark Project.) ICARDA to select a small set of indicators from the existing USAID core indicator list (see those selected thus far in

Annex 1 and a full list in Annex 2) to assure standardization across agro-ecologies and projects (WLI and Water Benchmarks). There is a difference between the project indicators and the information collected in the baseline characterization; however, it should be possible to collect desired indicator data as a part of the benchmark site characterization exercise.

- ICARDA to develop a common methodology for carrying out benchmark studies within each agro-ecosystem and TORs for the teams that will carry out the work.
- ICARDA to train the national technical teams on how to conduct the baseline studies. Only after completing the above should the baseline studies begin.
- Begin baseline studies as soon as possible and finish by Oct 2010.
- Organize introductory workshop(s) to introduce the WLI team to stakeholders in benchmark communities in order to start the baseline study process. It is expected that the WLI team will keep the community informed of results.
- Analyze data collected and present report by end of 2010.
- Identify/develop research topics for students (5 MS and 3 PhD slots) based on findings of baseline studies.

3. Capacity Development

- Formalize Education Committee: interested parties will supply contact information to the WLI Wiki.
- Hold Educators' Workshop (see Annex 3 for proposed agenda) at the American University in Cairo (AUC). A prerequisite for participation is that committee members will complete the tables and URLs on the Educators' Corner of the Wiki. Updates to be available by 1 May so that the information can be used at the Educators' Workshop.
- University Department websites are the sources of curricula that can be analyzed to select a subset of courses for use in the WLI research. Provide a summary of relevant courses for distribution to interested individuals and students by October 2010.
- NTC in each country to conduct a training needs assessment for their benchmark site(s) that identifies the gaps in human resources by discipline and clarifies the relative need for academic training versus in-service training.
- The PMU will evaluate the costs of the various options and document how the evaluation was done so that it can be regularly updated.
- The PMU, US Training Coordinator and Education Committee will review e-learning options for degree and non-degree training and recommend the general balance and type of e-learning and traditional coursework that will provide useful results.

4. E-learning

- Define TORs to inventory and describe e-learning materials that are available and applicable. Post the consultant report on the WLI Wiki.

5. Activate Policy Thematic Group

- Establish the Policy Thematic Group: interested parties will supply contact information to the associated WLI Thematic Group folder on the Wiki.
- Jointly define TORs for the policy studies with IFPRI who will lead the work, integrating the policy studies as a means to implement elements of their new MENA strategy. WLI has start up funds for IFPRI; however IFPRI would be expected to cost share by submitting proposals to donors that would contribute to the project and fully cover their institutional costs.

6. Activate Decision Support Models (DSM) in Interested Countries

- Establish the DSM Thematic Group: interested parties will supply contact information to the associated WLI Thematic Group folder on the WLI Wiki.
- State how desirable models differ across the three main ecosystems and assess already available models. Define different objectives for each site/country; determine what the model is to be used for – long-term planning vs. real-time operation; decide whether institutional infrastructure is available to support model development; investigate level of spatial and temporal resolution required at each site.
- Start with a preliminary overview and review by knowledgeable and interested team members for discussion at next PSC. WLI Project Manager to define TORS and share with Thematic Group; then hire a knowledgeable consultant to conduct the work.
- Note that decision-makers in Syria and Lebanon are interested in seasonal forecasting models to provide suggestions for crops/planting schedule, and availability of supplementary irrigation.

7. Activate Extension Assessments in Interested Countries

- Establish the Extension Thematic Group: interested parties will supply contact information to the associated WLI Thematic Group folder on the Wiki.
- Link to the policy review and benchmark characterizations: what kinds of extension services are available in each of the target ecosystems in the various sites/countries; investigate whether private extension services are available in addition to public extension; assess whether some extension efforts are targeted specifically to women.
- Inventory the formal, informal, and private sector extension set up in each country
- Evaluate alternative informal extension system channels currently being used for transfer of knowledge and technology; introduce information and communication technologies (ICTs)—e.g., mobile phones are used for prices, credit, weather (and

make sure women can access these tools)

8. Activate the Thematic Group on Water Systems

- Establish the Thematic Group on Irrigation and Water Management, Water Systems and Processing: interested parties will supply contact information to the associated WLI Thematic Group folder on the Wiki.
- Describe the watershed basin needs of WLI and consult with IWMI to define what aspects they would be interested in leading that is in line with their comparative advantages, strategy and mandate. WLI has start up funds for IWMI; however, they would be expected to cost share by submitting proposals to donors that would contribute to the project and fully cover their institutional costs.

9. Defer Action on some Thematic Groups

- Following the benchmark sites characterization assess the need for a review of associations and the focus on livestock at each site.
- The ICT and Knowledge Sharing (KS) efforts will primarily assist in public awareness and resource mobilization in the WLI at the outset of the project (see below).

10. Quotas to Achieve Gender Equity and Training

- Attention to gender equality should permeate the WLI. NTCs are asked to set 50:50 quotas for training of women and men.
- If 50:50 training cannot be achieved in individual courses then devise women- only training courses so that training resources can be allocated equally.

11. Resource Mobilization and Public Awareness

- Activity Manager to (a) map and distribute USAID contacts for Missions in each WLI country and in Washington; (b) approach Gates Foundation as a potential donor; (c) create reporting tracker for WLI partner visits to donors; (d) approach USDA-ARS to establish a reimbursable agreement between an ARS lab and WLI universities to allow ARS engagement with the WLI; (e) create a donor event in Washington or at one of the WLI US Universities during 2010, possibly timed to coincide with a visit to the US of the ICARDA DG and WLI Project Manager.

12. Calendar of Events in 2010

- Mid February: Final report close (\$350,000 Budget)
- March: WLI 1st quarterly report to ICARDA
- At administration level: PSC, NTC/country, Education Committee, Thematic Groups to be formulated

- April through September: SAGs formed gradually as key stakeholders emerge
- April through September: PM visits to benchmark sites
- Mid April: 2nd 2010 Quarter Report
- BOT meeting
- May: Meetings of universities in region by ecosystem group (Cairo - Irrigation;
Beirut – Rainfed; Amman – Rangeland
- June: Educators’ Workshop
- July: 3rd 2010 Quarter Report
- November: M. Sc. & PhD slots identified. Potential students with TOEFL and GREs
ready to apply to US graduate programs
- Mid Nov: 4th 2010 Quarter Report
- BOT meets and invites WLI to report

Annex 2: Educators' Workshop Agenda

Educators' Workshop, American University of Cairo (AUC)

June 28- 30, 2010 - AUC New Campus Conference Center

Workshop Agenda

Monday June 28

7:30 - 8:45 Buses depart from Shepheard Hotel to AUC

9:00 – 10:00 Opening ceremony

Statement by Dr. Lisa Anderson, Provost, AUC

Statement by ICARDA Director General, Dr. Mahmoud Solh

Statement by USAID representative

Statement by Dr. Saad Nassar, Higher Council of Universities, Ministry of Higher Education

10:00 – 11:00 Introductions and purpose of the workshop

Dr. Sandra Russo, University of Florida (UF)

Dr. Scott Christiansen, USAID/Washington

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:30 *Session I: Introduction to Distance Education*

Chair: Dr. Scott Christensen, USAID

11:30 - 11:50 Overview of Distance Education - Dr. Samira Daroub, UF

11:50 - 12:30 Distance education programs in the U.S. – Dr. Samira Daroub, Dr. Jagath Kaluarachchi, Utah State University

12:30 – 13:00 Distance education at AUB – Dr. Nadim Farajallah, AUB

13:00 – 13:30 Questions and Discussion

Expected output: Needs assessment and survey of distance education practices

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch at AUC

14:30 – 17:30 Session II – Linking Middle Eastern Universities Graduate Education to the WLI

Chair: Dr. Mac McKee, USU

- 14:30-16:00 Middle East university partners present their graduate training programs as these relate to the WLI objectives (10 minutes each)
1. Egypt (Cairo University, Benha University, Ain Shams University, Zagazig University, and AUC)
 2. Palestine (Hebron University)
 3. Jordan (University of Jordan and Jordan University of Science and Technology)

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 - 17:30 *Middle East university partners present their graduate training issues (10 minutes each)*

4. Iraq (University of Baghdad and University of Mosul)
5. Lebanon (AUB)
6. Syria (University of Damascus and University of Aleppo)
7. Yemen (University of Aden)

18:00 Buses depart to Shepherd Hotel

20:00 Nile River Cruise and Dinner

Tuesday June 29

7:30 - 8:45 Buses depart from Shepherd Hotel to AUC

9:00 – 10:00 *Session III: Overview of Graduate Programs in U.S. universities*

Chair: Dr. Samira Daroub, UF

9:00 – 9:10 Summary of previous day

9:10-10:00 Presentations from Texas A&M, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Florida, Utah State University, University of California, Davis, (10 minutes each)

10:00- 13:00 *Session IV: Discussion of Middle East Graduate Education Needs as relates to WLI*

Chair: Dr. Fadi Karam, ICARDA

10:00 – 11:00 Participants will be divided into three groups for breakout sessions to discuss linking Middle East graduate education needs with the WLI project

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 13:00 Small group breakout sessions to discuss Middle East graduate education needs (Continued)

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 –17:30 *Session V: Development of Solutions for Middle East Graduate Education Needs*

Chair: Dr. Sandra Russo, UF

14:00 – 15:00 Plenary: Summarize Middle East graduate education needs

(Each group to give a 10 min presentation summarizing the issues identified in the morning breakout session)

15:00 – 16:00 Breakout sessions into the same three groups to work on solutions to the specific issues identified earlier on Middle East graduate education needs

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 17:30 Report on solutions and summaries

(Each group to give 10 min report/presentation on proposed solutions)

18:00 Buses depart

Dinner on your own

Wednesday June 30

7:30 - 8:45 Buses depart from Shepheard Hotel to AUC

9:00 – 13:30 *Session VI: Graduate Student Education Programs and Linkages to the Benchmark sites*

Chair: Dr. Kamel Shideed, ICARDA

9:00 – 9:10 Summary of previous day

9:10-10:30 Benchmark sites' research status and what needs could be done

Jordan Benchmark site as an example – Dr. Nasri Haddad, ICARDA

Egypt Benchmark site as an example – Dr. Fawzi Karajeh, ICARDA

Lebanon Benchmark site as an example – Dr. Hassan Machlab, ICARDA

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 Benchmark characterization and beyond - what next?

Open discussion on linking graduate education to research

Funding for graduate students – Dr. Scott Christiansen, USAID

Expected output: Summary of session and listing of potential activities based on open discussion

13:00 – 13:50 Lunch

13:50 – 14:00 Workshop Participants Group Photo

14:00 – 17:30 Session VII: Short Courses for Academic Education and Extension

Chair: Dr. Fawzi Karajeh, ICARDA

14:00 – 15:00 Plenary on using short courses for different purposes – research, academic, extension – Dr Kirby Barrick, UF

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Panel (ICARDA, UC-Davis, Utah State) and facilitated discussion: use of short courses – Facilitated by Dr. Kirby Barrick

17:00 – 17:30 Summary of discussion

17:30 – 18:00 Workshop summary and closing

Representative from AUC – Dr. Tina Jaskolski

Representative from ICARDA – Dr. Fadi Karam

Workshop closes

18:00 – 19:00 Optional Tour of AUC Campus

19:00 Dinner at AUC

Annex 3: Steering Committee Agenda

Middle East Water and Livelihoods (WLI) First Educators' Workshop,

Meeting of the Steering Committee, Thursday July 1st, 2010

14:30-17:00 Shepheard Hotel – Cairo, Egypt

Program

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 14:30 – 14:45 | Opening of the WLI Steering Committee - Dr. Kamel Shideed, ICARDA |
| | ICARDA's Opening Statement: Dr. M. Solh, ICARDA Director General |
| | USAID Opening Statement: Dr. Scott Christiansen, USAID |
| | NARS Opening Statement: Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid, President, ARC, Egypt |
| | 14:45 – 15:30 The WLI progress (January - June 2010) and proposed July – December 2010 plan - Dr. Fadi Karam - ICARDA |
| 15:30-15:45 | Outcomes of the Educators Workshop- Dr. Sandra Russo, UF |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Budgetary report (January – June 2010) – Dr. Theib Oweis, ICARDA |
| 16:00 – 16:15 | Resource Mobilization - Progress made with WLI bilateral proposals– Mr. Tareq Bremer - ICARDA |
| 16:15 – 17:00 | Open discussion (topics may further include the below listed points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendment of the 2010 work plan (including consultancies, MoUs with partner institutions, etc...)• WLI participation in USA events in Fall 2010• Dissemination of information to partner institutions• Complementarities between WLI and the Benchmark Project.• Resource mobilization (action plan)• Opportunities for students' involvement in field characterization• Visits of ICARDA Regional Coordinators and WLI Country Teams to USAID country offices.• The WLI M & E plan |
| 17:00 | Closing and final recommendations |

Annex 4: Agenda of the WLI Coordination Meeting for Lebanon and Syria

WLI coordination meeting for Lebanon and Syria - ICARDA, Thursday 10 June 2010

Program

Wednesday 9 June 2010: Arrival to Aleppo in the afternoon and hotel accommodation

Thursday 10 June 2010: Meeting at IWLMP (Ali El Ali meeting room)

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|-------------|--|
| 8:00 | Bus leaves from hotel to ICARDA |
| 8:45-9:00 | Introduction and plan of the meeting (Dr. Theib Oweis) |
| 9:00-9:30 | Overview on Orontes basin (Fadi Karam) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the bio-physical and socio-economic characterization templates |
| 9:30-10:00 | Bio-physical characterization: A case study (Feras Ziadat) |
| 10:00-10:20 | Coffee break |
| 10:20-10:40 | Bio-physical characterization – Experience learned from the Badia benchmark site in Jordan (Eng. Safa Mazahreh, NCARE-Jordan) |
| 10:40-11:00 | Socio-economic characterization – Experience learned from the Badia benchmark site in Jordan (Dr. Samia Akroosh, NCARE-Jordan) |
| 11:00-12:00 | Sessions breakout <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Session I: Bio-physical characterization - Approval/Adjustment of the proposed template. Group leader: ICARDA-IWLMP (Obaid meeting room – Lab 2)• Session II: Socio-economic characterization – Approval/Adjustment of the proposed template. Group leader: ICARDA-SEPRP (Clemens meeting room – Lab 2) |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch break |
| 13:00-15:00 | Session breakout (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Session I: Bio-physical characterization – Work plan and task distribution among the WLI team members in Lebanon and Syria.• Session II: Socio-economic characterization – Work plan and task distribution among the WLI team members in Lebanon and Syria. |
| 15:00-16:00 | Plenary and approval of the work plans – Final recommendations |

Annex 5: Agenda of the Training course on 'Bio-Physical & Socio-Economic Characterizations of the WLI Benchmark Sites in Iraq and Palestine'

Training course on 'Bio-Physical & Socio-Economic Characterizations of the WLI Benchmark Sites in Iraq and Palestine' NCARE, Jordan, 4-5 August 2010

Program

Tuesday 3 August 2010: Arrival of participants to Amman and accommodation in hotel IBIS

Wednesday 4 August 2010

8:00	Buses leave from Hotel to NCARE
9:00-9:30	Opening ceremony Welcome and statement of NCARE Director General, Dr. Faisal Awawdeh Statement of ICARDA Regional Coordinator for West Africa Regional Program, Dr. Nasri Haddad Statement of the representation of SBAR, Iraq, Dr. Ahmad Al Falahi Statement of the representative of ARC, Palestine,
9:30-10:00	Introduction and plan of the training (Dr. Fadi Karam, WLI Project Coordinator, ICARDA)
10:00-10:30	Introduction to the GIS data base (Dr. Firas Ziadat, ICARDA)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-11:30	Bio-physical characterization – Experience learned from the Badia benchmark site in Jordan (Eng. Safa Mazahreh, NCARE-Jordan)
11:30-12:00	Discussion
12:00-12:30	Socio-economic characterization – Experience learned from the Badia benchmark site in Jordan (Dr. Samia Akroush, NCARE-Jordan)
12:30-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	Session breakout on (i) biophysical and (ii) socio-economic characterizations Session I: Bio-physical characterization (moderated by Dr. Feras Ziadat & Eng. Safa Mazahreh, with participation of soil, water, rangeland and animal team leaders from NCARE)

Session II: Socio-economic characterization (moderated by Dr. Esmat Karadsheh & Dr. Samia Akroush)

16:00-17:00 Plenary discussion on the bio-physical and socio-economic characterization templates

Thursday 5 August 2010

8:00 Buses leave from Hotel to NCARE

8:30-10:30 Session breakout for the preparation of bio-physical characterization work plan per site

Working Group I: Iraq irrigated benchmark site of Abu Gharib – Baghdad

Working Group II: Iraq rainfed benchmark site of Mosul

Working group III: Palestine rangeland site

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 Session breakout for the preparation of the socio-economic characterization work plan per site

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:00 Plenary discussion and approval of work plan per site. Task distribution among the WLI team members in Iraq and Palestine

15:00-16:00 Final recommendations and closing (Dr. Faisal Awawdeh & Dr. Nasri Haddad)

