



About ICARDA

Established in 1977, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas is supporting countries to improve:

- Sustainable productivity of their agricultural production systems.
- Incomes of smallholder farmers living on dry lands and in fragile ecosystems.
- Nutrition and national food security strategies.

ICARDA produces new crop varieties, improved practices for farming and natural resources management, and socio-economic and policy options to support countries improve their food security.



Photo Credit: Celine Aubert & Feras Ziadat

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CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems: Action Research in Jordan

Activities in El-Karak Governorate

Integrated agro-ecosystems research to improve livelihoods
in the dry rural areas of Jordan.

A partnership between farming communities, NCARE* and ICARDA



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Dryland Systems



ICARDA
Science for Better Livelihoods in Dry Areas



*National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (Jordan)



CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems

Project Aims in Jordan

The aim of the CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems in Jordan is to develop with the farmers new agricultural interventions combining improved crop varieties, diversification of crops, land and water management, disease and pest management, best-bet livestock practices and socio-economic considerations.



Learning Alliance at the El Khreisha Action Site

NCARE- The Key National Partner

NCARE, the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension in Jordan is developing, conducting applied agricultural research and disseminating the results. ICARDA works in partnership with NCARE in the villages of Eraq and Al-Khreisha to implement the activities related to the Dryland Systems Program.



Learning Alliance at the Eraq Action Site



Action Research in Jordan

Two Action Sites in Jordan

El Khreisha and Eraq will be the first two Action Sites in Jordan for the implementation of the program. ICARDA and NCARE will cooperate with the farmers on new and improved production practices, contextual approaches for effective social organization, and more efficient linkages with the agricultural research community, targeting an integrated agro-ecosystem approach.

The primary objective is to improve livelihoods and quality of life of households in El Khreisha and Eraq villages and to develop successful approaches that can be promoted in other rural communities of Jordan.

The long-term research objective is to develop improved agricultural systems that are better able to cope with drought and other external challenges, to document the development of approaches identified and to seek avenues for transferring these approaches to communities within Jordan and beyond. Similar initiatives are ongoing in other regions of the MENA, with approaches being developed for cross-learning.

Why in My Village?

In Jordan, two sites were selected for the program as Action Sites: Eraq and El Khreisha. The choice is based on the diversity of the farming activities, ongoing ICARDA research in the area, NCARE recommendations and the motivation of communities to partner with agricultural research for social, economic and environmental development.

What Activities in My Village?

- Meeting with the communities to understand their current problems and their needs, and try to find opportunities and avenues for addressing these challenges through joint learning.
- Conduct surveys to understand the actual farming situation in the villages. The surveys are also very important to evaluate progress in the villages over time.
- Train farmers on new agricultural best practices and technologies such as: water harvesting, family gardening, orchard productivity, crop and forage production, rangeland improvement, livestock productivity, mitigating animal diseases, milk processing, development of improved forms of social organization.
- Develop models for sustainable land use management.