

GFIA Panel Seminar

Empowering MENA drought management through data innovation

Date and time: February 16, 2016, from 15:40 to 16:55

Venue: Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) - Innovation Theatre, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Moderator

- Setta Tututndjian (ICBA)

Panelists

- Dr. John Wilson (USAID)
- Dr. Pasquale Steduto (FAO)
- Dr. Rachael McDonnell (ICBA)
- Mr. Omar Behi (UTAP)



Background

Drought is a worldwide threat to food and water security and is a constant presence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Recent droughts reveal the gaps and limitations in drought management in the region and emphasize the urgent need to support the governments and people in these countries in developing efforts to manage the impacts of these extreme events. This need is further heightened by any analysis of future climate conditions in the region.

The **Middle East and North Africa-Regional Drought Management System (MENA RDMS)** will harness the enormous innovations from the ongoing data revolution to bring new climate/water/food data as part of monitoring and early warning systems. These are vital components in implementing preparedness and mitigation measures. It will serve the region by:

- Establishing a regional drought monitoring and early warning system and associated information delivery systems.
- Providing assessment of drought vulnerabilities and impacts.
- Assist officials in charge of mitigation and relief efforts in developing effective drought preparedness and response plans.

Seminar Objectives

- To discuss the needs of agribusinesses and small holders in managing the impacts of droughts in MENA region.
- To detail the possibilities offered by new data sources for tackling the complexities of drought management.
- To examine the role of donors and international organizations in helping communities mitigate the impacts of drought.



Organizers

- International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), United Arab Emirates
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United States Agency for Agricultural Development (USAID)