

Quarterly Report-III
(April 1 – June 30, 2003)

**Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and
the Middle East**

A Cooperative Agreement (No. EEE-A-00-02-00050-00)

between

the U.S. Agency for International Development

and

the International Arid Lands Consortium

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Activities Summary (April 1 – June 30, 2003).....	2
Activities Summary for the following period (July 1, 2003 – September 30, 2003)	3
Afghanistan-Pakistan Activities.....	4
Introduction to component.....	4
Activities of this period (April 1-June 30).....	4
Activities Planned for the Following Period (July 1 – September 30).....	5
Jordan Activities.....	6
Introduction to component	6
Activities of this period (January 1, 2003 – March 31, 2003).....	6
Dr. Akrum Tamimi’s Visit: 27/5/2003 – Present.....	6
Activities Planned for the Following Period (July 1 – September 30).....	8
Ms. Dima Kayed’s Visit 7-19/7/2003.....	8
Drs. Peter Waller and Chris Choi’s visit to Jordan 22-29/7/2003.....	8
Organizations Slated to be Visited by Drs. Waller and Choi with Objectives.....	9

Activities Summary (April 1 – June 30, 2003):

- Sub-contractors continued to make adequate progress in light of major impacts from the regional disturbance in Iraq. Travel was restricted for April into May. At the end of May travel in certain countries (including Jordan) was resumed.
- The Technical Advisory Committee is now functioning well with members participating as anticipated. Consideration may be given to future expansion of the TAC depending upon interest from IALC members.
- Travel by the U.S.-based Project team (John Santas, Oval Myers and Robert Freitas) to Pakistan and Afghanistan was not possible during this period because of the travel warning issued by the State Department. Fortunately, however, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) continued to make progress through its field project director, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan.
- In spite of the difficulties of travel, planning continues to move forward towards holding short courses for various Afghan institutions. The Northwest Frontier Province Agricultural University will be the primary institution to deliver the short courses. Initially these courses will be held in Peshawar. It should be noted that the Memorandum of Agreement renewal will need to wait until the IALC-UIUC project team is able to travel to Pakistan.
- A capability training draft document was revised by Dr. Qayyum for the NWFP-Agricultural University and provides additional detail for the initial courses which are planned to be offered at the AU. Dr. Qayyum identified six potential initial training courses through discussions and meetings with the AU faculty. Brief syllabi are available for each course. It appears that three courses will be the initial focus for delivery.
- A refinement of the initial needs for technical assistance for Jordan in wastewater and bio-solids has been drafted as a Scope of Work for the activities for the remainder of the project year (this quarter until 30 September, 2003). This document will serve to guide the activities for the IALC technical assistance to the Badia Research and Development Programme (BRDP), the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), the University of Jordan (UJ), the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). USAID-Amman participated extensively in the discussions and drafting of the document.
- The identification of faculty willing to travel to Jordan and/or work with Jordanian counterparts to provide technical assistance has been a success. At this point sixteen faculty members have been identified with the necessary skills and desire to contribute to this Project. Although travel to the region by U.S. citizens has been severely restricted during this quarter, discussions with the faculty continued on providing workshops, instruction, guidance and hosting for Jordanian study tour participants.
- USAID Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) for the Project, John Wilson, met with Technical Advisory Committee in Chicago in the first week of June. A meeting

packet was prepared by the Project Director (PD). Discussions were held on the progress and problems encountered by the Project, in particular regarding the continuing, difficulties of travel. A status update for all components was provided. The CTO indicated that given the difficulties in the region, the Project is making good headway in meeting its objectives.

- The Project funded the initial visit by Dr. Akrum Tamimi to Jordan. Dr. Tamimi visited all significant cooperators noted above (referencing the Scope of Work) and project demonstration sites. He spent considerable time meeting with the IALC primary partner the Badia Research and Demonstration Programme (BRDP) and with USAID-Amman official, Dr. Amal Hijazi.

Activities Summary for the following period (July 1, 2003 – September 30, 2003):

- Travel to Jordan. Trips are planned by Dr. Peter Waller, an irrigation expert, and by Dr. Chris Choi, a bio-systems engineer with bio-solids research experience. Ms. Dima Kayed is expected to make a return trip to complete Part II of the Laboratories Capabilities Study.
- Travel to Pakistan. If the travel warning is lifted, travel to Islamabad by team members will be accomplished either at the end of this period or the beginning of the next period. However, if restrictions on travel remain in effect, the primary field activities will continue to be carried out by Dr. Abdul Qayyum. This next period should see the provision of three short courses by the UIUC backed Agricultural University.
- Visits to the U.S. As the visit to the U.S. by faculty and professionals from Jordan has been delayed due to the new visa restrictions, this will continue to be a primary focus of the project component. The project is committed to solving this situation so that the project has a true bi-lateral flow of people. Ten persons visiting the U.S. on the initial study tour is the goal; modification may be necessary.
- Reports anticipated: Ms. Dima Kayed's Laboratory Assessment Study, Part I and Part II, reports by Drs. Tamimi, Choi, and Waller for the demonstration sites, wastewater re-use and irrigation efficiency, and bio-solids re-use, respectively, for Jordan. For Afghanistan/Pakistan, the focus will be on the delivery of the courses and materials such as manuals will be produced. Follow-up evaluations will be done for each course.
- Initiation of bio-solids study. A bio-solids characterization study led by RSS in Jordan will be initiated during this period. Following extensive reviews, the study is ready to fund. Completion of contracts between the IALC, the BRDP and RSS will be accomplished in this period.
- The project web site was delayed because of member concerns of balance and sufficient material. The site has been redesigned and will go "live" during this quarter.

Following are sections of the report have been submitted by the two primary Project components, for Afghanistan-Pakistan, by UIUC, and for Jordan by the Badia Programme with UofA participation. Editing by the project director has been undertaken.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Activities
Quarterly Report-III
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project
IALC-UIUC

Introduction:

The war in Iraq and its aftermath hampered our activities and prevented travel to Pakistan and Afghanistan by the U.S.-based project management team. These complications helped us realize more than ever, the importance of work that had been done during previous quarters on field office establishment, infrastructure development and contacts with cooperating institutions/organizations.

We have been keenly aware of the long-standing need to establish solid working relationships with AID/Kabul and AID/Islamabad. That task was significantly advanced during May and June by Field Office Director, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan. As a result, both AID Missions are fully informed on our Training Project, they are supportive and on board. The collegial relationships that have been established in these Missions will pay off in the months ahead. Had it not been for our field office and the dedicated Director of that office, this would have been a rather quiet quarter and a short report.

Activities of this period (April 1-June 30):

When we began planning this project about one year ago, we knew that steadily increasing levels of project activity would take place in the field office in Pakistan. That trend continued this past quarter. The 2nd quarterly report stated that planning for training courses would move forward during the third quarter and that actual training was anticipated to begin during the fourth project quarter. That is exactly what has happened. That previous report also mentioned plans for Dr. Khan to visit Kabul. That visit also took place during this reporting period.

Shortly after the AID/Islamabad staff returned to post in May, following their evacuation for security reasons, Dr. Khan began a series of meetings with Margaret Harritt. She is the USAID officer in charge of democracy, governance and agriculture activities in that mission. Ms. Harritt advised Dr. Khan on steps he could take to better inform personnel in AID/Islamabad and AID/Kabul on the details of our training project and how to get them involved in this important activity. This included preparation of a two-page brief on the training project. Margaret also helped Qayyum make the appropriate contacts in AID/Kabul so he could prepare for that visit.

Prior to the conversations with Ms. Harritt, Dr. Khan had also begun a dialogue (via email and phone) with Dr. Nasrat Wassimi, Director of the ICARDA Future Harvest Project in Afghanistan. Everyone involved in our training project had become increasingly aware of the

key role that Dr. Wassimi plays in the agricultural development scene in Afghanistan and that articulation with Future Harvest activities would be critically important. One of the reasons for articulation is because personnel involved in the Future Harvest Project can help us identify the immediate training needs, prior to our implementation of a formal Training Needs Assessment on the ground in Afghanistan.

A project bank account has been established in Peshawar and it is now possible to transfer funds to Pakistan to support the training courses. This effort has proven to be more time-consuming than had been expected.

The most significant event of this quarter was the week-long (June 15-22) fact-finding trip to Kabul made by Dr. Qayyum. While in Kabul, Dr. Qayyum had productive meetings with representatives of: ICARDA, the Government of Afghanistan Ministries of Higher Education, Agriculture and Livestock, and Water Resources and Environment; with the Kabul University Faculty of Agriculture, FAO, Purdue University and AID Kabul. A detailed trip report has been written and circulated.

The most significant of these meetings was with representatives of AID/Kabul. He gave them full details on our project, including the 23-page NWFP-AU Capability Statement, the IALC Afghanistan-Pakistan Human Resource Development Project Briefing Document, and complete descriptions of the three short courses that, based on the opinions of individuals contacted in Kabul, should be offered first. Those are:

1. Enterprise Development and Management Skills
2. Irrigation and Water Management Practices
3. Post-Harvest Management Marketing Skills

AID/Kabul immediately shared these short course announcements with the relevant Government of Afghanistan Ministries and organizations, requesting nominations of participants. As of this writing, courses 1 and 2 are filled at 20 participants in each course. Participants will arrive Peshawar August 1 and will complete their training on or about August 31. Course number 3 is being filled and will be conducted during the month of September. We are pleased to report that three short courses will be completed during the first year of our Cooperative Agreement. This was done under difficult conditions and is due to Dr. Qayyum's high level of energy and dedication.

Activities Planned for the Following Period (July 1 – September 30):

The high priority activity will be to complete work (narrative, budget, etc.) on the extension of our Cooperative Agreement. This agreement will call for the IALC/UIUC/NWFP-AU collection of resources to continue working on Human Capacity Development for Afghanistan's agriculture sector for a period of four years. We are pleased to have this opportunity and appreciate the vote of confidence that has been expressed in this invitation to submit a request for the extension of our agreement.

Based on the hope that regional political upheavals have passed, the travel to Pakistan and Afghanistan by the U.S.-based Project Management Team (which had been on the calendar for February 2003 but never happened) is being re-scheduled for September/October 2003. We hope travel warnings will be lifted so we can make important contacts in the field and

begin to make long range plans. There is an urgent need for the home office team to develop working relationships with the appropriate staff in AID/Islamabad and AID/Kabul. This is best done face-to-face. One item on the agenda for these meetings is the need for mission buy-ins to support the various training programs that can be delivered through our Cooperative Agreement.

Jordan Activities
Quarterly Report-III
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project
IALC-BRDP

Introduction:

Jordan faced considerable difficulties during this period. Jordan is a neighboring country of Iraq and considerable stress was imposed upon project activities in the prelude to the war and during the first half of the conflict. All U.S. based contractors were ordered to leave, including PA Consulting, with whom the BRDP was implementing various project components which include reclaimed water re-use at Wadi Musa. This has had direct bearing upon the IALC Drylands project's intention to coordinate activities with BRDP and PA consulting.

Activities of this period (January 1, 2003 – March 31, 2003):

Dr. Akrum Tamimi's Visit: 27/5/2003 – Present

BRDP had put a timetable for Dr. Tamimi's visit and arranged that with all partners of the project (attached). In order to facilitate Dr. Tamimi's visit, BRDP had nominated a facilitator with a good background in the fields that Dr. Tamimi was going to visit, in addition to that BRDP had made all reservations needed for Dr. Tamimi's visit. Tamimi was provided with a driver and a vehicle during his visit, and upon any request from him. Dr. Tamimi was able to access to the BRDP computers, internet, phone, and desk to do some of his work

Organizations visited by Dr. Tamimi's:

- Badia Research & Development Program (BRDP)
- University of Jordan (UJ) : Water Research Study Center (WRSC)
- Royal Scientific Society (RSS)
- Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA)
- Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ)
- Wadi Musa: Wadi Musa Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Wadi Musa Demonstration Site
- Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST)
- PA Consultant Company
- USAID – US Embassy /Amman

Activities made with each Organization:

RSS:

- Modified and finalized the RSS Biosolids Characterization project proposal

- Modify and sign the contract with BRDD
- Establish the ad hoc committee for the Biosolids Characterization project
- Write new proposals by Tamimi and RSS members
- Visit the RSS labs
- Discuss the technical visit to Arizona

UJ:

- Visit Dean of the Agriculture Faculty
- Meet Wadi Musa Project Team
- Visit WRSC and its labs
- Write new proposals with WRSC
- Present and discuss The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library with the University of Jordan
- Discuss the technical visit to Arizona

ASEZA:

- Meet some of ASEZA members who are interested in the wastewater reuse
- Meet with the PA team and the sites they work on
- Discuss the cactus garden site and the design
- A postgraduate from Arizona University is going to work on the cactus garden including design and irrigation system
- Visit Aqaba Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Write new proposals

WAJ:

- Visit the Secretary General: to know what is the role of WAJ regarding the wastewater re-use, visit WAJ labs, and talk about the new unit of wastewater re-use
- Discuss the technical visit to Arizona

JUST :

- Presentation was presented by Dr.Tamimi about IALC and its activities
- Visit JUST Campus demo site and Wadi Hassan site
- Visit JUST Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Present and discuss The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library with JUST
- Discuss the technical visit to Arizona
- Encourage people to write new proposals

PA:

- Visit the PA office in Amman to obtain information about their work activities and their future planning regarding wastewater re-use.

USAID- Amman:

- Meet with Dr. Amal Hijazi; to know what are the projects she runs, and to build a future plan for more cooperation, plus briefing her about the work performance.

BRDP:

- Meet with BRDP members
- Finalize and modify the Biosolids Characterization project
- Modify and sign the contract with RSS
- Prepare and finalize the technical visit to Arizona, plus putting the semi-final trainers visit list
- Put specifications for Wadi Musa Visitor Center Site, and to find some one from Arizona to do the designs
- Discuss The BRDP Essential Electronic Agricultural Library and finish the related documents
- Visit BRDP field center (Safawi Field Center)
- Visit Tal Hassan Renewable Energy Station (one of the BRDP sites)
- Hold a rap up meeting at BRDP for the participants

This meeting included:

- A presentation was made by Dr. Tamimi about IALC work, activities, and the potential for future cooperation.
- Establishing the ad hoc committee for the Biosolids Characterization project
- Discussing The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library which will be provided for JUST & JU
- Encouraging people to write new proposals
- Discussing a timetable for Dima Kayed's visit to Jordan
- Discussing a timetable for two Technical Assistance Team Members, Chris Choi and Peter Waller to visit Jordan.

Activities Planned for the Following Period (July 1 – September 30):

Ms. Dima Kayed's Visit: 7- 19/7/2003

Dima Kayed, advanced graduate student of Dr. Chuck Gerba's Microbiology Laboratory is slated to visit Jordan to undertake the laboratory analysis visit. She will be provided with a driver, vehicle, and a facilitator for her work. Her objectives will be to visit different Jordan organization labs to see how IALC can help in capacity building.

Ms. Kayed will agree upon a timetable with BRDP and Dr. Tamimi. She will visit the following organizations:

- BRDP
- JU : (*Water Environmental Research and Study Center*)
- JUST
- RSS
- WAJ
- NCARTT

Drs. Peter Waller and Chris Choi to visit Jordan: 22-29/7/2003

BRDP will provide Drs. Waller and Choi with a driver, a vehicle, and the facilitation they needed. Dr. Tamimi will assist in the coordination of the trip in conjunction with BRDP.

Organizations Slated to be Visited by Drs. Waller and Choi with Objectives:

ASEZA:

- General and preliminary discussion about work at ASEZA
- Visit Aqaba sites
- Presentation about IALC activities, research, services, and running projects
- Discuss the cactus garden and decide to have a postgraduate from Arizona University to do the designs

RSS:

- Meet with RSS members at Petra Marriott to discuss the Biosolids project, write new proposals, and put future planning
- Visit RSS labs and continue writing new proposals
- Technical presentation at RSS building by Peter, Chris, and Tamimi (*attend: BRDP, RSS, JU*)

Wadi Musa Project Site

- Visit Wadi Musa visitor center site, demo site, and agriculture area
- Visit Wadi Musa WWTP and its drying beds Wadi Musa Project Site

JU:

- Meet JU staff @ Petra Marriott to discuss Wadi Musa Project Site and to write new proposals.
- Meet JU staff @ RSS building to attend the technical presentation.

BRDP:

- Meet with BRDP director and staff to discuss future planning.
- Discuss with the BRDP director the technical visit to Arizona
- An open discussion about BRDP, activities, research, and BRDP future planning