

جنّاح الماءة WOMEN'S PAVILION



EXPO
2020
DUBAI
UAE

IN COLLABORATION

WITH *Cartier*



FOOD, AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS | 17- 23 FEBRUARY

EXPO ENQUIRY: How do we sustainably grow food to meet future demand?

On Women Making the Desert Bloom

In collaboration with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)

EVENT DETAILS

- **Date:** Thursday 17th February, 2022
- **Time:** Event time: 11:00-13:00 Dubai Time
- **Venue:** Women's Pavilion Majlis

CORE ISSUE

Facing the climate crisis and a rapidly degrading environment, men and women around the planet are working towards agricultural transformation and technological innovation to grow fertile land, one of humanity's most precious natural assets. In particular, water scarcity in combination with many mouths to feed have been necessary drivers of innovation in the Arab region and in the Sahel. Women are playing their part in this process. As the possibilities of growing food in desert lands are rapidly increasing, we speak with female frontrunners about their achievements in agricultural transformation and growing greenery in the desert, as well as the necessity of stepping up women's involvement in this extremely important professional field.



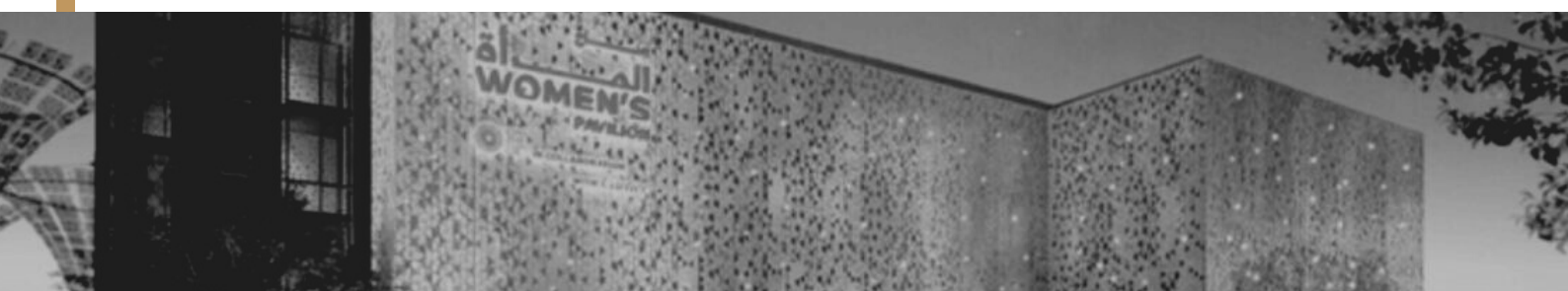
THE ARAB WORLD: A HISTORY OF DESERT FARMING

Agriculture is fundamental to human life and as a consequence, women and men have been practicing and refining agriculture for millennia. Throughout history and until this day, scarcity is an excellent driver of innovation. The track record of agricultural innovation in the Arab Region is a case in point. Many of the earliest civilizations in this part of the world flourished due to the early practices of irrigation in arid, desert-like lands. Women and men alike understood the necessity of rearing crops in the desert as water sources were limited and mouths to feed numerous. Archeological evidence from around 8,000 years ago shows us date farming in the Jordan Valley and extensive irrigation practices in Egypt. Across the Muslim world, travelers documented, in text and images, the widespread use of windmills and waterwheels. The name for hydro-powered machines used to lift water is indeed derived from the Arabic word Na-urah (ناعورة) meaning "the first water machine".

INNOVATION, INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

Fastforward to today, new technological applications, enabling practices such as rain enhancement techniques, vertical and soilless farming, saltwater greenhouses, soil-recovery technologies, aquaponic systems, new pest control and post-harvest practices, are providing opportunities for more inclusive, efficient, and resilient agri-food systems across the world. Technological innovations can indeed help us build the foundations for sustainable agri-food systems, from production to consumption. Sustainable agri-food systems can in turn deliver food security and nutrition for everyone without compromising the earth's ability to continue producing for future generations while providing year-round access to adequate food and healthy diets for all people.

Nowadays, most commercialized farmers use robots, sensors, GPS technology, drones and aerial images. The emergence of the space economy will further ensure that farming becomes increasingly accurate and customized. At the same time, the climate crisis, growing population and urbanization are increasing the pressure and the need for sustainable agriculture. As a consequence, agricultural innovation and transformation is a race against the clock. A significant share of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends on whether the world can feed its population. An estimated 1.8 billion people will live in places with absolute water scarcity by 2025. The Arab Region will feature prominently in this and improving food security and agricultural practices are not simply nice-to-haves, but sheer necessity.



WOMEN AS AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMERS

Women agricultural engineers, innovators, and farmers are present all over the Arab and African region. From the 8,000 km Great Green Wall initiative cutting through the Sahel and the African continent, to entrepreneurs in AgriTech in the Arabian Gulf, these pioneers are guiding us towards the agri-food systems of the future. They explore the interconnected and multiple causes behind desertification, hunger, and malnutrition and call for identifying consistent actions and policy trade-offs to realise that goal. In so doing, they contribute to enhance the potential of desert and semi-arid areas to play a productive part in the global agri-food system, reducing poverty, providing livelihoods as well as symbols of hope. With dedicated places such as FoodTech Valley in Dubai, AgTech park in Abu Dhabi and many other initiatives in the region, there is a growing promise of solutions to the problem of food scarcity.

But as these women remain somewhat of a scarcity themselves, they are also role models for other women interested in this professional field. A fellowship program such as the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) has opened doors to strengthen intellectual collaboration and share stories around the difference women can make as agricultural transformers. Successful women researchers in this areas creating innovative solutions, should be showcased for their achievements but also as role models for younger generations of talents.



Join us in the Women's Pavilion to explore how better we could amplify the role of women from Arabia and the Islamic region in the spheres of traditional and new media, by celebrating their positive contributions and tackling questions such as:

KEY QUESTIONS

- **What are the major innovations and transformations that women are working on in agriculture in the Arab region as well as in the African continent?**
- **How can we foster agricultural innovation in the region in a way to support women working in this field?**
- **Providing food is vital. What can we do to break negative stereotypes around agriculture and women working in it to give them the prominence they deserve?**

EVENT AGENDA

- **Introduction to the event by moderator 11:00 – 11:05**
- **Keynote Speech by Dr Tarifa Alzaabi 11:05 – 11:20**
- **Panel with AWLA Fellows 11:20 – 12:00**
- **Q&A session 12:00 – 12:30**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Tarifa A. Alzaabi – Deputy Director General, ICBA

Dr. Alzaabi joined the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) as Deputy Director General in August 2019. As a social scientist, she promotes sustainable food security systems and the modernization of agriculture through capacity development, women and youth engagement, as well as agripreneurship. Dr. Alzaabi serves on advisory committees and groups, including the UAE's Ag-Tech Development Committee and the Global SME Policy Network (GSPN). Prior to joining ICBA, she was Director of Dubai Women's College, Higher Colleges of Technology. She is also an edupreneur and a winner of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum SME Award as Businesswoman of the Year in 2015, and of the Emirates Women Award for Best Career Achievements in 2020.

MODERATOR



Ameera Khalid – Creator & Host, Inspiring UAE Women Podcast

Ameera is the creator and host of the chart-topping podcast Inspiring UAE Women with listeners across 13 countries, the first-of-its-kind and only podcast that shines the spotlight on female leaders in the UAE. She is Vice President, Investor Relations & External Communications at Waha Capital (Mubadala shareholding). Prior to joining the Company, Ameera was at Dubai Carbon (DEWA subsidiary) where she worked on sustainability, green economy, and SDG progression in the UAE. She is a passionate advocate of gender diversity in the workplace.

SPEAKERS



Dr Marwa Hassine – Researcher, National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia

Dr Hassine is a post-Doc researcher at the Genetics and Cereal Breeding Laboratory at the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia. She holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Sciences from the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia on plant protection and the environment. Her research focuses on the impact of climate change on plant diseases and quality. She is involved in several national and international projects exploring the link between sustainable agriculture, breeding, agronomic, and biotechnological approaches. Dr Hassine was awarded the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) fellowship from ICBA in 2019.



Dr Sherine Fathy Mansour – Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Desert Research Centre (Cairo)

Dr Sherine Fathy Mansour joined the Desert Research Center in Cairo in 2000 as associate professor of agricultural economics. Her research focuses on rural sustainable development in Egypt and on the development of agricultural techniques to improve farmers' livelihood. She was the director of the project Food for the Future, funded by HSBC and ICBA (2019 – 2021). She also contributed to multiple projects by DRC, USAID, IFAD and ICBA. She was awarded the AWLA fellowship in 2019 and is now an AWLA ambassador in Egypt. She has a PhD in agricultural economics from the Faculty of Agriculture at Cairo University.



Dr Wafa Faisal Al Yamani – Scientist and Environmental Researcher

Wafa is a soil and water scientist, and an environmental researcher. She worked for nine years at the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency (EAD), the largest environmental regulator in the Middle East. Dr Al Yamani conducts scientific research on agriculture with a focus on soil and water quality and sustainable land management and protection. She gained her PhD in 2019 from Massey University in New Zealand on the sustainability of hyper-arid forests in Abu Dhabi and the protection of Abu Dhabi's groundwater resources. Dr Al Yamani is a member of the Women in Sustainability Environment and Renewable Energy Program at Masdar and an AWLA fellow at ICBA.

Introduction of the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, Women in Arabia and Islam series.

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Since the first Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, Expos have connected people and provided special spaces to spark dialogue amongst those who are curious about the future. Running from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 Dubai will bring the world together to imagine, design, and build a more sustainable, dignified, and prosperous world. One that is cleaner, safer, and healthier. One inspired by collective action around shared challenges, and in which future generations will flourish. Under the theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and our three sub-themes of Sustainability, Mobility, and Opportunity, Expo will be a platform for positive, collaborative change.

WOMEN IN ARABIA AND ISLAM

Women in Arabia and Islam is a series of ten cultural talks celebrating the rich Muslim heritage. Taking a historical and cultural perspective, the events focus on sharing and recognizing the positive role women from Arab and Islamic backgrounds have played in the course of history until today.



THE WOMEN'S PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Our Women's Pavilion, under the exhibition title 'New Perspectives', is a critical component of this vision and will be curated by Expo 2020 Dubai in collaboration with Cartier. In highlighting the positive contributions of women, we will demonstrate that when women thrive, so too does all of humanity. The UAE has dedicated itself to ensuring that issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are centrally addressed in everything we do at Expo 2020 Dubai. By shining a light on women past and present, known and unknown, the Women's Pavilion challenges the misconceptions that women still frequently face, seeks out new perspectives on the impact women bring to our world, explores new approaches to creating a more equal world, and identifies ways in which we, together, can create new perspectives, change deep-rooted perceptions, and adjust mindsets. Through different modes of convening, our goal is to highlight that the only way to peace, prosperity and sustainability is through the full and equal participation of women.