

## Virtual Training Program

# Knowledge exchange and virtual capacity development for women: Climate-smart approaches to sustainable agricultural production



**Date:** 23, 24 and 25 November 2020

**Time:** 13:00-15:00 hrs (UAE time)

**Venue:** Zoom

### Organizer

**International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA),** United Arab Emirates

### Trainers

**Dr. Abdelaziz Hirich,** Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco

**Dr. Ali El Battay,** Senior Scientist - Remote Sensing and Drone Technology, ICBA and Chief Innovation Officer of FEDS, UAE

**Dr. Henda Mahmoudi,** Plant Physiologist, ICBA, UAE

**Mr. Rafik Sifeddine,** Value Chain Specialist, Morocco

**Mr. Rashyd Zaaboul,** Modeler - Climate Change, ICBA, UAE

**Dr. Redouane Choukr-Allah,** Soil and Water Management Specialist, Morocco

### Moderators

**Mr. Ghazi Al-Jabri,** Capacity Development Specialist, ICBA, Dubai, UAE

**Dr. Henda Mahmoudi,** Plant Physiologist, ICBA, UAE

**Ms. Mai Shalaby,** Emirates Soil Museum Curator, ICBA, UAE

### Coordinator

**Mr. Ghazi Al-Jabri,** Capacity Development Specialist, ICBA, Dubai, UAE

## Background

Smallholders and family farmers are at the heart of transition to more sustainable and productive agriculture as they produce a large share of the world's food and play a key role in contributing to food security and nutrition, managing natural resources and ensuring sustainable livelihoods of rural communities. For example, smallholder family farming accounts for around 80 percent of agricultural production in the Near East and North Africa. Food security and livelihoods of these farmers largely depend on agricultural activities, making them extremely vulnerable to current challenges affecting agriculture, including rapid depletion of natural resources, adverse effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

In small-scale family farming, women play an essential role through their labor, skills and knowledge of agricultural practices and as primary supporters of nutrition and livelihoods of their families. Despite their central role in agricultural production, women often have a disadvantaged position due to the lack of access to resources and opportunities, including extension services, education and training which limit their capacities to adopt innovative practices and technologies. Strengthening capacities of women farmers to adopt innovative approaches to boost agricultural productivity and to better cope with climate extremes and limited natural resources is essential in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1 on ending poverty, SDG 2 on ending hunger, SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and SDG 13 on combatting climate change.

## Objectives

The main objective of the training program is to facilitate knowledge exchange on climate-smart approaches to sustainable agricultural production and equip women smallholders and family farmers from the NENA region with necessary skills and tools. Other specific objectives include:

1. Providing knowledge on climate-smart crops and their value chains in marginal environments;
2. Explaining best farming practices, including water, land and amendments;
3. Sharing information on modern technologies to enhance crop production and monitoring;
4. Discussing the constraints on and opportunities for farming in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Agenda

## Monday, 23 November 2020

### Webinar 1: Climate-smart alternative crops and value chain approaches for climate change adaptation

**Moderator:** Dr. Henda Mahmoudi, Plant Physiologist, ICBA

- 13:00-13:10 **Welcome remarks by the moderator**
- 13:10-13:20 **Introductory presentation: Impact of Covid-19 on agriculture: challenges and opportunities for smallholder farmers**  
*Dr. Hirich Abdelaziz, Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco*
- 13:20-13:50 **Climate-smart crops: Role of biodiversification as a strategy for climate change adaptation**  
*Dr. Hirich Abdelaziz, Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco*
- 13:50-14:20 **Value chain approaches: Example of new resilient crop valorization as a lever for women empowerment**  
*Mr. Rafik Sifeddine, Value Chain Specialist, Morocco*
- 14:20-15:00 **Q & A**

## Tuesday, 24 November 2020

### Webinar 2: Sustainable and climate-smart practices for crop production and efficient use of natural resources to achieve food security

**Moderator:** Ms. Mai Shalaby, Emirates Soil Museum Curator, ICBA

- 13:00-13:10 **Welcome remarks by the moderator**
- 13:10-13:40 **On-farm sustainable management of soil and water**  
*Dr. Redouane Choukr-Allah, Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco*
- 13:40-14:10 **Crop management for improved sustainable food production**  
*Dr. Henda Mahmoudi, Plant Physiologist, ICBA*
- 14:10-15:00 **Q & A**

## Wednesday, 25 November 2020

### Webinar 3: Artificial intelligence technologies for food security and sustainable agricultural production

**Moderator:** Mr. Ghazi Al-Jabri, Capacity Development Specialist, ICBA

- 13:00-13:10 **Welcome remarks by the moderator**
- 13:10-13:40 **How to improve agriculture to ensure food security and sustainable production?**  
*Mr. Rashyd Zaaboul, Modeler - Climate Change, ICBA*
- 13:40-14:10 **Artificial intelligence for drone-based agricultural intelligence**  
*Dr. Ali El Battay, Senior Scientist - Remote Sensing and Drone Technology, ICBA and Chief Innovation Officer of FEDS*
- 14:10-15:00 **Q & A**