



INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty



United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Food Secure Arab World

A Roadmap for Policy and Research

International conference organized by
The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

*With the collaboration of the American University of Beirut; Cairo University; the Economic Research Forum;
Hassan II Institute for Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, Rabat; and the International Center for Agricultural
Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)*

February 6-7, 2012 – UN-ESCWA, Beirut, Lebanon

Draft Agenda, Feb 3, 2012

Monday, February 6

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00-10:35 **OPENING SESSION**

Chair: Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, UN-ESCWA

Welcoming Remarks

Nadim Khouri

Deputy Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA

Fawzi Al Sultan

Chair, IFPRI Board

Shenggen Fan

Director General, IFPRI

Keynote Addresses

Arab Development in a Changing World

Joachim von Braun

Director, Center for Development Research,
Germany

Challenges and Opportunities of Transition

Heba Handoussa

Professor of Economics and Lead Author, Egypt
Human Development Report

New Perspectives for Arab Food Security

Nadim Khouri

Deputy Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA

10:35 - 11:00 **Coffee Break and Press Interviews**

11:00 - 12:30 **SESSION 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

Chair: Erol Cakmak, Professor, TED University

Presentation 1:

Beyond the Arab Awakening: Policies and Investments for Food Security and Poverty Reduction

Clemens Breisinger

Research Fellow, IFPRI

Presentation 2:

Did Food Prices Plant the Seeds of the Arab Awakening?

Jane Harrigan

Professor, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Presentation 3:

Economic Transformation in Egypt and Turkey

Alia El Mahdi

Professor, Cairo University

Presentation 4:

Creating Jobs for the Youth

Imed Drine

Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER

James Thurlow

Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER

Discussion and Q & A

12:30-1:30 **Lunch and Knowledge Fair**

1:30-3:00 **SESSION 2: AGRICULTURE, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Chair: Rachid Doukkali, Professor, Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire (IAV) Hassan II, Morocco

Presentation 1:

Improving Agriculture and Livestock in Dry Areas

Mahmoud Solh

Director General, ICARDA

Presentation 2:

IFAD's Investments for Food Security in the Arab World

Omer Zafar

Country Programme Manager, IFAD

Presentation 3:

Impacts and Options for Adaptation to Climate Change

Dorte Verner

Senior Economist, The World Bank

Presentation 4:

Opportunities for Fishery and Aquaculture

Stephen Hall

Director General, World Fish

Discussion and Q & A

3:00 -3:15 **Coffee Break and Knowledge Fair**

3:15 -4:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 3A: FOOD SECURITY AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

Chair: Moujahed Achouri, Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and Representative in Egypt, FAO

Presentation 1:

Yemen National Food Security Strategy and Directions for Future Research and Policy Support

Merna Hassan

Assistant to the National Coordinator for NFSS
Yemen, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Olivier Ecker

Postdoctoral Fellow, IFPRI

Presentation 2:

Food and Nutrition Security in the Southern Basin of the Mediterranean Region

Mohamed AwDahir

Food Systems Economist, FAO

Presentation 3:

Investment in Agricultural Research as a Development Strategy

Aden Aw-Hassan

Social, Economics and Policy Research Program
Director, ICARDA

Discussion and Q & A

SESSION 3B: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Chair: Nahla Hwalla, Professor of Nutrition and Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, American University of Beirut

Presentation 1:

Overview of Key Challenges for Nutrition in the Developing World

Marie Ruel

Division Director, IFPRI

Presentation 2:

Improving Health and Nutrition in Arab Countries

Hala Ghattas

Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut

Presentation 3:

Gender and Food Security

Habiba Hassan-Wassef

Consultant and Former Director, WHO, Geneva

Discussion and Q & A

4:30 -6:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 4A: GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT

Chair: Eltighani M. Elamin, Professor, Agricultural Economics and Policy Research Center, Sudan

Presentation 1:

The Role of Governance in the Arab Awakening

Ishac Diwan

Lecturer, Harvard University

Presentation 2:
Cost of Conflict and Food Security

Vito Intini
First Economic Affairs Officer, UN-ESCWA

Presentation 3:
Is There an Arab Exceptionalism When It Comes to Conflict?

Jean François Maystadt
Postdoctoral Fellow, IFPRI

Presentation 4:
Economic Consequences of a New Nile River Agreement

Sherman Robinson
Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI
Ken Strzepek
Researcher, MIT, USA

Discussion and Q & A

SESSION 4B: FOOD SECURITY, TRADE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Walid Abed Rabboh, Director General, Horizon for Sustainable Development

Presentation 1:
The Grain Chain: Food Security and Managing Wheat Imports in Arab Countries

Maurice Saade
Senior Agriculture Economist, The World Bank

Presentation 2:
The Role of Trade and Grain Reserves

Paul Dorosh
Division Director, IFPRI

Presentation 3:
Food Security in the Context of Rio+20

Riccardo Mesiano
First Economics Affairs Officer, UN-ESCWA

Presentation 4:
Rural Non-farm Development Opportunities: Lessons from China

Xiaobo Zhang
Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

Discussion and Q & A

7:00 pm

Conference Dinner

Tuesday, February 7

9:00-10:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 5A: MAKING FDI WORK FOR FOOD SECURITY

Chair: Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, UN-ESCWA

Presentation 1:
The Sustainability Challenge for FDI: How to Have it

Abdallah Al-Dardari
Director, Economic Development and

Work for All

Globalization Division, UN-ESCWA

Milena Muhadinovic

Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Globalization Division, UN-ESCWA

Presentation 2:

Food Security and Foreign Agricultural Investment

Fuad Al Muhaisen

Assistant Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan

Presentation 3:

FDI and its Importance as an Investment for Food Security and the Agricultural Sector

Khalid Emara

Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt

Presentation 4:

Are Foreign Direct Investments by Arab Counties Really Needed for Achieving Food Security?

Henk van Latesteijn

Van Latesteijn Consultancy BV
Wageningen University

Discussion and Q & A

SESSION 5B: DATA AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR A FOOD SECURE ARAB WORLD

Chair: Clemens Breisinger, Research Fellow, IFPRI

Co-Chair: Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Productive Sectors Section, UN-ESCWA

Presentation 1:

Collaboration and Sharing of Data, Tools, and Research Capacities to Inform Future Food Security Strategies

Michael Johnson, Research Fellow, IFPRI

Presentation 2:

The Role of Early Warning and Food Security Information Systems

Mohamed AwDahir

Food Systems Economist, FAO

Discussion and Q & A

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break and Knowledge Fair**

11:00-1:00 **SESSION 6: SETTING FOOD SECURITY POLICY PRIORITIES: AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNER PERSPECTIVE**

Moderator: Paul Dorosh, Division Director, IFPRI

Panel Discussion:

Sherine Ghoneim

Director, Global Development Network, Egypt

Hoonae Kim

Sector Manager, Agriculture and Environment, Middle East and North Africa Region, The World Bank

Ziad Abdel Samad

Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development

Moujahed Achouri

Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and Representative in Egypt, FAO

Abbas Abouauf

Advisor to AOAD Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

1:00-2:00

Lunch

2:00-6:00

SESSION 7 –SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH IN MENA AND THE NEW CRP2 PROGRAM OF THE CGIAR

Moderator: Mark Rosegrant, CRP2 Interim Director, IFPRI

Contributors: Pascale Sabbagh, Senior Program Manager CRP2, IFPRI; **Perrihan Al-Riffai**, Research Analyst, IFPRI; **Katarlah Taylor**, Library and Knowledge Management Specialist, IFPRI; **Jean François Maystadt**, Postdoctoral Fellow, IFPRI; and **Olivier Ecker**, Postdoctoral Fellow, IFPRI

Presentation 1:

Consortium Research Program 2: Policies, Institutions, and Markets to Strengthen Food Security and Incomes for the Rural Poor

Presentation 2:

Priority-Setting Process

Presentation 3:

Development Indicators for the Arab Countries

Preliminary Voting Step:

Participant Background

Voting Step 1:

Prioritizing Objectives

Presentation 4:

CRP2 Subthemes

Voting Step 2:

Prioritizing CRP2 Subthemes Breakout Session

Voting Step 3:

Overall Prioritizing of CRP2 Subthemes

Discussion and Conclusion

6:00-6:30

CLOSING SESSION

Chair: Fawzi Al Sultan, Chair, IFPRI Board

Policy and Research Priorities: A Roadmap

Shenggen Fan

Director General, IFPRI

Nadim Khouri

Deputy Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA