GUIDE & PROGRAM

H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of
United Arab Emirates

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Presidential Affairs

H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan
Minister of Tolerance, President of Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation

PREFACE

It is our pleasure to introduce this guide which enlists organizers and sponsors, as well as organizing and scientific committees and detailed program of the Sixth International Date Palm Conference which is held under the patronage of H.H. Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE (God protect him), and organized by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, UAE University, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture and Date Palm Friends Society, in the period from 19th to 21st March, 2018 at Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi.

We seize this opportunity to express our personal appreciation of the continuous support rendered by H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, as well as organizers and sponsors of this conference. Their contribution is indeed a remarkable example of corporate responsibility.

We sincerely hope that the conference shall achieve its objectives and be up to the expectations of H.H. the President, and all interested institutions and individuals.

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid
Advisor at Ministry of Presidential Affairs
and Secretary General of Khalifa
International Award for Date Palm and
Agricultural Innovation

Prof. Ghaleb Ali Alhadrami
Deputy Vice Chancellor for
Research & Graduate Studies,
UAE University

6th INTERNATIONAL Date Palm CONFERENCE

ORGANIZERS

Ministry of Presidential Affairs

MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS

جائزة خليفة الدولية لنخيل التمر والابتكار الزراعي
KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DATE PALM AND AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DATE PALM AND AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

UAEU
جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

نزرع للغد
ICBA
AGRICULTURE FOR TOMORROW

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE

Al Foah الفوعة
a SENAAT company إحدى شركات صناعات

Al FOAH COMPANY

ABU DHABI FOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

DATE PALM FRIENDS SOCIETY

ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS

DATE PALM GLOBAL NETWORK

Ministry of Presidential Affairs

MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Presidential Affairs was established in November 2004 and combined both the Office of His Royal Highness the President and the Presidential Court.

The Ministry aims to provide high quality services to support national policies and decision makers. The Ministry's main activities are:

- Studying issues, providing consultancy to the President and following up the execution of related directives.
- Studying legislative projects, decrees, organizations and treaties before presenting to the president.
- Conducting research and studies that reflect the country's strategic objectives.
- Preparing and analyzing studies and reports related to the Ministry's field of specialization.
- Following up and evaluating the performance of ministries, authorities and general establishments and the level of their application of government policies and programmes.
- Organization of communications between the country's ministries, departments, authorities, general establishment and the President.
- Observing political developments, preparing analytical reports, issuing circular journals and media communiqués.
- Studying issues relating to nationality and court cases, and providing relevant consultancy to the President.
- Receiving correspondence directed to the President, organizing its presentation and reporting the directives related to them to the concerned entities.
- Any other duties the President assigns to the Ministry.

جائزة خليفة الدولية لنخيل التمر والابتكار الزراعي
KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DATE PALM AND AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DATE PALM AND AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

The UAE Government, within the framework of its development plans, has placed the establishment of a date production industry as one of its important priorities. Under the leadership of His Highness, The President, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (God protects Him), there have been continuous efforts to increase agricultural productivity and to make better use of all available resources.

Within this framework, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation has been established with a view of enhancing and encouraging agricultural innovation and research of date palm and the spread of this knowledge worldwide as well as the recognition and rewarding of those individuals and institutions that have contributed substantially to this field.

The Government has also encouraged establishment of farms and constructive agricultural projects through support by providing arable lands, equipment, water, seeds and fertilizers for improvement of agriculture and to improve utilization of all available resources.

The Award emphasizes the leadership of the UAE in the agricultural innovation and date palm sector and its importance in this area at the global level as well as contributing to the motivation of experts, researchers, scientists and farmers to innovate for development of the agricultural sector and thus contributing to providing the solutions and means to meet the world's need of food. Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation is independent and neutral. It is presented on an annual basis to outstanding scientists, producers and influential figures and institutions, who have tremendously contributed to the innovation in the agricultural sector and date palm research and development.

Mission

- To encourage innovators such as researchers, growers or exporters, whether individuals or institutions, engaged in the agricultural and date palm sector.
- To honor influential figures in innovative agricultural and date palm innovation at the local, regional and international levels.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) was establishes in 1976 through a kind initiative from H.H the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, who envisioned it as “a focus for human thought, and a pioneering center for human development, the dissemination of culture and deepening roots thereof, the development of society and highlighting its heritage”.

UAEU Mission

Under the prudent directives of HH Sheikh Hamdan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Chancellor of the UAEU, the University is seeking to remain the premier higher education institution in the region. It therefore offers excellent academic programs, with special stress on quality applied research, significant community service and extensive use of state-of-the-art information and communication technologies.

Seeking to keep abreast with world standards, the UAEU has adopted since its establishment an external evaluation system. It has also sought and gained world academic accreditation for many of its programs and activities, Meanwhile, it is significantly contributing to the country’s cultural, social and economic Development.

Quality Assurance

The UAEU has developed a system for constant and objective appraisal of all its operations through the following:

- Gaining academic accreditation for the professional academic programs offered.
- External assessment of college performance.
- Evaluation of educational outcomes.
- College advisory academic boards.
- The recently established Quality Assurance Office.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE

ICBA is an international, non-profit agricultural research center established in 1999 through the visionary leadership of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), and the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Originally focused on the problems of salinity and using saline water for irrigated agriculture, ICBA has evolved over the years into a world-class modern research facility with a team of international scientists conducting applied research and development to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in marginal and saline environments.

In 2013, the Center developed a new strategic direction that takes innovation as a core principle and the Center's multi-pronged approach to addressing the closely linked challenges of ensuring water, environment, income, and food security, includes research innovations in the assessment of natural resources, climate change adaptation, crop productivity and diversification, aquaculture and bio-energy and policy analysis.

Currently, ICBA is working on a number of technology developments, including the use of conventional and non-conventional water (such as saline, treated wastewater, industrial water, agricultural drainage, and seawater), water and land management technologies and remote sensing and modeling for climate change adaptation.

Improving the generation and dissemination of knowledge is an important strategic objective of ICBA and the Center is focusing on establishing itself as a knowledge hub on sustainable management and use of marginal resources for agricultural production and environmental protection in marginal and saline environments. With the help of its partners, ICBA innovates, builds human capital, and encourages learning that is fundamental to change.

AL FOAH COMPANY

Al Foah was established in 2005 and is a subsidiary of SENAAT (formerly known as General Holding Corporation), which is owned by the Government of Abu Dhabi.

VISION
To delight the world with UAE dates and lead industry with innovation.

MISSION
Be a global market leader through innovative products and processes and a high performing passionate team.

Al Foah is the leading player in the date palm industry, and is the largest date receiving and processing business in the world. With an annual production of close to 113,000 metric tons, of which 90 percent is exported to 48 countries worldwide. Including the top ten global markets for dates, consisting of the UAE, India, Oman, Bangladesh, Morocco, Indonesia, Jordan, Syria, Sri Lanka and Somalia.

Al Foah powers the growth of an efficient and sustainable date's sector that's driven by the farmers, for the farmers.

Al Foah has revolutionized the date's industry through constant innovation by creating an array of incredible dates-based products & brands, such as Date Crown, YAS Granola Bars and our flagship chain of culinary boutiques, 'Zadina'. Their in-house research and development team is always engaged in finding new ways to bring the wonders of this ancient fruit of our land to the world.

Al Foah has state-of-the-art receiving centers all across the UAE, and factories employ the latest handling, processing and packaging technologies. Al Foah's success would not have been possible without a network of more than 18,000 farmers across the United Arab Emirates, who have been its backbone since inception. Their vision for 2020 is to strengthen its core capabilities by expanding the sourcing of high-demand date varieties beyond the UAE. There will also be a focus on high-profitability product lines. New product lines for different market requirements based on a precise study and filtering process. The export growth will target European markets while maximizing value in middle and lower-income Asia.

ABU DHABI FOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) was established as per the Law No. (2) of 2005 issued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, to ensure food safety and consumer care as envisioned by the Emirate's wise leadership. In the same year, His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of ADFCA approved the Authority organization structure, becoming a Government entity dedicated to the protection of society by ensuring food safety, guaranteeing the quality of food for human consumption and conducting the necessary research and studies on food.

In 2007, Law No. (5) was issued to empower the Authority to issue decisions, regulations and standards to streamline food items sold or presented for human consumption. Furthermore, based on the Law No. (9) of 2007 pertaining to establishing the Department of Municipal Affairs, all mandates and authorities related to agricultural and animal wealth sectors were shifted to ADFCA.

In 2009, the Farmers' Services Centre was established to offer technical advice and agricultural operational services to farmers. This was followed by the establishment of Food Security Center – Abu Dhabi in 2010 as an initiative of ADFCA to enhance food security in the emirate. The Centre was mandated to ensure sustainable water and food supply, strategic reserve management, develop food security balanced policies and legislation, produce effective food crises and contingency plans, and raise community awareness in regard to household food reserve.

ADFCA consists of the following vital sectors: Strategic and Performance Sector, Control Sector, Corporate Services Sector, Policies and Regulations Sector, Development Sector, Agricultural Affairs Sector, and Animal Wealth Sector.

ADFCA's vision is to become an internationally recognized food and agriculture organization that contributes to the well-being of the community. ADFCA’s mission is to develop a sustainable agriculture and food sector that ensures the delivery of safe food to the public and protects the health of animals and plants while promoting sound agricultural and food practices through cohesive and effective policies and regulations, quality standards, research and awareness.

Since its inception, ADFCA has placed a high importance on agricultural support and development programs to achieve sustainability, enhance the effectiveness of biosecurity systems in preventing diseases and pests, and optimize its control over agriculture and food sectors. This is achieved through the constant improvement of government services, research activities and statistical databases collection to achieve agricultural sustainability and food safety.

The Law No. (2) of 2008 with respect to food within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi made Abu Dhabi the first on the national level and among the early few on the regional level in setting the key legislative basis in the area of food safety. The law allowed ADFCA to exchange knowledge and expertise in food safety and agricultural sustainability, promote food and agricultural investment opportunities in the Emirate, and adopt appropriate agricultural and food innovations and technologies within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. This ensured the highest standards of food safety in the Emirate by applying the latest standards of agricultural sustainability and food safety.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger .
Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194-member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger .

To meet the demands posed by major global trends in agricultural development and challenges faced by member nations, FAO has identified key priorities on which it is best placed to intervene. A comprehensive review of the Organization's comparative advantages was undertaken which enabled strategic objectives to be set, representing the main areas of work on which FAO will concentrate its efforts in striving to achieve its vision and global goals.

An intergovernmental organization, FAO has 194 Member Nations, two associate members and one-member organization, the European Union. Its employees come from various cultural backgrounds and are experts in the multiple fields of activity FAO engages in. FAO's staff capacity allows it to support improved governance inter alia, generate, develop and adapt existing tools and guidelines and provide targeted governance support as a resource to country and regional level FAO offices. Headquartered in Rome, Italy, FAO is present in over 130 countries.

جمعية أصدقاء النخلة
DATE PALM FRIENDS SOCIETY

DATE PALM FRIENDS SOCIETY

The Date Palm Friends Society (DPFS) is a public welfare voluntary organization officially proclaimed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs under No. 165/March 2003.
Objectives: to collect, study and disseminate information relating to date palm cultivation in the UAE; to survey major obstacles and problems affecting the date palm industry in the UAE, and hence to offer appropriate solutions, thereto; to recommend ambitious plans for the development of date palm cultivation in the UAE; to establish and maintain cooperation with scientific, and research bodies in the UAE with a view to promoting date palm cultivation and propagation, as well as the effective combating of pests and diseases; to exchange, publish and disseminate technical and technological information between research bodies and date palm growers in the UAE, and the issuance of bulletins, magazines and books relating to the date palm industry in general.

Highlights since DPFS establishment

1. **Membership:** Membership of the society falls into three categories:
   (a) Active membership for UAE nationals
   (b) Associate membership for non-nationals
   (c) Honorary membership (granted by the society's board of directors).
   Sixty-nine founding members attended the DPFS proclamation meeting which was held on October 25, 2002. Since then many membership applications were received, and the figure today stands at 261. The registration, and annual membership fee is AED 200.

2. **DPFS Website:** On March 27, 2004, the Society announced the launching of its website under the following name http://dpfa.uaeu.ac.ae
   The purpose of the site is to establish direct contact with members, display DPFS activities and achievements. The main page of the site displays a menu that enables visitors to surf content thereof. Members may contact each other through the contact numbers stated: Tel: (03-7832146), Fax: (03-7832153), and E-mail: (dpfa@uaeu.ac.ae).

3. **Organization** of a regional workshop on the integrated combating of the Red Palm Weevil and other pests in the Arabian Gulf Region (2 – 3 March, 2004) under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University.

4. **Creation** of a permanent website displaying a book on date varieties in the UAE, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the UAE University: http://citrix.uaeu.ac.ae.dates3

   The same work has also been produced in CD form and is distributed to DPFA members.

5. **Organizing** the First Date Palm Exhibition of Palm Date Producers and Processors in collaboration with the UAE University in December 2004, at the city of Al Ain, UAE.

ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) was established in 1970, upon the desire of the Arab countries. Realizing the vital role of agriculture within the region's economy, the Arab countries recognized the need for coordination between their different policies in agriculture, natural and human resources as well as economic development, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of a fully integrated Arab economies.

AOAD started operating in 1972. Due to the abundance of Sudan's natural resources, in particular in agriculture, Khartoum was selected to host the organization's headquarters.

AOAD is one of the specialized Arab organizations, functioning under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. As such, its members are all the member states of the Arab League. The organization's goals, stated upon its establishment, are defined on two dimensions: nationally as well as regionally. At the national level, AOAD is to assist member countries in developing and enhancing their respective agricultural sectors. At the regional level, AOAD is to facilitate coordination amongst member states in the agricultural sector, with the aim of achieving a fully integrated Arab economy union, and food self-sufficiency.

Over the past three decades -during the 70s, the 80s, and the 90s and at the beginning of the new millennium- AOAD has left footprints and has had a positive impact on the development of agriculture in the Arab region, and within each member state. This was primarily achieved through ambitious, structured and well-developed plans that took into consideration the agricultural-related as well as agricultural sectors.
Furthermore, these plans were constantly reviewed, evaluated and updated to ensure that they met, and catered to, the regional and international changes which periodically occur.

At the start of the third millennium, the AOAD member states confirmed, during the 26th General Assembly meeting, the need to further develop AOAD's programs, activities and methodologies in order to better meet the challenges of the upcoming period. They emphasized particularly, the need to assist member countries in their national development plans based on their specific needs and priority.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS

The International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), a member of the CGIAR, supported by the CGIAR Fund, is a non-profit agricultural research for development institute that aims to improve the livelihoods of the resource-poor across the world's dry areas.

ICARDA has been temporarily headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, since leaving Aleppo, Syria, in 2012. Support is provided by research centers and offices in Jordan, Morocco, Ethiopia, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Sudan, Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Established in 1977, ICARDA's origins lie in a 1973 study that highlighted the food security challenges faced by countries across the dry regions of the Near East and North Africa. ICARDA research activities include the development of new crop varieties, water harvesting, conservation agriculture, the diversification of production systems, integrated crop/rangeland/livestock production systems, and the empowerment of rural women.

DPGN

DATE PALM GLOBAL NETWORK

To increase technical cooperation among all (new and traditional) date producing countries in the relative aspects to the development and improvement of the date palm industry as well as to mobilize the collective efforts of the date producing countries towards achieving self-sufficiency in food, enhancement of the quality of life their people, conservation of the ecosystem and natural resources and development of the date palm agro-industry.

As a general outcome, the Network will contribute to achieve the following specific objectives:

1- Collection and dissemination of information on production and planting, marketing, research, post-harvest and processing technologies of dates and date palm by products and residues.
2- Promote collaboration in the collection, conservation, evaluation, propagation and utilization of date palm germplasm.
3- Create awareness at various policy making and technical levels within member-countries on the importance of the development of the date palm through an integrated approach.
4- Promotion of the ecological and social benefits of Date Palm as well as undertaking promotional activities to promote the nutritional, social and ecological benefits of date palm.
5- Encourage joint programs to be developed for the exchange of experiences, expertise, and information as well as organize training courses, workshops and meetings of experts for the effective use and sharing of transferable technical information and skills.
6- Contribute to the formation of national networks in each country to increase collaboration among national institutions as well as the NGOs and private sector, and particularly propitiating increased communication between scientific institutions and growers.
7- Promote the analysis of common problems, their study and search of solutions, particularly through the elaboration of joint research/ development projects.
8- Develop common technical standards and specifications, as part of an overall quality system for the marketing of date fruits and date products, in local and international markets.

Conference Proceedings: High Committee, Organizing Committee, Scientific Committee, Chairpersons, Conveners and Program

Registration - Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- **Sunday – 18 March 2018**
  16:00 – 20:00 Registration for early arrivals.
- **Monday – 19 March 2018**
  08:30 – 9:30 Registration for late arrivals.

High Committee

H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Award's Board of Trustees.

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs, KIADPAI General Secretary, Chair Organizing Committee.

Dr. Helal Humaid Saed Al Kaabi, Member of the Award's Board of Trustees, Head of the Award's Financial and Administrative Division.

Organizing Committee

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs, KIADPAI General Secretary, Chair Organizing Committee.
Dr. Aisha Abushelaibi, UAEU.
Dr. Ahmed Hussein, UAEU.
Dr. Shyam S. Kurup, UAEU.
Dr. Tariq Chfadi, UAEU.
Mr. Ghazi Jawad Aljabri, ICBA.
Mr. Ahed Abdul Halim Karkouti, KIADPAI.
Mr. Tag Elsir Musa, KIADPAI.
Ms. Afra Mohamed Al Kaabi, KIADPAI.
Ms. Esra Ali Shatnawi, KIADPAI.
Ms. Yasmine Ali Alantari, KIADPAI.
Mr. Wazef Al Zeydani, UAEU.
Mr. Roger Francis, UAEU.
Ms. Emily Shea Dunn, UAEU.
Mr. Salem Al Kaabi, UAEU.
Mr. Jassim Al Harmoudi, UAEU.
Mr. Mohamed Disawi, UAEU.
Mr. Abdul Rasheed Ezhikkottayil, UAEU.
Mr. Jihad Khalil, UAEU.
Mr. Ali Mohamed Fadil, UAEU.
Mr. Taj Elsir Mohamed, UAEU.

Media Committee

Dr. Emad Saad from KIADPAI, will be responsible for the media coverage in collaboration with concerned parties.
Mr. Mohamed Alaidaroos, FAO.
Mr. Abdumutalib Begmuratov, ICBA.
Mr. Showkat Rather, ICBA.

Scientific Committee

Prof. Ghaleb Ali Alhadrami, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, Chair Scientific Committee.
Prof. Bhanu Chowdhary, CFA, UAEU.
Prof. Franz Hoffmann, USA, KIADPAI.
Prof. Harrison Hughes, USA, KIADPAI.
Prof. Yvon Martel, Canada, KIADPAI.
Prof. Jose Ignacio Cubero, Spain, KIADPAI.
Dr. Samir Al Shakir, Iraq, KIADPAI.
Dr. Ibrahim Saqer Mssallem, KSA, KIADPAI.
Dr. Fatima M. Al-Ansari, UAE, KIADPAI.
Dr. Mukarram Belhaj Faraj UAE, ICBA.
Dr. Mohammed Abdul Muhsen Salem, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Ayesha Aldhaheri, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Carine Platat, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Abdul Jaleel Cheruth, CFA, UAEU.
Dr. Sajed Maqsood, CFA, UAEU.

Conference Chairpersons

Tuesday - 20 March 2018

Room A - Session 1 : Franz Hoffmann / USA & Ibrahim Saqer Mssallem / KSA.

: Harrison Hughes / USA & Salah Eddine Zaid / USA.

: Yvon Martel / Canada & Mukarram Bel Haj Faraj / UAE.

: Bhanu Chowdhary / UAE & Sajed Maqsood / UAE.

Room B - Session 2 : Abdallah Oihabi / Morocco & Amin Mridha / Bangladesh.

Session 3 : Hassan Shabana / UAE & Abdel Jaleel Cheruth / UAE.

Wednesday - 21 March 2018

Room A - Session 4 : Jose Ignacio Cubero / Spain & Samir Al Shakir / Iraq.

: Sherif F. El Sharabasy / Egypt & Ahmed Al-Harrasi / Oman.

Room B - Session 5 : Mohamed Ben Saleh / Oman & Zougari Baulheina / Tunisia.

: Glenn C. Wright / USA & Saleh Mohamed Aleid / KSA.

Conference Conveners

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Summary of the Conference's Program

Monday - 19 March 2018

Etihad Ballroom

Keynote Speech	:	Unique experience of Matrouh governorate in initiating a sustainable development project built around the Date Palm Ecosystem through the partnership between the Governorate of Matrouh, Khalifa International Award and the private sector in West Siwa.
FAO Presentation	:	**Red Palm Weevil:** - Follow-up on the International Scientific Consultation and High Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil. management, Rome, Italy, 29–31 March 2017 - FAO The state of the art for the control of the Red Palm Weevil. - Canary Islands, story for Eradication of Red Palm Weevil. - Mauritania, story for containment of Red Palm Weevil.
AOAD Presentation	:	- Date palm value chain development in the Arab countries: key constraints and opportunities.
ICBA Presentation	:	- Real water requirements of date palm in the United Arab Emirates.
ICARDA Presentation	:	- An overview of ICARDA new strategy for the coming 10 years (2017 – 2026).

Tuesday - 20 March 2018

Room A - Session 1	:	Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology / Tissue Culture. 9:00 – 18:45
Room B - Session 2	:	Red Palm Weevil. 9:00 – 13:45
Session 3	:	Pests and Diseases of Date Palm. 15:00 – 20:00

Wednesday -21 March 2018

Room A - Session 4	:	Technical Practices of Date Palm. 9:00 – 18:00
Room B - Session 5	:	General Topics on Date Palm. 9:00 – 19:15
Room C	:	Conclusions and Recommendations. 17:00 – 18:30

Thursday -22 March 2018 : Post conference tour.

Conference Program

Monday - 19 March 2018

Etihad Ballroom

08:30 – 09:30	:	**Registration for late arrivals**
10:00 – 12:00	:	**Opening Ceremony (Etihad Ball Room)**
12:30 – 13:00	:	**Visit to the Photos Gallery**
13:00 – 14:30	:	**Lunch Break**

Master Sessions – Panel Discussion

Time	Organization	Session tittle / Presenter	Panelists
15:00 - 15:15	**Matrouh Governorate**	Unique experience of Matrouh governorate in initiating a sustainable development project built around the Date Palm Ecosystem through the partnership between the Governorate of Matrouh, Khalifa International Award and the private sector in West Siwa. **His Excellency General Alaa Abu Zaid, the governor of Matrouh, Egypt.**	-
15:15 - 16:15	**FAO**	**Red Palm Weevil** **Facilitator: Alfredo Impiglia, FAO.** - Follow-up on the international scientific consultation and high level meeting on Red Palm Weevil management, Rome, Italy, 29–31 March 2017. **Thaer Yaseen, FAO-RNE.** - FAO The state of the art for the control of the Red Palm Weevil. **Michel Ferry / FAO-RNE.** - Canary Islands, story for eradication of Red Palm Weevil. **Moises Fajardo, FAO-KSA.**	- Hassan Al Eyied / KSA. - Salim Ali Al Khatri / Oman. - Michael Ferry / Spain. - Moisees Alberto Fajardo Bello / Spain. - Romeno Faleiro / India.

		- Mauritania, story for containment of Red Palm Weevil. **Romeno Faleiro, FAO-India.** - Open discussion **Hassan Al Eyied / KSA.** **Salim Ali Al Khatri / Oman.**	
16:15 - 17:15	**AOAD**	Date palm value chain development in the Arab countries: key constraints and opportunities. **Jozimo Santos Rocha / FAO.**	- Ibrahim El Dukheri DG / AOAD. - Alfredo Impiglia / FAO.
17:15 – 17:30		**Refreshment Break**	
17:30 - 18:30	**ICBA**	Real water requirements of date palm in the United Arab Emirates. **Steve Green, New Zealand.**	- Seta Tutundjian, Partnerships and Knowledge Management Division, ICBA. - Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, ICBA. - Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa, FAO. - Ahmed Al Muaini, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. - Abdullah J. Al-Dakheel, ICBA.
18:30 - 19:30	**ICARDA**	An overview of ICARDA new strategy for the coming 10 years (2017 – 2026). **Kamel Shideed ICARDA / Assistant DG for International Cooperation.**	- GCC General Secretariat Rep., ICARDA. - Theib Oweis, ICARDA. - Francesco Bonechi, Univ. of Florence, Italy. - Mustapha El-Bouhssini, ICARDA.

Tuesday – 20 March 2018

Room A

Session 1: Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology / Tissue Culture

Chairpersons	**:**	**Franz Hoffmann / USA & Ibrahim Saqer Mssallem / KSA**
9:00 – 9:15	:	Metabolomic approaches applied on the analysis of fruits and products of the date palm *Phoenix dactylifera* L. **Hans Brückner / Germany.**
9:15 – 9:30	:	Genetic diversity analysis of various date palm cultivars in the Kingdom of Bahrain using RAPD-based molecular cloning. **Malabika Roy Pathak / Bahrain.**
9:30 – 9:45	:	Microsatellites usage for standardizing cultivar identification in date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera* L. **Salah E. Zaïd / USA.**
9:45 – 10:00	:	Sex determination in Iraqi date palms based on DNA markers. **Shatha A Yousif / Iraq.**
10:00 – 10:15	:	Effects of palm dates on expression of target genes of PPAR alpha in the liver of rabbits. **Mohamed Saad Alshibani / Libya.**
10:15 – 10:30	:	Fingerprinting of Omani date palm cultivars. **Marwa Al Hinai / Oman.**
10:30 – 10:45	:	Genetic structure and diversity of commercially important date palm cultivars (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) using phylogenetic relationships and simple sequence repeats (microsatellites). **Salah E. Zaïd / USA.**
10:45 – 11:00	:	A three-tier approach can differentiate gender in immature date palm trees. **Ahmed Al-Harrasi / Oman.**
11:00 – 11:30	:	**Discussion**
11:30 – 11:45	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

Chairpersons	:	**Harrison Hughes / USA & Salah Eddine Zaid / USA**
11:45 – 12:00	:	Differential expression profiling of date palm stem to identify proteins modulated in the date palm stem infested with red palm weevil. **Khawaja Ghulam Rasool / KSA.**
12:00– 12:15	:	Detection of two candidate DNA markers associated with date palm fruit skin texture using single locus association analysis. **Hussam S.M. Khierallah / Iraq.**
12:15 – 12:30	:	Date palm (*Phoenix dactyliferous* L.) genetic diversity and conservation under the climate change. **S. Mohan Jain/ Finland.**
12:30 – 12:45	:	Production of single cell protein from some date by-products. **Abul-Hamd E. Mehanni / Egypt.**
12:45 – 13:00	:	Biotechnological studies on the acclimatization of date palm plantlets produced *via* tissue culture techniques. 1- effect of growth regulators. **Adel Hegazy / Egypt.**
13:00 – 13:30	:	**Discussion**
13:30 – 15:00	:	**LUNCH BREAK**
Chairpersons	:	**Yvon Martel / Canada & Mukarram Bel Haj Faraj / UAE**
15:00 – 15:15	:	Micropropagation of Cv. Dhakki a high value date palm cultivar of Pakistan using offshoot and inflorescence explants. **Mushtaque Ahmed Jatoi / Pakistan.**
15:15 – 15:30	:	Date palm micropropagation and its key role in the current development strategy of date sector in Morocco. **Larbi Abahmane / Morocco.**
15:30 – 15:45	:	Refined and field proven micropropagation technology for commercial-scale date palm plant production. **Sudhersan Chellen / Kuwait.**
15:45 – 16:00	:	Conform and healthy tissue culture propagation of date palm. **Catherine Chambo / France.**
16:00 – 16:15	:	Enhanced in vitro multiplication and rooting of date palm cv. Yellow Maktoum by zinc and copper ions. **Zeinab E. Zayed / Egypt.**
16:15 – 16:45	:	**Discussion**
16:45 – 17:00	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

Chairpersons	:	**Bhanu Chowdhary / UAE and Sajed Maqsood / UAE**
17:00 – 17:15	:	Cryopreservation of embryogenic cultures of date palm using encapsulation-dehydration technique and assessment of genetic stability. **Shawky A. Bekheet / Egypt.**
17:13 – 17:30	:	Effect of light conditions on germination and conversion of date palm somatic embryos to plants. **Mansour Abohatem / Yemen.**
17:30 – 17:45	:	Cadmium and lead- induced genotoxicity in date palm (*Phoenix Dactylifera* L.). **Mohammed H. Abass / Iraq.**
17:45 – 18:00	:	A new interspecific date palm hybrid. **L. Al-Sabah / Kuwait.**
18:00 – 18:15	:	Date palm: application of molecular markers. **Ahlem Guettouchi / Algeria.**
18:15 – 18:45	:	**Discussion**

Room B

Session 2: Red Palm Weevil

Chairpersons	**:**	**Abdallah Oihabi / Morocco & Amin Mridha / Bangladesh**
9:00 – 9:15	:	Isolation and molecular identification of *Fusarium solani* from the red palm weevil cocoons collected from infested date palms in the Kingdom of Bahrain. **AbdulAziz M.A. Mohamed / Bahrain.**
9:15 – 9:30	:	Comparative susceptibilities of different life stages of the red palm weevil treated by entomopathogenic nematodes. **Esmat M. Hegazi / Egypt.**
9:30 – 9:45	:	RNAi-mediated silencing of vitellogenin gene abolishes egg production in the red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier)-A highly destructive pest of palm trees. **Muhammed Tufail / KSA.**
9:45 – 10:00	:	Determination of imidacloprid against the red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* in Egypt. **Sabbour M.M. / Egypt.**
10:00 – 10:15	:	Red palm weevils in Saudi Arabia and efforts to control it using genome editing with CRISPR/Cas9 technology to produce red weevil resistant (RPW) date palm. **Ibrahim Mssallem / KSA.**
10:15 – 10:30	:	Flight activity of red palm weevil Rhynchophorus ferrugineus Olivier (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Montenegro. **Sanja Radonjić / Montenegro.**
10:30 – 10:45	:	Pheromone-communication disruption through gene silencing of odorant binding and receptor proteins, a novel approach for controlling red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus.* **Binu Antony / KSA.**
10:45 – 11:00	:	Preliminary study of red palm weevil and its resistance under Gaza strip conditions. **Mufeed F. Al-Banna / Palestine.**
11:00 – 11:30	:	**Discussion**
11:30 – 11:45	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

11:45 – 12:00	:	Multi-use ecological biocide formulations: application to red palm weevil. **M Hamed Elmorabit / Morocco.**
12:00 – 12:15	:	Transcriptome analysis of fat body tissues to identify the genes responsible for red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier), reproduction. **Khalid Mehmood / KSA.**
12:15 – 12:30	:	Eco-friendly management of red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier) in date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) - seven innovative approaches. **Amin Mridha / KSA.**
12:30 – 12:45	:	Cognitive palm tree utilizing artificial intelligence and internet of things technologies for early detection of red palm weevil in date palm tree farms. **Mohamed Abdelrahman Khalil / UAE.**
12:45 – 13:00	:	Implementation of inesfly paint and some integrated pest management elements for controlling Ephestia spp. in date palm orchards and date warehouses in Iraq. **Abass AL-Joudi / Iraq.**
13:00 – 13:15	:	Electrap evaluation experiment in Jordan Valley. **Basil Faisal Obeidat.**
13:15 – 13:45	:	**Discussion**
13:45 – 15:00	:	**LUNCH BREAK**

Room B

Session 3: Pests and Diseases of Date Palm

Chairpersons	**:**	**Hassan Shabana / UAE & Abdel Jaleel Cheruth / UAE**
15:00 – 15:15	:	Sustainable date palm production and bio pesticide research. **Mohammad Kamil / UAE.**
15:15 – 15:30	:	MiSeq analysis reveals high fungal diversity and the presence of new fungal pathogens of date palms. **Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sadi / Oman.**
15:30 – 15:45	:	Susceptibility of date palm dust mites to the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana.* **AlJabr AM / KSA.**
15:45 – 16:00	:	Management of root rot and wilt diseases by using some biological control agents on date palm under organic farming system. **Mohamed Farouk / Egypt.**
16:00 – 16:30	:	**Discussion**
16:30 – 17:00	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**
17:00 – 17:15	:	Using ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) extract as organic antibacterial source for controlling the endogenous bacterial problem of date palm micropropagation. **Maiada M. El-Dawayati / Egypt.**
17:15 – 17:30	:	Effect of plant extract Ruta graveolens against the date scale, Parlatoria blanchardi Targ., (Homoptera, Diaspididae) at Biskra oasis, Algeria. **Nacer Tarai / Algeria.**
17:30 – 17:45	:	Biological studies on the acarid mite Tyrophagus Putrescentiae feeding on stored date palm fruits (Acari: Astigmata: Acaridae). **Mariam A. El-Sanady / Egypt.**
17:45 – 18:00	:	Phylogenetic and pathogenic characterisation of Mauginiella scaettae as the causal agent of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) inflorescence rot. **Bensaci Messaoud Bachagha / Algeria.**
18:00 – 18:15	:	Promoting the application of ICT tools in management programs of date palm pests in Arab countries. **Mohamed El-Said El-Zemaity / Egypt.**

18:15 – 18:30	:	Ten years of Dubas Bug control by using biorational insecticides in Yemen. **Salem Mohammed Bashomaila / Yemen.**
18:30 – 18:45	:	Pathogenicity of the toxin diketopiperazines from entomopathogenic fungi *Nomuraea rileyi* against the red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Egypt. **Sabbour M.M. / Egypt.**
18:45 – 19:00	:	Description of chemical and ultrastructural alterations in cell-wall of the date palm leaves affected by the brittle leaf disease. **Khaled Latreche / Algeria.**
19:00 – 19:15	:	Biological control of root rot, wilt diseases complex in offshoot date palm and improvement of growth parameters in new valley governorate, Egypt. **Magd E. A. El-Morsil / Egypt.**
19:15 – 19:30	:	Biology of the major storage pests of dates and their management using Tnau probe traps and exposure of insects to carbon dioxide and cold treatments. **I. Merlin Kamala / India.**
19:30 – 20:00		**Discussion**

Wednesday – 21 March 2018

Room A

Session 4: Technical Practices of Date Palm

Chairpersons	**:**	**Jose Ignacio Cubero / Spain & Samir Al Shakir / Iraq**
9:00 – 9:15	:	Date value chain in Saudi Arabia: major obstacles to the international date marketing. **Abdallah Oihabi / KSA.**
9:15 – 9:30	:	Architecture and colonization study of adult date palm root system (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.). **Hanane Bedjaoui / Algeria.**
9:30 – 9:45	:	Enhancement the production of agro-biodiversity of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) in Siwa Oasis. **Sherif F. El Sharabasy / Egypt.**
9:45 – 10:00	:	Predicting farmers' willingness to adopt liquid pollination and polycarbonate drying house technologies: a case study from the date palm growers in the Sultanate of Oman. **Boubaker Dhehibi / ICARDA-Jordan.**
10:00 – 10:15	:	Drying dates using solar energy under polycarbonate house - new promising technology to dry dates in Oman. **Mohamed Ben Salah / ICARDA-Oman.**
10:15 – 10:30	:	Liquid pollination technology as new technology to ameliorate date palm pollination and facilitate date palm field operations. **Youssif Al-Raisi / ICARDA-Oman.**
10:30 – 10:45	:	Rooting the off-shoots of "Shahani" date palm. **Abdolhossein / Iran.**
10:45 – 11:00	:	Improvement of the culture in the oasis agro-ecosystem by the development of appropriate biofertilizers: case of date palms and underlying crops. **Meddich Abdelilah / Morocco.**
11:00 – 11:30	:	**Discussion**
11:30 – 11:45	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

11:45 – 12:00	:	A growth analysis of the young date palm root system. **Bennaceur Malika / Algeria.**
12:00 – 12:15	:	Impact of pollination by pollen-grain-water suspension spray on retained, bunch weight, yield and fruit quality of Segae date palm cultivar (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.). **Said Saad Soliman / Egypt.**
12:15 – 12:30	:	Effect of leaf pruning without chemical application on Sayer (Istamaran) date production infected by leaf spots. **Esmaeil Rahkhodaei / Iran.**
12:30 – 12:45	:	Desert adaptive strategies in date palm revealed by high resolution imaging technologies. **Ikram Blilou / KSA.**
12:45 – 13:00	:	Effectiveness of the arbuscular mycorrhizas in the protection of date palm against dry conditions of arid lands. **Qaddoury Ahmed / Morocco.**
13:00 – 13:15	:	Comparative performance of date palm varieties for production of fresh and dry dates under green glass house conditions. **Muhammad Mansoor / Pakistan.**
13:15 – 13:30	:	Integrated pest management for control the green date palm pit scale insect (Palmapis Phoenics Rao.)(Homopetra: Asterolecaniidae) in Sudan. **Mahdi Abdelrahman Ahmed / Sudan.**
13:30 – 13:45	:	**Discussion**
13:45 – 15:00	:	**LUNCH BREAK**
Chairpersons	**:**	**Sherif F. El Sharabasy / Egypt & Ahmed Al-Harrasi / Oman**
15:00 – 15:15	:	Investigation and determination the best way of bunch thinning on Mordaseng variety. **Atefeh Davoodian / Iran.**
15:15 – 15:30	:	Use of 5-hydroxypipecolic acid as authenticity and biomarker for date palm fruit-based foodstuffs. **Hatem Salama Mohamed Ali / KSA.**
15:30 – 15:45	:	Effect of organic fertilizer on mineral nutrition and production of date palm var. Majhoul in Morocco. **Bouamri R / Morocco.**
15:45 – 16:00	:	A breakthrough in the processing technology of Dhakki dates. **Shahzada A. Saleem / Pakistan.**

16:00 – 16:15	:	Long-term assessment of the Impact of salinity on fruit yield and quality in eighteen date palm varieties from the Arabian Peninsula. **Abdullah Dakheel / UAE.**
16:15 – 16:30	:	Yield and fruit characteristics of "Piarom" date palm as affected by trunk injected and soil applied iron in a calcareous soil. **Jahanshah Saleh / Iran.**
16:30 – 16:45	:	Impact of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) and/or Baker's yeast on root rot/ wilt disease and growth parameters of date palm offshoots in new valley governorate, Egypt. **Montaser F. Abdel-Monaim / Egypt.**
16:45 – 17:00	:	Effect of foliar spray with potassium dihydrogen phosphate and yeast extract on yield and fruit quality of 'Sukkary' date palm (*phoenix dactylifera* L.). **Mahmoud A. Ahmed / KSA.**
17:00 – 17:15	:	Interaction of rhizosphere microbial communities in date palm under a biotic stresses. **Nadia S. Al-Kaff / KSA.**
17:15 – 17:30	:	Use of high hydrostatic pressure as an alternative preservation method for fresh dates. **Salah Mohammed Aleid / KSA.**
17:30 – 18:00		**Discussion**

Room B

Session 5: General Topics on Date Palm

Chairpersons	**:**	**Mohamed Ben Saleh / Oman & Zougari Baulheina / Tunisia**
9:00 – 9:15	:	Physio-chemical, flavor compounds and sensory properties of some UAE commercial date syrups. **Isameldin Bashir Hashim / UAE.**
9:15 – 9:30	:	Preventing date palm fraud: towards developing a database for authentication of dates and their geographical origin. **Parvez Haris / UK.**
9:30 – 9:45	:	The date industry in the United States and Mexico. **Glenn C. Wright / USA.**
9:45 – 10:00	:	Preliminary evaluation of palm date (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) fruit juice in production of biosurfactant by Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolated from fuel-contaminated soil. **Djaber Tazdait / Algeria.**
10:00 – 10:15	:	Evaluation of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) production and soil properties in relation to the sources and levels of organic manure application in conjunction with *arbascular mycorrhizal fungi* (AMF) on sandy soils in Amghara area of the State of Kuwait. **S. Al-Khabaz / ICARDA-Kuwait.**
10:15 – 10:30	:	Project development of sustainable date palm production systems in the GCC countries of the Arabian Peninsula: objectives, activities and major achievements. **Mohamed Ben Salah / ICARDA-Oman.**
10:30– 10:45	:	Competitive advantage of GCC date palm sector in the international market: market shares, revealed comparative advantages, and trade balance indexes. **Boubaker Dhehibi / ICARDA-Jordan.**
10:45– 11:00	:	Evaluation of an off-road light aerial platform for date palm cultivation. **Francesco Bonechi / ICARDA-Italy.**
11:00 – 11:30	:	**Discussion**
11:30 – 11:45	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

11:45 – 12:00	:	GAP and GHP analysis in date small farms in Baharia oases. **Aly Kassem / Egypt.**
12:00 – 12:15	:	Assessment of UAE date palm varieties in Iraq. **Mahdi Al-Attabi / Iraq.**
12:15 – 12:30		Effect of feeding date palm fruit (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) on menstrual health in a convenient sample of females. **Hiba F. Al-Sayyed / Jordan.**
12:30 – 12:45	:	Producing vinegar from three libyan date cultivars using double stage fermentation method. **Mohamed Fennir / Libya.**
12:45 – 13:00	:	Valorization of fibrillum from palm date by-products by production of transplanting pellets. **Khalid Fares / Morocco.**
13:00 – 13:15	:	Date palm value chain development in the Arab countries: key constraints and opportunities. **Santos Rocha / FAO.**
13:15 – 13:45		**Discussion**
13:45 – 15:00	:	**LUNCH BREAK**
Chairpersons	**:**	**Glenn C. Wright / USA & Saleh Mohamed Aleid / KSA.**
15:00 – 15:15	:	Impact of the weather conditions on the date palms in Al Qasem region, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Ramzy Abdelrahim Aboaiana / KSA.**
15:15 – 15:30	:	Economic and technical feasibility of investment in date palm sector. **AbdulBasit Oudah Ibrahim / Oman.**
15:30 – 15:45	:	Socioeconomic analysis of date palm sector: case of Biskra region of Algeria. **Mohamed amine Benmehaia / Algeria.**
15:45 – 16:15	:	**Discussion**
16:15 – 16:45	:	**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

16:45 – 17:00	:	Stable carbon and nitrogen isotope signature and vegetation indices as indicators of date palm performance under salinity. **Abdullah Dakheel / UAE.**
17:00 – 17:15	:	Characterization of four Moroccan date palm cultivars and assessment of their seeds' oil antifungal activity. **Hanine Hafida / Morocco.**
17:15 – 17:30	:	The biodiversity of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera L.)* in the Sultanate of Oman. **Hameed CH.Ali Alkhafaji / Oman.**
17:30 – 17:45	:	Insecticidal activity of essential oil from *Citrus sinensis* and Artemisia *herba-alba* against *Ectomyeloisceratoniae*Zeller (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). **Samah Ben Chaaban / Tunisia.**
17:45 – 18:00	:	Fermentation effect on total flavonoids and some biochemical parameters of date juice obtained from the variety Deglet-Nour. **Kheira Zerrouki / Algeria.**
18:00 – 18:15	:	Economic efficiency of innovative investment in date palm sector: the case of the Sultanate of Oman. **Nashwan AbdulWahab AbdulRazzak / Oman.**
18:15 – 18:30	:	The trajectory of evolution of the date palm chain in the Ziban region (Algeria), situation and prospects. **Benziouche Salah Eddine / Algeria.**
18:30 – 18:45	:	Investigation of new cultivars of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) raised from seed (pit) germination. **Hasan Shabana / UAE.**
18:45 – 19:15		**Discussion**

Room C

Meeting of All Sessions' Chairmen

17:00 – 18:30 : **Conclusions and recommendations**

- Franz Hoffmann / USA
- Harrison Hughes / USA
- Yvon Martel / Canada
- Bhanu Chowdhary / UAE
- Abdallah Oihabi / FAO
- Jose Ignacio Cubero / Spain
- Mohamed Ben Saleh / Oman
- Zougari Baulheina / Tunisia
- Ibrahim Saqer Mssallem / KSA
- Salah Eddine Zaid / USA
- Mukarram Bel Haj Faraj / UAE
- Sajed Maqsood / UAE
- Amin Mridha / Bangladesh
- Abdul Jaleel Cheruth / UAE
- Samir Al Shakir / UAE

Thursday – 22 March 2018

I. Post Conference Tour (*)

08:30	:	Departure from Abu Dhabi.
10:00 – 11:00	:	Visit to Emirates Date Factory (Al Saad).
11:30 – 12:30	:	Visit to Al Foah Farm.
12:45 – 13:30	:	Visit to UAE University – Date Palm Tissue Culture Laboratory.
13:30 – 14:30	:	**LUNCH / Rotana Hotel**
14:30 – 16:00	:	Travel to Dubai.
16:00 – 17:30		Visit to International Center for Biosaline Agriculture.
17:30	:	Travel back to Abu Dhabi.

(*) - Participation in this Post Conference Tour is on a voluntary basis and free of charge. It will take the full day (Thursday, 22 March 2018).

- **Coordinator: Mr. Taj Elsir Musa (050 - 7302314).**

II. ABU DHABI – LOUVRE visit (*)

10:00	:	Departure from hotels.
11:45 – 12:30	:	Visit to AD – Louvre.
12:30	:	Return to hotels.

(*): To buy in advance the tickets, participants are kindly invited to visit (https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/) and ticket price is 63 AED.

Poster Presentations

Session 1: Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology / Tissue Culture

Sl. No.	Title & Author
1	Assessment of date palm (*phoenix dactylifera* L.) genetic erosion in Algeria (Ziban region). **Hanane Bedjaoui / Algeria.**
2	Biotechnological studies on the acclimatization of date palm plantlets produced *via* tissue culture techniques. 1- effect of some chemical compounds and bio-fertilizers. **Adel Hegazy / Egypt.**
3	Expression of some genes in non-pollinated flowers of tissue culture and offshoot date palm trees (cv. Barhee) using qRT-PCR. **Mosa Mousavi / Iran.**
4	Effect of superabsorbent polymer applying on surviving and vegetative characteristics of tissue culture date palm. **Abdulhamid Mohebi / Iran.**
5	Effect of some nutrients on in vitro pollen germination of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) different cultivars. **Maryam Boroujerdnia / Iran.**
6	Effect of sucrose and pH on in vitro pollen germination of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) cultivars. **Maryam Boroujerdnia / Iran.**
7	Molecular characterization, expression pattern and silencing of vitellogenin gene in almond moth, *Cadra cautella* (Walker), the most serious pest of date fruits. **Mureed Husain / KSA.**
8	Standardizing the commercial micropropagation method, by means of workflow enhancement. **Salah E. Zaïd / USA.**
10	Establishment of a microsatellite markers based identification key for Algerian date palm varieties (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.). **Moussouni Souhila / Algeria.**

Session 2: Red Palm Weevil

Sl. No.	Title & Author
11	The use of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* sexual pheromone through two different methods: ChemTica International S.A. experiences. **Francisco Gonzalez / Costa Rica.**
12	Susceptibility of some dry date palm cultivars to *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Oliv.) infestation. **Abd Rabou Eid Hussain / Egypt.**
13	Susceptibility of date palm cultivars and effect of intercrop plantations on infestation by the red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Oliv.). **Ahmed Ragb / Egypt.**
14	Micro injection of emamectin benzoate for long run control of red palm weevil. **Mona Mashaal / Jordan.**
15	Effect of trap color and stirring of contents of pheromone- baited traps on the capture of the adult red palm weevil in the United Arab Emirates. **Ahmad Hussen Al-Saoud / UAE.**
16	The South American palm weevil, a threat to the date industry in the United States and Mexico. **Glenn C Wright / USA.**
17	Evaluation of Beauveria bassiana, Bacillus thuringiensis and Heterorhabditis bacteriophora alone and in combination against red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier). **Waqas Wakil / Pakistan.**
18	Field evaluation to the attraction efficiency for the different sources of the red palm weevil aggregation pheromone. **Marwan Jaddou / UAE-ADFCA.**
19	Evaluation studies of some extracted substances from date palm tissues on its attracting potential of the red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier). **Eman / Egypt.**
20	Employment of metabolomics to identify new management chemicals against red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier). **Atef M.K. Nassar / Egypt.**

Session 3: Pests and Diseases of Date Palm

Sl. No.	Title & Author
21	Identification and importance of fungi infecting stored dates in Algeria. **Oustani Mabrouka / Algeria.**
22	Determination of antibiosis and mycoparasitism actions of antagonistic fungi against bayoud disease on date palm (*Phoenix dactylefera* L.) in Algeria. **Ibrahim elkhalil Benzohra / Algeria.**
23	Relationship between adult's flight - eggs laying and infestation rate of date by *Ectomylois ceratoniae* in El Megaier region (Algeria). **Ismahane Lebbouz / Algeria.**
24	Biocontrol of the date moth Ectomyelois ceratoniae (Zeller) using some entomopathogenic fungi. **Abdelaziz Wided / Algeria.**
25	Biological aspects and life table parameters of the date palm mite, Phyllotetranychus aegyptiacus Sayed (Tenuipalpidae) as affected by different temperatures. **Mohamed S. Nawar / Egypt.**
26	The future of biological control in the effectiveness of mites and their role in IPM program in the control of red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus* oliver. **Al-Barbary Mohammed Moustafa / Egypt.**
27	Study of the effect of storage temperature on microbial stored dates under vacuum. **Abdul Aly S / ICARDA KSA.**
28	Effects climatical factors on date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L) bunch fading disorder and the methods of its control. **M. Izadi / Iran.**
29	Date palm disorders caused by *Aphomia sabella* Hampson. **S. Jibi / Kuwait.**
30	Tetracycline therapy against phytoplasma causing yellowing disease of date palms in Kuwait. **Magdy Shaban Ali Montasser / Kuwait.**
31	Evaluation of the entomopathogenic fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae var. anisopliae* against the red palm weevil in Malaysia. **Ali Zachi Abdulqader / Malaysia.**
32	Date palm-Fusarium oxysporum interaction: strategies of control, limits and hopes. **Dihazi Abdelhi / Morocco.**

33 Use of Natural Products to Control of Postharvest Spoilage Fungi Associated with Date Palm (*Pheonix dactylifera* L.) Fruits during Storage.
Riad Sedki Riad El-Mohamedy / Egypt.

34 Effects of thermal treatments on wawtoothed grain beetle, Oryzeaphilus surinamensis, quantitative and qualitative characteristics of date palm ‘Zahidi’.
M. Izadi.

35 Antifungal activity of Tunisian *Phoenix dactylifera* L. extracts against plant pathogenic fungi.
El Khaldi Rabeb / Tunisia.

Session 4: Technical Practices of Date Palm

Sl. No.	Title & Author
36	Storage temperature effects on phenolic compounds in date fruits (*Phœnix Dactylifera* L.). **Simozrag Ahmed / Algeria.**
37	Architectural study and simulation of three Algerian date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) cultivars palms. **Hanane Bedjaoui / Algeria.**
38	Studies on pollination of Saidy date palms with different pollination techniques under El-Kharga oasis conditions. **Emad F. S. Ahmed / Egypt.**
39	Medium density fiberboards from the date palm residues a strategic industry in the Arab World. **Hamed El-Mously / Egypt.**
40	Design of a quad copter for date palm pollination. **M. Ibrahim / Egypt.**
41	Pioneer method for newly offshoots Induction on head of aged date palm tree through injection of cytokinins. **Adel Hegazy / Egypt.**
42	Effect of using nano-boron versus normal-boron on fruiting of Barhy date palms. **Hassan A.A. Mohammed / Egypt.**
43	Date palm production and water productivity under subsurface drip irrigation system. **Hamdan Salem / ICARDA Oman.**
44	The effect of mycorrhiza and organic fertilizers on the growth of four Date palm seedlings under nursery conditions. **Shamma Al Shamsi / ICARDA-UAE.**
45	Study of the disinfection and soil moisture preservation treatment on establishment and growth of Madjol date offshoots. **Esmaeil Rahkhodaei / Iran.**
46	Study of levels and methods of iron fertilization on quantity and quality of date palm ‘ Kabkab’. **M. Izadi / Iran.**
47	Effects Of Nitrogen, Phosphorus And Potassium On Yield And Quality Of Kabkab Date Palm In Iran. **Mokhtar Zolfi Bavariani / Iran.**
48	Study the effect of plant growth regulators on the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Piarom, Helileh and Shahani dates. **Seyed Abdolhossein Mohammadi Jahromi / Iran.**

49 Study the response of three date palm cultivars (Kabkab, Zahidi, And Shahabi) to deficit irrigation in Southern Iran.
M.Pouzesh Shirazi / Iran.

50 Influences of bunches bagging with different materials on yield and fruit quality of “Khalas” Date Palm Cultivar.
Ahmed S. Elsabagh / KSA.

51 Response of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) cv Majhoul to deficit irrigation strategies.
Ahmed Sabri / Morocco.

52 Effect of post-harvest hot water dipping treatments on promoting ripening of dates (Cv. Aseel).
Ghulam Sarwar Markhand / Pakistan.

53 Role of silicon in alleviating salt stress in date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.).
Hasan Abbasi / Pakistan.

54 Salinity effect of irrigation water on the quality of the Deglet Nour date.
Sihem Ben Maachia / Tunisia.

55 Technical and allocate efficiency of date palm producer farms in the United Arab Emirates
Berhanu Degefa / UAE.

56 Impact of UVB and elevated level CO_2 on growth and physiology of date palm in open top chambers.
Mughair Abdul Aziz / UAE.

57 Response of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L) cultivars to the ultraviolet-B radiation.
Mohammed A. Salem / UAE.

58 Sustainable irrigation management with saline groundwater of three date palm cultivars in the hyper-arid United Arab Emirates.
Ahmed Al-Muaini / UAE.

59 Impact of salinity on growth and development of eighteen date palm varieties from the Arabian Peninsula.
Abdullah Dakheel / UAE.

60 Effect of variety and Quantity of irrigation water and its combined effect on fruit characteristics.
Ibjehij Al Tamimy / Iraq.

61 Improving of yield and fruit quality of "Ajwa" date palm through bunches spraying with potassium.
Mahmoud Abd El-Aziz Ahmed / KSA.

62 Development and performance evaluation of stripper machine for al-mabsili dates.
Alaa Al-Waleed Mohammed Al-Hinai / Oman.

63 A special machine for Dates.
Elena Proietti / Italy.

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64	Antioxidant and acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activities and phytochemical analysis of extracts from *Phoenix dactylifera* L. (Arecaceae). **Bennaceur Malika / Algeria.**
65	Assessing the application of good manufacturing practices in date factories in Baharia oasis. **Aly Kassem / Egypt.**
66	Risk assessment of agricultural practices of date small farms in Baharia oases Palmpeat as a soilless substrate in compare to peatmoss in tomato seedling production. **Aly Kassem / Egypt.**
67	Palmpeat as a soilless substrate in compare to peatmoss in tomato seedling production. **Mokhtar Zolfi Bavariani / Iran.**
68	Date package and storage conditions play a key role in controlling *Plodia interpunctella* and *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* and preserving date quality. **Iran Mohammadpour / Iran.**
69	Production of citric acid by *Aspergillus niger* strains isolated from undervalued dates. **Reda Bellaouchi / Morocco.**
70	Study of anatomical properties of date palm stem (*Phoenix dactylifera*. L) and their uses. **Fouzia Alla / Morocco.**
71	Selection of male date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) in Figuig Province (Morocco). **Imane Zahiri / Morocco.**
72	Study of microbiological quality of 'Boufeggous' dates commercialized in Morocco. **Kawtar Jdaini / Morocco .**
73	Assessing technical efficiency of Oman date farms. **Mohamed Sulaiman / Oman.**
74	Impact of climate change on date palm cv. Dhakki and viable options for adaptation. **Shahid Khalil / Pakistan.**
75	Utilization of date palm leaves as animal feed in the United Arab Emirates. **Mohamed Shalan / Sudan.**
76	Water saving under date palm: comparison between irrigation techniques in Tunisian oasis zone. **Dhaouadi Latifa / Tunisia.**
77	Calculation of date palms water consumptive use under arid condition: United Arab Emirates case study. **Mohamed A. Dawoud / UAE.**

78 In-vitro investigation of antidiabetic and anti-obesity properties of date seed proteins and their hydrolysates.
Noura Ahbabi / UAE.

79 Date palm production status and perspective in Qatar for meeting the emerging challenges.
Nazir Hussain / Pakistan.

80 Effect of mycorrhiza-associated bacteria on mycorrhization, growth and uptake of mineral nutrition in date palm seedlings.
Zougari Boutheina / Tunisia.

81 Pakistan Date Industry: Status, recent developments and future prospects.
Aman Ullah Malik / Pakistan.