

## *CURRICULUM VITAE*



**Abdallah Ben Abdallah**  
**Senior International Date Palm Expert**

## Personal Details

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dr. Abdallah Ben Abdallah</b>
<b>Present position</b>	Date Palm International Consultant International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA /CGIAR) Former FAO Chief Technical Advisor for 17 years
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<b>Address (Permanent)</b>	Apartment B2 , Shaima Residence Mohamed Saleh Belhadj Street , La Marsa 2070-Tunis , Tunisia
<b>Date of Birth</b>	23 December, 1956
<b>Place of Birth</b>	Douz, Tunisia
<b>Nationality</b>	Tunisian
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married

## Academic Qualifications

Degree & Graduating University	Year of Passing	Specialization
B.Sc. -National Institute of Agronomy, Tunis (INAT)-Tunisia - University of Tunis	1983	Agriculture Science (Fruit Corps Culture)
M.Sc. -National Institute of Agronomy, Tunis (INAT)-Tunisia, University of Tunis, Tunisia - in collaboration with the University of Agriculture of Montpellier (ENSAM) – France	1986	Phyto-Technology (Date Palm Pollination)
PhD. Gembloux Agriculture University - Belgium (Doctorat d'Etat en Sciences Agronomiques ET Ingénierie Biologique) Gembloux Agriculture University – Belgium	2000	Agricultural Science and Biological Engineering (Date Palm Propagation)

## Academic Distinction

Secured ‘*La plus Grande Distinction*’ (Highest Grand Distinction) at the doctorate degree for the dissertation entitled “Research on new strategies of date palm multiplication (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.)” from Gembloux Agriculture University – Belgium

Research of new strategies of date palm multiplication (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) [2000]

## International Award

Winner of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agriculture Innovation 10<sup>th</sup> Session 2018. (**Influential Figure in the field of Date Palm & Agriculture Innovation**).

\* Regular Member of the Scientific Committee of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation (KIADPAI) Since 2019. Abu Dhabi - Emirates

## Professional Experience / Positions

### A. NATIONAL - Tunisia:

➤ **Director of the Date Palm Research Centre, Degache, Tozeur -Tunisia [1986-1996]**

As Director of the Date Palm Research Centre -INRAT – *Degache –Tozeur* I supervised 20 employees (Researchers, Engineers, Technicians and Contractual Workers)

In this position, I was in charge of the following:

- Supervise, assist and manage the Centre with the allocated staff, as well as follow up and conduct the research programs on date palm at the Centre (Five topics):
  - i) Oases phylogenetic resources' evaluation and improvement;
  - ii) Multiplication - tissue culture and genetic improvement of date palm ;
  - iii) Date palm processing technology;
  - iv) Entomology and phytopathology of date palm ;
  - v) Various date palm oases socio-economy studies.

As Director of the Centre, I also actively participated in;

- The management of project budgets and work plans.
- Conduct scientific, technicians and farmers meetings,
- Preside over board meetings.
- Develop infrastructure and built capacity of the Centre on different aspects of date palm research.
- Initiate sub-regional cooperation on date palm research in the sub-region with neighboring countries.
- Conduct out-reach programs (field days, exhibitions & workshops) on diverse aspects of date palm propagation, production, protection, processing and marketing.

From 1989- 1996 the focus of my work at the Centre revolved around :

- 1) The creation of a state of art 'Date Palm Tissue Culture Laboratory' at INRAT, Degache
- 2) Conceptualize, initiate and conduct of the research and studies on date palm micro-propagation (embryogenesis & organogenesis).
- 2) Implement applied research programmes on date palm propagation (by off shoots or by tissue culture) mainly on local female varieties, pollinators or internationally recognized high quality varieties.
- 3) Collect and manage date palm pollinators in Tozeur, which is currently recognized as a unique collection in the Maghreb countries comprising of around 200 pollinators selected for their quality of pollen and constituting the only 'bank of genes' for male date palm in the sub-region.
- 4) In addition, I also took part in various Committees (regular or ad hoc) for identification of date production problems and evaluation of the date palm potential in the country as well in the sub-region.

#### **Acquired experience:**

**It is through this position that I developed a good experience with laboratory work, mainly in terms of efficient and optimal use of laboratories in research and analysis, as well as resolving a variety of related problems. During this period not only did I acquire a local experience in date palm and in tissue culture propagation, but also a sub-regional one with scientists from neighbouring countries (Algeria and Morocco). The close collaboration with these neighbours enabled me to improve my knowledge of the regional environment of date palm, local adaptation and varieties and gave me a good insight of the Oases and their environment. In addition and beside the technical experience acquired,**

as a Director I was, of course, exposed to and conducted management of personnel as well as financial and administrative aspects of the Centre and acquired a substantial experience in the management of human and financial resources. I also supervised out reach activities of the Centre that benefited rural communities in the oasis.

➤ **Head, Fruit Crops Biotechnology Laboratory, (INRAT–Tunis):[1999-2003]**

After successfully developing the Date Palm Research Centre in Tozeur –Tunisia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia selected me as Head of the fruit crop biotechnology laboratory in Tunis with a focus on date palm.

In this position I,

- Supervised the tissue culture laboratory in INRAT – Tunis
- Supervised the functioning of the “Molecular Biology Unit”, which I created through funding raised under the Belgium Technical Co-operation Programme. The mission of the Unit was to analyze the genetic diversity on fruit trees viz. “date palm, grapevine, citrus and several other stone fruit species”
- Conducted research activities on date palm propagation by tissue culture & fingerprinting (RAPD-AFLP and microsat ISSR).
- In parallel, I also continued to act as the National coordinator of the programme on date palm variety identification by using molecular biology techniques. This programme is currently entitled “*Identification variétale, évaluation de la conformité et valorisation des vitroplants de palmier dattier dans le sud tunisien*” [collaboration Project between Tunisia (INRAT-Tunis) and Belgium (Agricultural University of Gembloux – Belgium)].
- Developed linkages with Institutions in the Sub-region.

**Acquired experience:**

**In this position, I further enhanced my in-depth knowledge of date palm through the use of other molecular studies viz. finger printing techniques.**

Following are the major additional activities that I undertook in parallel throughout my professional career in Tunisia related to date palm:

• **National Coordinator of a Research Project** [1987 – 1989]

On multiplication of date palm granted by the International Foundation for Sciences (IFS)

• **National Coordinator of CEE Research Project TS2-A-097** [1989 – 1992]

(STD2 Programme: Tissue culture for selection, breeding and multiplication of date palm). Host Institution: LRPV Angers France; Associated Institutions: INRA Tunisia, INRA, Morocco and INRA, Algeria.

• **Tunisian Coordinator of a Belgian Scientific** [1993 –1995]

**Cooperation Project** funded by the CGIAR – Belgium

“Date palm and wheat breeding using Biotechnology” Associated Institutions: INRA Tunisia – Agronomical Institute of Tunisia (INAT) – Agriculture University of Gembloux – Belgium.

- **National Coordinator of Date Palm Propagation- National Project [1994 – 1998]**  
(PNM PS94 BG15: Date palm multiplication mainly by in vitro techniques) funded by the Secretariat of State of Scientific research and technology in Tunisia.
- **National Coordinator of a Tunisian-Belgium Project on Date Palm (AGCD) [1998-2001]**  
(INRA -Tunisia and Agriculture University of Gembloux) entitled « *Identification variétale, évaluation de la conformité et valorisation des vitroplants de palmier dattier dans le Sud Tunisien* ».

**B. INTERNATIONAL: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Saudi Arabia & Eritrea**

My international career commenced during 1997 at the regional level in the following project;

✓ **Regional Coordinator of a Regional UNDP/FAO Project: [1997-1999]**

“Control of Virus and Virus like Diseases of Fruit Crops Including Date Palm”. “RAB/88/025”

This was an important Regional Programme, which covered 7 countries (**Morocco- Algeria-Tunisia-Libya-Egypt-Syria and Iraq**) and was an FAO executed regional programme funded by UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States: New York.

My responsibilities in this position as Regional Coordinator and Manager of the programme included: The financial, administrative and technical management of the programme composed of seven national components (one by country, headed by a national coordinator) and a regional Co-ordination Unit. The activities and responsibilities as a Manager of the programme were:

Co-ordination and Research-development activities

- Prepare Regional Work Plan of the project and annual updates including national budget allocation.
- Co-ordinate the three regional networks on Citrus, Grapevine and Stone Fruit respectively in Cairo, Tunis and Rabat as well as a regional Coordination Centre and Information Unit in Tunis.
- Review the Regional and National Work Plans.
- Initiate National Steering committees meetings.
- Organize, facilitate and backstop tripartite Review meetings.
- Prepare Regional Networks Plan, annual updates of work plan and approve the disbursement of project funds.
- Initiate fruit crop sanitation programme in member countries of the Programme by establishing and strengthening the capabilities of participating countries in disease recognition, detection and elimination. Coordinate operations of national programmes on production, maintenance and distribution of virus free local or international varieties and rootstocks of citrus, grape and stone fruit.
- Identify and negotiate with organizations for the enforcement of fruits material transfer Agreements.
- Provide technical support to national project coordinators in the design, planning and execution of their national activities.

- Promote inter-regional cooperation between Arab States and Mediterranean European countries and exchange of planting material (IVIA, Valencia, Spain; IAM, and University of Bari, Italy; INRA, Bordeaux and Corsica; CTIFL Bergera, CIHEAM, Paris, France; E.C., Brussels, Belgian).
- Promote harmonization of inter-country regulations of virus free material.
- Prepare general programme of work and progress reports in cooperation with national co-ordinators.
- Report to UNDP/FAO on matters pertaining to the programme implementation and focusing on drawn lessons with regional perspective after analysing technical reports of subcontractors, national programmes and existing literature.
- Prepare and finalize regional terminal Report of the programme.
- Realize several consultancies in different date producing countries (Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Iraq).

### **Acquired experience:**

**The three (3) years' experience gained from this assignment as a Regional coordinator gave me a good understanding of projects/programmes management. Not only did it re-enforce my technical capacities in the subject matter but also enhanced my perception and understanding of the region's environment and related aspects. It gave me the possibility to work closely with several scientists of countries of the region and the opportunity to share with them various related problems. This assignment widened my in-sight on the subject matter as well as the region's environment and problems.**

**Among the few successes the programme had, is the involvement of the private sector in research; in Tunisia, for example, the private sector (after the end of the project) took over the partial funding of some research initiatives in continuation of the programme. Needless to add that during the three years of this assignment, I acquired a confirmed experience in the management of large country/regional programmes (human, financial, administrative, technical, etc.)**

**It is pertinent to mention that during my management of this period I endeavored the establishment of good co-operation with European countries mainly those bordering the Mediterranean (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain), as well as with European Institutions such as CIHEAM, INRA (France etc...).**

**✓ Team Leader of FAO project -TCP/YEM/0166  
"Improvement of Date Palm Production in Yemen" [2001-2002]**

In this project I;

- Contributed towards the rehabilitation of the date palm sector in the country.
- Initiated and reinforced the formation on date palm culture by technical assistance.
- Established rehabilitation and demonstration date palm plantations.
- Proposed different options for the improvement of date palm sector in Yemen.

**✓ Team Leader of FAO project -TCP/BKF/0169  
"Improvement of date palm Production in Burkina Faso" [2002-2003]**

As Team Leader of this project I;

- Analyzed the possibilities of date palm culture and its introduction in the country.

- Initiated and built the formation on date palm culture in the country.
- Created different date palm demonstration sites.
- Introduced varietal collection of date palm through vitro plants.
- Analyzed the extension of date palm culture at a regional level in Burkina Faso.

#### **Acquired experience:**

**As Team Leader of FAO Projects in Yemen and Burkina Faso I gained valuable insight into project planning, implementation, supervision and reporting under the UN system, particularly with regard to rural development and small date palm farmers.**

#### **✓ Chief Technical Advisor of the Date Production Support Programme [FAO] – (UTF/NAM/004/NAM-FAO Project In Namibia) [2004-2007]**

As CTA of this important FAO project, I was charged with the responsibility of building on and carrying forward achievements made by FAO in the date palm sector in Namibia, which I achieved through;

- Planning and executing the project activities as per the objective focused on increasing the planted area under date palm, developing a sustainable settlement model and evolving a support system for introduction of date palm into community areas.
- Planning, guiding and conducting research on date production and cultural techniques.
- Initiating regular surveys to select the best existing date palm cultivars.
- Planning and organizing training programmes and study tours outside the country.
- Organizing and supervising in-service training of staff and manpower.
- Assisting on the job training of counterpart staff.
- Planning and supervising the provision of all inputs, including accounts
- Preparing periodic project progress reports and the terminal report.
- Organizing and coordinating activities of the International consultants.
- Preparing a detailed work plan, for periodic review, for the entire duration of the project.

#### **Acquired experience:**

**It is through this position that I developed a good experience and a lot of knowledge with big date palm plantations in a country without tradition of this culture, mainly in terms of efficient and optimal cultural techniques to produce the best quality and quantity of dates (for several varieties and mainly Medjool & Barhee).**

**During this period not only did I acquire a good experience in developing a support system for date palm introduction into communal areas, but also gained valuable experience in developing a sustainable settlement model based on date palm for rural communities.**

#### **✓ Chief Technical Advisor of the Establishment of the National Date Palm Research Centre of AlHassa, Saudi Arabia [FAO] [2007- 2011]**

(UTFN/SAU/015/SAU -FAO Project)

#### **✓ Chief Technical Advisor of the Establishment of an International Date Palm Research Centre -AlHassa, Saudi Arabia [FAO] [2012- 2016]**

(UTFN/SAU/043/SAU -FAO Project)



**As CTA in these projects in Saudi Arabia since 2007 my responsibilities include:**

- Assisting and advising the Centre's DG in all matters related to the implementation of the Projects and the execution of the Centre's policies.
- Coordinating and implementing FAO inputs by providing administrative, technical and professional guidance to the Government in the development of the date production industry.
- Planning and executing the project activities as per the objective.
- Planning and organizing internal and external training programmes and study tours to outside the country.
- Assisting on the job training of counterpart staff.
  - Supervise the date palm tissue culture laboratory in the Centre of AlHassa
  - Preparing and implementing training programme on techniques used in the date palm propagation for the staff of the Tissue Culture laboratory.
  - Supervise the assessment of the tissue culture laboratory and recommend ways and means to overcome the obstacles to the laboratory is facing.
  - Making necessary arrangements for enhancing the productivity of the tissue culture laboratory.
  - Follow up on the implementation of the tissue culture consultant's recommendations.

**As date production specialist, I was also responsible for :**

- Defining, cooperation with other national institutions in priority areas in the date palm sector.
- Developing short-term and medium-term research programs including date palm production constraints in KSA, or rendering assistance in implementing the same in the centre's branches.
- Initiating regular surveys to select the best existing date palm cultivars.
- Providing instructions on the methods of preparation and implementation of the detailed research programs to strengthen the date palm sector in KSA;
- Implementing the research activities that aim towards the application and development of improved agricultural methods and techniques for raising productivity and decreasing production costs of date palm culture.
- Conducting experiments in the area of fertilization, irrigation, mechanization and other production relevant problems.
- Coordinating research work with other scientists and technicians of the Date Production Department at the Centre and its branches.
- Participating in the development and organization of training programs and materials in the field of date- propagation, production, protection, processing and marketing in the Centre and its branches;
- Preparing periodic technical project progress report and the terminal report in accordance with standard practices.
- Assisting and coordinating activities of the project's experts and international consultants.
- Encouraging collaboration and coordination between the Centre and its regional branches and also with local and international scientific institutions specialized in date palm cultivation.

**Acquired experience:**

**It is through this position that I developed a good experience and a confirmed knowledge with large date palm plantations and various problems of propagation, production, marketing & processing of dates in Saudi Arabia, one of the first dates producing country in the Gulf region. This knowledge was acquired mainly in terms of efficient and optimal tissue**

**culture & cultural techniques to propagate & to produce the best quality and quantity product in a large scale.**

**During this period not only did I acquire a good experience in developing a support system for the establishment of a National Date Palm Research Centre, but also in creating collaboration and real coordination between the Centre and its regional branches and also developing linkages with local and international scientific institutions specialized in date palm propagation & cultivation. The Centre is today one of the best on date palm research and development in the Gulf region. Several outreach programmes in the project are targeted to sensitize small date palm farmers based in rural environments of Saudi Arabia.**

✓ **Team Leader of FAO project - TCP/ERI/3503 (Eritrea)**

**“Assistance for introduction & propagation of date palm in Eritrea” [2016-2017]**

**Main outputs:**

- A strengthened Tissue Culture laboratory at NARI empowered and enabled to deliver its programmes and achieving its targets.
- Highly capacitated date palm farmers and other value chain actors handling and raising improved date palm planting materials with superior skills.

✓ **International Consultant of the project - NAP/IFAD (DSF-8107-ER)**

**IFAD/Ministry of Agriculture of Eritrea for 4 months “Sept 2021-Jan 2022”**

**“Technical Assistance for date palm propagation & production in Eritrea”**

Technical assistance for the following tasks:

- The establishment of healthy vitro-plants of date palm using Tissue Culture techniques
- The production of the vitro-plants of date palm from offshoots and immature flowers
- Contributing in Date Production Support Program (DPSP) through training of experts and farmers

✓ **International Consultant at ICARDA / CGIAR**

**2022**

**Date Palm Project for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of the Arabian Peninsula / Muscat / Oman**

**Publications on Date Palm (List Attached)**

Research Articles (Peer Reviewed Journals)	53
Conference / Seminar/ Workshop Presentations	43
Pamphlets/ Booklets/ Flyers	18
Major Technical Reports	11
Post Graduate Thesis	6

## Country Achievements of Dr. Ben Abdallah

<i>Country</i>	<i>Project Title / Assignment</i>	<i>Major Achievement</i>
Oman 2022	International Consultant ICARDA	Contributing to the project “Developing sustainable production systems for date palm in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries”
Eritrea 2021	International Consultant IFAD	Scaling up the date palm plantations in both Northern & Southern Red Sea Regions of Eritrea
Eritrea 2017	Team Leader of Date Palm TCP Project	Developed micro propagation of date palm & Planted 2000 palms in Eritrea
EGYPT 2016	FAO Consultant	Prepared the National Strategy to develop the date palm Sector in Egypt
Saudi Arabia [2007-Feb 2016]	Establishment of the National Date Palm Research Centre of AlHassa, Saudi Arabia [FAO] & Establishment of an International Date Palm Research Centre - AlHassa, Saudi Arabia [FAO]	Developed a ‘state of the art’ research facility on date palm, catering to propagation, production, protection, processing and marketing of dates in Saudi Arabia. The Centre is currently a leading research facility on date palm in the Gulf region.
Namibia [2004-2007]	Date Production Support Programme [FAO]	In Namibia, I built on the work of FAO and enhanced the culture of date palm in a country not traditionally associated with date palm. Namibia is today an important dates exporting country in the Southern hemisphere. My work contributed to the development of a sustainable settlement model, evolving a support system for introduction of date palm into community areas.
Yemen [2001-2002]	Rehabilitation of Date Palm Orchards in Yemen [FAO]	My work in Yemen helped to rejuvenate several traditional date palm orchards which contributed to

		supporting lively hood among rural communities.
Burkina Faso [2002-2003]	Improvement of date palm Production in Burkina Faso [FAO]	Most significant contribution in Burkina Faso was the introduction and cultivation of date palm for the first time in the Sahel region of the country, leading to crop diversification among rural communities that traditionally relied on vegetable cultivation for lively hood security.
North Africa & Middle East (Regional Project) (Morocco- Algeria- Tunisia-Libya- Egypt-Syria and Iraq) [1997-1999]	Control of Virus and Virus like Diseases of Fruit Crops Including Date Palm [FAO/UNDP]	The major contribution made by me in this project was to develop strong regional linkages among member countries to combat the threat of virus diseases in fruit crops including date palm, by developing pest – free planting material through strict ‘nursery protocols’ and implementing quarantine regimes harmonized and unified among member countries.
Tunisia [1986-2001]	Varietal identification, evaluation, standardization and utilization of in-vitro plants of date palm in the South of Tunisia	My contributions in these projects helped to collect, conserve and preserve male and female date palm varieties in the South of Tunisia, which is today an important national resource of genetic material. Further, my work significantly enhanced the production and availability of ‘true to type’ date palm planting material, mainly through in vitro tissue culture techniques in Tunisia.
	Date palm multiplication, mainly by in vitro techniques	
	Date palm and wheat breeding using Biotechnology	
	Tissue culture for selection, breeding and multiplication of date palm	
	Head, Fruit Crops Biotechnology Laboratory, (INRAT–Tunis)	I developed a modern Fruit Biotechnology Laboratory in Tunis that is currently used in date palm and fruit crop varietal identification using molecular techniques.
	Director, Date Palm Research Centre, Degache, Tozeur	As the first Director of the Date Palm Research Centre in Degache, I developed and nurtured a modern research facility on date palm in Tunisia’s important date palm oasis

Tunisia [1986-2001]		(Tozeur), where I conceptualized, initiated and facilitated research on date palm propagation & production. Much of the work was carried out through national, regional and international cooperation that was over seen by me.
	Research on new strategies of date palm multiplication ( <i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> L (PhD Programme)	Major contribution of my doctoral studies was developing and standardizing tissue culture protocols for the multiplication of date palm, besides inducing apomixis/ parthenogenesis through the use of chemicals and irradiation.
	Contribution to the study of the fructification of date palm (Cv: Deglet Nour) : Pollination and Metaxenie (Masters Programme)	Studied and selected good male pollinators in the South of Tunisia, besides identifying male pollinators that advanced fruit (Deglet Nour) maturity that helped to avoid crop maturation during the rain, thereby preventing crop loss.

### Membership of Professional Societies

- Regular Member of the Scientific Committee of Khalifa Award for dates Festivals in Egypt, Sudan and Jordan **Since 2018**
- Member in the Board of Khalifa Award for date palm & Agriculture Innovation Since **2019**
- Life Member of the association for the development of the South of Tunisia Since **1992**
- Life Member of the “Tunisian Association of Agriculture Researchers” **Since 1990**  
(ATCA)
- Life Member of the Tunisian Association “ Friends of Date Palm” **Since 2012**

### Languages

Arabic (speak, read & write: Excellent); English (speak, read & write: Good); French (speak, read & write: Excellent)

### List of Publications By Dr. Abdallah Ben Abdallah

## A) RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. **Ben Abdallah A.** 1986. Study of Deglet Nour fructification: Pollination and metaxenia. National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (INAT), *Master ; 126 pages*
2. **Ben Abdallah A.** 1988. Propagation of Tunisian date palm cultivars by organogenesis (objectives and constraints) *C.R. 1er Groupe de travail sur la multiplication du palmier dattier par les techniques de culture in vitro. FAO eds. Al Watan Press, Lebanon: 35-40.*
3. **Ben Abdallah A.** 1989. Propagation of date palm cultivars by organogenesis: the Tunisian cultivars. *C.R. 2nd Séminaire maghrébin «Culture in vitro du palmier dattier » Marrakech. Ed. FAO. Al Watan Press, Lebanon: 37-41.*
4. **Ben Abdallah A.** 1990. La Phœniciculture (Date palm culture). *Options Méditerranéennes, Série A, 11 CIHEAM. Paris : 105-120.*
5. **Ben Abdallah A.,** Daguin F. & Letouze R., 1997. Seasonal variations of enzymatic activities related to the nitrogen assimilation within date palm offshoots and the aptitude for somatic embryogenesis *Journées Scientifiques du réseau Biotechnologie- Génie génétique des plantes. AUPELF-UREF Orsay. Paris. 30 juin – 3 juillet : 5-6.*
6. **Ben Abdallah A.,** Elloumi N., Bayoudh C., Chaibi N., Lepoivre P., Harzallah H. 1999. Analysis of pollen androgenetic capacity of male Tunisian date palm Genotypes. *The International Conference on Date Palm - Egypt – Conference Book Ed. Assuit University, 107-115.*
7. **Ben Abdallah A.** 2000. Research of new strategies of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) multiplication. (PhD) *Thèse de doctorat d'état en Sciences Agronomiques et Ingénierie biologique – Biotechnologie, in French. Gembloux, Belgium Faculté Universitaire des Sciences Agronomiques, 191 p.*
8. **Ben Abdallah A.,** Stiti K., Lepoivre P. & Du Jardin P., 2000. Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) cultivars identification using random amplified polymorphic DNA RAPD markers. *Cahiers Agricultures 9: 103-107. Ed. John Libbey Eurotext – Franc.*
9. **Ben Abdallah A.,** Lepoivre P. 2000. Production of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) fruit and diploid embryos following gibberellic acid treatment of unpollinated female inflorescences *Cahiers Agricultures N°9 : 467-473 ed. John Libbey Eurotext – France .*
10. **Ben Abdallah A.** 2000. The Economic and organizational constraints proper to Tunisia, package the plant biotechnologies development in fruit production domain. *Annex Thesis, Agriculture University of Gembloux - Belgium, 15 p.*
11. **Ben Abdallah A.,** Lepoivre P and du Jardin P. 2001. Apomixis possibility explored in date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) *Proceeding of the Second International Conference on Date Palm Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates - March 25-27: p 33*

**12. Ben Abdallah A.,** Snoussi H., du Jardin P., Lepoivre P. 2001. Use and application of RAPD and AFLP markers on date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.). *Proceeding of the First Scientific days of Tunisian Biotechnology association -Hammam Sousse \* 9-11 February: p 86.*

**13. Chaibi N., Ben Abdallah A.,** Harzallah H., Lepoivre P. 2002. Genetic potentialities of five male date palm genotypes and *in vitro* culture of anthers. *Biotechnol.Agron.Soc.Environ.*2002 6 (4), 201-207.

**14. Ben Abdallah A.** and Lepoivre P. 2004. Pollination with gamma – irradiated pollen and development of fruits seeds, diploids embryos and parthenogenetic plants in date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) *Cahiers Agricultures –France.*

**15. Karim K.,** Snoussi H., Bennaceur M., **Ben Abdallah A.** 2006. Application de marqueurs moléculaires pour l'analyse de la diversité génétique chez l'amandier (*Prunus dulcis* Mill.) *.Cahiers Agricultures No 15, Volume 2, Mars –Avril 2006: 195-202.*

**16. Al-Bakshi, M., Al-Saroj, S., Abdallah Ben Abdallah** and Faleiro, J.R. 2008. Extent of antixenosis in date palm for egg laying by red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* . *Indian Journal of Plant Protection* 36(2) :292-293.

**17. Shagag, A., Al-Abbad, A. H., Dan Dan, A. M., Abdallah Ben Abdallah** and Faleiro, J.R. 2008. Enhancing trapping efficiency of red palm weevil pheromone traps with ethyl acetate. *Indian Journal of Plant Protection* 36(2):310-311.

**18. Al Darwish Z.S., Ben Abdallah A. 2010 .** Effect of Bunch removal and fruit thinning on shriveling dates in "Ghar" cultivar *ISHS Acta Horticulturae 882: IV International Date Palm Conference.*

**19. Faleiro, J. R., Abdallah Ben Abdallah, J. Ashok Kumar, Abdallah Shagagh** and Saad Al- Abdan. 2010. Sequential sampling plan for area-wide management of red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) in date plantations of Saudi Arabia . *International Journal of Tropical Insect Science*, 30(3):145-153.

**20. Abdul Moneim A. Al – Shawaf , Abdallah A. Al- Shagagh , Mansour M. Al-Bakshi , Sami A. Al-Saroj , Salim M. Al-Badr , Abdel Moneim Al-Dandan and Abdallah Ben Abdallah.** 2010. Toxicity of some insecticides against Red Palm Weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* . *Indian Journal of Plant Protection* 38(1): 13-16.

**21. Al-Abdoulhadi. I. A, AlAli. S, Khurshid. K, AlShryda. F, AlJabr. A.M and Ben Abdallah. A.** 2011. Assessing Fruit Characteristics to Standardize Quality Norms in Date Cultivars of Saudi Arabia. *Indian Journal of Science and Technology* 4(10): 1262-1266.

**22. Abdul Moneim A Al-Shawaf, Saad Al-Abdan, Abdul Hadi Al-Abbad, Abdallah Ben Abdallah** and J R Faleiro. 2012. Validating area-wide management of *Rhynchophorus*



*ferrugineus* (Olivier) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in date plantations of Al-Hassa, Saudi Arabia. *Indian Journal of Plant Protection* 40( 4) : 255-259.

23.Faleiro, J.R., **A. Ben Abdallah**, M. El-Bellaj, A.M. Al Ajlan and A. Oihabi. 2012. Threat of the Red Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) to Date Palm Plantations in North Africa. *Arab Journal of Plant Protection*, 30: 274-280.

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33. Bernard Faye, Gaukhar Konuspayeva, Adnen Alafaliq, **Abdallah Ben Abdallah**. 2018. The effect of date-urea blocks as supplementary feeding on growth of young camels. Emirates Journal of Food and Agriculture 2018.30(4): 320-325
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35. **Abdallah Ben Abdallah, (2021) Book:** Good Agriculture Practices for the production of good quality of dates (In Arabic) . Published by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm & Agriculture Innovation.

#### **B) CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA- PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS**

- November 1987.** Date Palm fructification and pollination and Study of 10 pollinators in mâles date palm collection of Tozeur [Two Presentations] . Date Palm Culture , Seminar at Meknès ENA in Morocco.
- 24-27 May, 1988.** Date palm varieties multiplication by in vitro (organogenesis). First Maghrebian work group on date palm multiplication by tissue culture techniques INRA - Marrakech - Morocco. FAO-UNDP Bayoud Project.
- 19-21 November, 1988 .** La Phoéniculture (Date palm culture). The International Symposium « Oasian Agricultural systems » CIHEAM-CEE - Tozeur /Tunisia.
- June , 1989.** Seminar gathering representatives from different Arab countries on in vitro date palm culture - Baghdad - IRAQ / FAO and Iraqi Scientific Research Ministry.
- October, 1989.** Tunisian date palm varieties multiplication.. Second Maghrebian Seminar on date palm multiplication at Kaddi Ayadh Sciences Faculty - Marrakech – Morocco (FAO-PNUD- Bayoud Project).
- 18-21 December, 1989.** Date palm tissue culture : Organogenesis and embryogenesis and Date palm culture in Tunisia (Reality and perspectives). Maghrebian Seminar on date palm Culture - at El-Oued – South of Algeria.
- 28-29 November, 1991:** Round Table “Date palm tissue culture and main results” at Angers (FRANCE) - CEE Project (LRPV). Countries members: Tunisia, France, Algeria and Morocco.

**21-22 March, 1992.** “Seminar on organizational role in rural development projects” organised by The General Administration for Cooperation and Development of Belgium (AGCD). Bruxelles – Belgium.

**27-30 December, 1992.** Biotechnologies at date palm’s service. International Seminar “The oases in Tunisia a world Patrimony” at Chenini - Gabès. Organized by the National commission of UNESCO in Tunisia.

**26-27 April, 1994.** North Africa meeting for the creation of Maghrebian Network to fight against Bayoud disease. (Convention - Work Programme by thème) at INRAT (Tunis).

**2-13 May, 1994.** Regional Training Course on tissue culture and Micropropagation in Plants with Special Emphasis on Date Palm. Held at the Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute in Cairo, Egypt. Organized by FAO (RNE) & UNESCO.

**21-22 June, 1994.** Rabat , Morocco. Meeting for elaboration of Maghrebian Research Programme on prevention and fight against Bayoud disease (as Tunisia Representative).

**19-20 September, 1994.** Maghrebian meeting “ Validation of the Maghrebian Programme on Prevention and wrestling against Bayoud” at CRPh/INRAT – Degache- Tozeur -Tunisia.

**8-10 December , 1994.** At Leuven (BELGIUM): Seminar on PCR and RAPD and their use in plant selection and improvement. Organised by Leuven Catholic University.

**6-17 November, 1995 :** Induction of apomixis in date palm . Regional workshop mutation and selection by using in vitro techniques AIEA Laboratories Seibersdorf (near Vienna) Austria .

**24-26 October, 1995.** *Perspectives de lutte contre le bayoud, causé par Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. albedinis MAL. chez le palmier dattier , par les biotechnologies .* Paper presented by by Abdallah Ben Abdallah and Phlippe Lepoivre . *Séminaire de l’Organisation arabe pour le Développement de l’Agriculture (OADA).* Degache - Tunisie.

**20-24 May, 1996 .** Regional workshop on development of in vitro techniques for mutant selection in date palm Degache - Tozeur Tunisia AIEA.

**30 June –3 July, 1997.** Variations saisonnières liées à l’assimilation de l’azote dans des rejets du palmier dattier VI ème Journées Scientifiques du Réseau Biotechnologie “Biotechnologie, Amélioration des plantes & Sécurité Alimentaire” Centre Universitaire – Orsay, Paris , France.

**27-29 July 1998 .** Date palm multiplication . Scientific Symposium on date palms and date production Seyoun - Yemen - Yemen University – FAO.

**09-11 November, 1999 .** Date palm androgenesis International Conference on Date Palm - Assuyt University Egypt.

**6 & 7 December, 1999.** Multiplication of Tunisian date palm cultivars (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) by somatic embryogenesis - Paper presented by Ben Abdallah A. National days of Agronomic research results. Nabeul-Tunisia.

**6 & 7 December, 1999.** Analysis of androgenetic potentialities of date palm in the Tozeur pollinators' collection. Paper presented by Abdallah Ben Abdallah. 6<sup>ème</sup> Journées Nationales sur les résultats de la Recherche Agronomique. Nabeul – Tunisia.

**6 & 7 December, 1999.** Date palm zygotic embryo's histological study and somatic embryos' ontogenesis paper presented by Abdallah Ben Abdallah and Elloumi Nadhra. 6<sup>ème</sup> Journées Nationales sur les résultats de la Recherche Agronomique. Nabeul, Tunisia.

**6 & 7 December, 1999.** Model for date palm physiological studies by Abdallah Ben Abdallah and Mhiri Leila. 6<sup>ème</sup> Journées Nationales sur les résultats de la Recherche Agronomique. Nabeul – Tunisia.

**09-11 February, 2001 .** Les marqueurs moléculaires de type RAPD et AFLP appliqués au palmier dattier (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.). Paper presented by Abdallah Ben Abdallah. First days of Tunisian association of Biotechnology (ATB) at Hammam Sousse – Tunisia.

**25-27 March , 2001.** Ontogenesis and highlighted origin of somatic unicellular date palm. Paper presented by Abdallah Ben Abdallah Second International Conference on Date Palm Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates. Proceeding p: 114

**25-27 March, 2001.** Contribution of molecular tools to the characterization and exploitation of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.)” paper presented by Patrick du Jardin & Ben Abdallah A. Second International Conference on Date Palm Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates. Proceeding p: 99.

**25-27 March, 2001.** Assessment of genetic variation within date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) using amplified fragment length polymorphism markers (AFLP). Paper presented by Patrick du Jardin & Ben Abdallah A. Second International Conference on Date Palm Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates. Proceeding p: 109

**2 –4 May, 2001.** Assessment of genetic variation within date palm using RAPD and AFLP”. Paper presented by Ben Abdallah A & Hager Snoussi. The Second Tunisian – Japanese Seminar on Science and Technology. Tunis, Tunisia.

**7- 9 October, 2002.** Research on apomixis induction possibilities in fruit crops (date palm and pistachio cases)- Paper presented by Ben Abdallah A & Snoussi Hager VII Scientific days of Biotechnology, plant breeding and food security AUPELF-UREF– Marrakech. Morocco.

**7-9 October, 2002.** Could we induce Apomixis in fruit crops ? (Date palm and Pistacia Vera) paper presented by A. Ben Abdallah . VIIème Scientific days of the AUPELF Network “Biotechnology, Plant breeding and food security” Marrakech – Morocco.

**6-7 December, 2004.** Contribution to analysis of Molecular polymorphism and genetic diversity of Tunisian almond cultivars using amplified polymorphism DNA” by Kadri K, Snoussi H & Ben Abdallah A . 11<sup>th</sup> National days on the results of Agronomic research, Nabeul, Tunisia.

**23-25 May, 2005.** Status of tissue culture date palm in Namibia. Paper presented by P. De Wet & Ben Abdallah A . International Workshop on true to type of date palm tissue culture – derived plants FAO – INRA Morocco - Marrakech. Proceeding, 8p.

**November, 2008.** Date palm farming practices in relation to red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier), infestation in the Gulf region of Middle East. Khalid Alhudaib, Abdulaziz M. Al-Ajlan, Abdallah Ben Abdallah , J. R. Faleiro. Entomological Society of America. Annual Meeting. November, 2008.

**15-17 March, 2010.** Research of new strategies of date palm multiplication (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.)” paper presented by Ben Abdallah A & Lepoivre P. Fourth International Date Palm Conference Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

**10-13 November, 2013.** Can azadirachtin deter red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Coleoptera :Curculionidae) from laying eggs? , paper presented by A. Ben Abdallah et al.,  
- 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Austin, Texas, USA.

**3-5 November , 2013.** Studies on the Use of Irradiated Pollen to Induce Parthenogenesis in Date Palm”. Paper presented by A. Ben Abdallah . Fifth Date Palm Symposium organized by King Faisal University, Al-Hassa. Saudi Arabia.

**3-5 November, 2013.** Technologies to Reinforce the Management of Red Palm Weevil: Contributions of the Date Palm Research Centre, Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia”. Paper presented by A. Ben Abdallah (& al.).Fifth Date Palm Symposium organized by King Faisal University, Al-Hassa. Saudi Arabia.

**16-18 March, 2014.** Morphological Characterization of Saudi Arabian Date Palm Cultivars Based on Vegetative and Reproductive Traits” -Nabeel Al-Wusaibai, A. Ben Abdallah, Mohamad Al-Husseini, Hajji Al-Hajji, Husein Al-Salman, Khaled Kurshed, Abdallah Oihabi and Mounir El-BellajFifth International Date Palm Conference. Abu Dhabi,UAE.

**5-6 November, 2014.** The usage of dates waste in Ruminant Feed” paper presented by Adnan AlAfaliq & A. Ben Abdallah Conference on Agricultural Waste & Environment Protection: Promising Economic Opportunities’ organized by Saudi Aramco in Al-Hassa.

**10-11 September, 2014.** Challenges and strategies to improve date palm farming: A Global Perspective” paper presented by A. Ben Abdallah. Sub-regional Workshop on red palm weevil, organized through the MoA-FAO project (UTF/SAU/043/SAU) in collaboration with Saleh Abdul Aziz Al-Rajhi Endowment, (Al-Baten Agriculture Project, Al-Qassim, Saudi Arabia).

**16-18 March, 2014.** Red Palm Weevil Captures in Pheromone Traps in Relation to Ethyl Acetate Release Rates. Paper presented by Moneim Al-Dandan & A. Ben Abdallah (& al). Fifth International Date Palm Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

**8-12 June, 2015.** Use of Date Blocks for Supplementary Feeding of Camels (Poster). Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society of Camelids Research and Development entitled “*Silk Road Camel : The Camelids, Main Stakes for Sustainable Development*” during at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

### **C) PAMPHLETS / BOOKLETS / FLYERS COMPILED & EDITED**

-Date Palm Varieties of Yemen. 2004. *Book – FAO - Rome: 50 p.* **Ben Abdallah, et al.**

-Production Manual for Date Palm in Namibia. 2004. *Date Palm Propagation Date Production Support programme FAO Project: UTF/NAM/004/NAM Phase 2. 20 pages.* **Ben Abdallah, A.** and De Wet P.

-Production Manual for Date Palm in Namibia. 2006. *Date Palm Pollination. Date Production Support programme FAO Project: UTF/NAM/004/NAM Phase 2. 20 pages.* **Ben Abdallah, A.** and De Wet P.

-Production Manual for Date Palm in Namibia. 2007 *Bunch management and date quality. Date Production Support programme FAO Project: UTF/NAM/004/NAM Phase 2. 20 pages.* **Ben Abdallah, A.** and De Wet P.,

-Journal of the National Date Palm Research Centre, Al Hassa. 2012. *Volume 2 (2007-2011) 30 Articles.192p (Arabic) + 70p (English) [Research achievements under the supervision of the project UTFN/SAU/015/SAU]* **Ben Abdallah et al.**

-Control of Red Palm Weevil in Date Palm – Extension Folder. 2009. *Establishment of National Date Palm Research Center AlHassa- KSA - Pamphlet hosted in the website of the University of California : Center for Invasive Species Research, University of California, Riverside, USA.* [http://cistr.ucr.edu/red\\_palm\\_weevil.html](http://cistr.ucr.edu/red_palm_weevil.html) . **Ben Abdallah, A.**

-Scientific and Technical achievements of the National Date Palm Research Centre under the FAO Project UTFN/SAU/015/SAU . 2009.31p. **Ben Abdallah, et al.**

- Tissue culture propagation of date palm (NDPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2009). **Ben Abdallah, A.**

- Mechanical pollination of date palm (NDPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2009). **Ben Abdallah, A.**

-Production of compost from date palm leaves (NDPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2009). **Ben Abdallah, A.**

-Extraction and storage of date palm pollen (NDPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2010). **Ben Abdallah, A.**

-Control of Mites in Date Palm [Arabic] (DPRC/FAO Leafle 2015). **Ben Abdallah, A.** and Faleiro, J. R.

-Control of Long Horn Stem Borer [Arabic] (DPRC/FAO Leaflet 2015). **Ben Abdallah, A.** and Faleiro, J. R.

-Control of Red Palm Weevil [*Hindi*] (DPRC/FAO Leaflet 2015.) **Faleiro J.R. and Ben Abdallah, A.**

-Date Palm Fruit: Food for Future and Fruit of Life [*English/Arabic*] (DPRC/FAO Leaflet 2013) **Ben Abdallah, A.; AlJabr, A**

-Pollination Techniques in Date Palm [*Arabic*] (DPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2013) **Ben Abdallah, A. ; AlJabr, A.**

- Quality Parameters for Production of Quality Dates [*Arabic*] (DPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2015) **Ben Abdallah, A.**

- Irrigation Scheduling and Management in Date Palm [*Arabic*] (DPRC/FAO Leaflet, 2015) **Ben Abdallah, A.**

#### **D) MAJOR PROJECT REPORTS ON DATE PALM [Submitted to Governments/ FAO]**

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 1999. Final Report of the Project “Control of Virus and Virus like Diseases of Fruit Crops Including Date Palm”. [RAB/88/025] Submitted by FAO to the Government of Tunisia.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2001. Project Inception Report - TCP/YEM/0166 “Improvement of Date Palm Production in Yemen”. Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2002. Project Terminal Report - TCP/YEM/0166 “Improvement of Date Palm Production in Yemen”. Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2002. Project Inception Report - TCP/BKF/0169 “Improvement of date palm Production in Burkina Faso. Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2003. Project Terminal Report - TCP/BKF/0169 “Improvement of date palm Production in Burkina Faso”. Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2003. Final Report [Tunisia-Belgium Cooperation] of the Project “Varietal identification, evaluation, conformity and utilization of in-vitro plants of date palm in the South of Tunisia”. Submitted to the Tunisia-Belgium Cooperation Office in Tunis. 97p.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2004. Project Inception Report - Date Production Support Programme in Namibia [FAO] – (UTF/NAM/004/NAM-FAO Project) Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2007. Project Terminal Report - Date Production Support Programme in Namibia [FAO] – (UTF/NAM/004/NAM-FAO Project) Submitted to FAO.



**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2007. Project Inception Report - UTF/SAU/O15/SAU “Establishment of of the National Date Palm Research Center Al Hassa – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”. Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2011. Project Terminal Report - UTF/SAU/O15/SAU “Establishment of of the National Date Palm Research Center Al Hassa – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”. Submitted to FAO.

**-Ben Abdallah, A.** 2012. Project Inception Report - UTF/SAU/O43/SAU “Establishment of of the International Date Palm Research Center Al Hassa – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”. Submitted to FAO.

**E) SUPERVISOR- POST GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON DATE PALM**

1. KHLIFI C., DEA directed by BEN ABDALLAH A., 2003. Effect of six pollinators on Deglet Nour dates maturation and quality; molecular characterization of these males and female cultivars in the south of Tunisia. DEA of Tunisian Sciences Faculty-Tunis. 100 pages

2. ALOUI S., DEA directed by BEN ABDALLAH. A., 2003. Histological characterization of the Deglet Nour fructification and metaxenia effect of 2 pollinators (DB and T17) in the south of Tunisia. DEA of Tunisian Sciences Faculty EL Manar -Tunis 80 pages.

3. OULD MAHMOUD A., Master directed by BEN ABDALLAH, A. 2003. Morphogenetic, isoenzymatic and molecular characterization of date palm pollinators in the south of Tunisia. Master of Tunisian National Agronomic Institute (INAT). 71 pages.

3. SNOUSSI H 2000. DEA directed by P. du JARDIN, P. LEPOIVRE & BEN ABDALLAH, A. Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) apomictic cultivars fingerprinting using AFLP markers. DEA en Sciences Agronomiques et Ingénierie biologique - Biotechnologie. Gembloux, Belgium - Faculté Universitaire des Sciences Agronomiques ; 121 pages., 17 tabl., 26 fig.

4. ABID RIM, 2000 DEA directed by BEN ABDALLAH, A., ELLOUMI & AMMAR S. Somatic embryogenesis in date palm: study of the hormonal component effect on the in vitro zygotic embryos' behaviour cytohistological study. DEA of Sciences Faculty of Tunis 59 pages.

5. CHAIBI N., 2000. DEA directed by BEN ABDALLAH, A. & HARZALLAH H. Contribution to the study of date palm pollinators in Tunisia DEA of Sciences Faculty of Tunis: 89 pages.

6. MHIRI L., 2000. DEA directed by BEN ABDALLAH, A. & AMMAR S. Effects of salinity on the first development stages of date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.). DEA of vegetal physiology - Sciences Faculty of Tunis: 95 pages.

