



Template for Evidence

University : Al-Mustaqbal University (formerly name: Al-Mustaqbal University College)
Country : Iraq
Web Address : <https://uomus.edu.iq/en/default.aspx>

13.3.5 Collaborate with NGOs on climate adaptation

Link to the activity: [Sustainable Agriculture forum held in Babylon to celebrate World Food Day \[EN/AR\] - Iraq | ReliefWeb](https://www.uomus.edu.iq/SusActivityArchive.aspx?ActivityID=23102022103813207)
<https://www.uomus.edu.iq/SusActivityArchive.aspx?ActivityID=23102022103813207>

Praise of Al-Mustaqbal University's events by the United Nations.

On October 18, 2022, in Babil, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, World Food Day was celebrated in collaboration with the FAO Iraq organization at Al-Mustaqbal University in Babil Province as part of the Future Agriculture Forum for Sustainable Agriculture, under the theme "Sustainable Rural Development: Agriculture as the Path to Achieving Food Security and Poverty Eradication," in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the President of Al-Mustaqbal University, And the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the FAO representative in Iraq.

The event was attended by various agricultural production companies, farmers, the local community, and representatives from academic and government sectors. They discussed the state of food security in Iraq and the world and visited an exhibition of locally produced agricultural products within the university.

The FAO representative in Iraq highlighted the importance of World Food Day and the major challenges in overcoming food insecurity for everyone. He mentioned, "From 2008 to 2018, globally, agriculture, including crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, and aquaculture, accounted for 26% of the overall impact of medium to large-scale disasters, with Iraq being one of the most affected countries." He also emphasized that "high salinity and drought pose a serious threat to the Iraqi ecosystem, especially the marshes. The land between the two rivers, the cradle of human civilization where farmers have relied on hunting water buffalo and raising them in fertile wetlands for thousands of years, is at risk due to water scarcity and declining water quality. We need to work together to address these challenges."

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture pointed out a significant decrease in cultivated areas due to water resource shortages. He stressed the need to continue working and negotiating to reach a mutual agreement that ensures fair water allocations for Iraq and the adoption of effective agricultural strategies to ensure food security through supporting farmers.



Sustainable Agriculture forum held in Babylon to celebrate World Food Day



18 October 2022, Babylon- Under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture, the World Food Day was celebrated jointly with FAO Iraq at Al-Mustaqbal University College in Babel Governorate as part of the Future Forum for Sustainable Agriculture event with the slogan "Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development, the Way to Achieving Food and Eradicating Poverty" with the presence of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Mahdi Sahar Al-Jubouri, the Dean of the Faculty of Al-Mustaqbal University, Dr. Hassan Shaker Magdy and FAO Iraq Representative, Dr. Salah El-Hajj Hassan.

A number of agricultural producing companies, farmers, the local community, representatives from academia and government attended the event and discussed the food security situation in Iraq and the world and visited the exhibition of locally produced agricultural products in Iraq and within the University College

Dr. Salah Elhajj Hassan, FAO Representative in Iraq highlighted the importance of the World Food Day and the greatest challenges to overcome food insecurity for all. "From 2008 to 2018, globally, agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, absorbed 26% of the overall impact caused by medium-to-large scale disasters and Iraq is one of the country most affected. He added that "High salinity and drought are a serious threat to Iraq ecosystem in the south, especially the marshes. The ancient Mesopotamia, the cradle of human civilization where farmers depended for thousands of years on fishing and raising buffaloes in the fertile aquatic marshes, is under the threat of water scarcity and the deterioration of its quality; we need to act jointly to address these challenges."

The Deputy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mahdi Sahar Al-Jubouri indicated that there is a significant decline in the cultivated areas due to a shortage water revenue. Therefore, he stressed the continuation of work and negotiations to reach a joint agreement that guarantees equitable water releases for Iraq and adopt efficient agricultural strategies to ensure food security by supporting farmers.

The Dean, Prof. Dr. Hassan Shaker Magdy stressed the need to organize capacity building trainings to support the important academic role in developing the means of production and strengthening areas of collaboration with FAO. He also acknowledged FAO efforts in supporting country's agriculture sector, enhancing food security and improving rural livelihoods.

FAO is able to deliver its interventions thanks to the continuous commitment and support of its partners in Iraq.

Media Contact: Zeineb Marzouk, Communications Specialist | Zeineb.Marzouk@fao.org | +96407719966053

Locally produced agricultural products in [#Iraq](#) [#Babylon](#) and within the University College of the Future have been exhibited at the side-event of the Forum dedicated to [#WorldFoodDay](#)

