



Jeddah 2017
42nd ANNUAL MEETING
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Young Arab Women Scientists Leadership in MENA Region – *Tamkeen*



16 May 2017 | 15:30 to 17:30 hrs

Al Qasr B, Hilton Hotel, Jeddah
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Overview

As the general theme for 42nd Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) is about “Youth,” the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and IsDB will co-organize a seminar titled **Young Arab Women Scientists Leadership in MENA Region – *Tamkeen***. The seminar will highlight the outcomes of Phase-I (Design phase) of the *Tamkeen* program and discuss the way forward to enhance and promote Arab women researchers in the MENA region.

Background

ICBA developed *Tamkeen* in 2016 with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the IsDB. The program aims to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment by building and enhancing the capacities of a new generation of Arab women scientists and leaders. It will facilitate knowledge exchange and networking among women scientists throughout the MENA region by empowering groups of gender champions and building a critical mass of advocates for leadership of women in science and agriculture, ultimately contributing to better solutions for improved food security and nutrition. In addition, the project team developed a database of potential women researchers in the MENA region that could participate in the project activities and training programs in the future.

SIDE EVENT

IsDB - ICBA Joint Event

Introducing *Tamkeen*

Purpose

This seminar will increase awareness among targeted audience about the *Tamkeen* initiative in general and the role of young Arab women researchers play in overcoming constraints to become leaders in their communities.



As the first event under this program, ICBA hosted a five-day seminal pilot training course on **23-27 April 2017** at its head office in Dubai, UAE for a group of **10** researchers representing **9** countries (Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine and the UAE). The training was delivered in partnership with the African Women in Agriculture Research and Development (AWARD) program. It helped to equip the participants with knowledge to enhance their leadership skills and act as change agents within their institutions and communities.

Objectives

- Introducing the *Tamkeen* initiative that aims to build leadership skills among young Arab women scientists;
- Discuss the findings of the assessments carried under Phase-I (Design Phase), especially the constraints and opportunities faced by Arab women scientists in the MENA region;
- Present success stories of young women who have undergone a similar program under AWARD program in Africa;
- Explore opportunities for the way forward to gather support and build the leadership skills of a relative mass of young Arab women;
- Discuss how the module can be utilized to build leadership skills among youth in ISDB member countries.

Target Audience

- Policymakers of ISDB member countries;
- Research institutions;
- University professionals;
- Regional and international research organizations;
- NGOs and other organizations working for youth in agriculture.

Program (02:00 hours)

Master of Ceremony: **Ms. Seta Tutundjian**; *Director, Partnerships and Knowledge Management, ICBA*

Recitation from the **Holy Quran** 5 minutes

Introductory speech: **Mr. Zaher Rebai**, *Director Capacity Development Department, IsDB* 5 minutes

Keynote presentation on the *Tamkeen* initiative: **Ms. Rana Askoul**, *ICBA Consultant* 15 minutes

Keynote presentation, sharing experience: **Ms. Marème Niang**, *a women leader from IsDB member country (Senegal). Fellow of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)* 15 minutes

Video message: **Ms. Zahira El Marzouki**, *Program Officer, Middle East Relations, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation* 5 minutes

Video testimonials from some women leaders 5 minutes

Panel Discussion

40 minutes

Moderator: **Ms. Seta Tutundjian**; *Director, Partnerships and Knowledge Management, ICBA*

Panelists

1. **Mr. Bashir Jama Adan**, *Division Manager, Agriculture and Rural Development Department, IsDB*
2. **Dr. Ismahane Elouafi**, *Director General, ICBA*
3. **Ms. Rana Askoul**, *Tamkeen Consultant, ICBA*
4. **Ms. Niang Marème**, *(AWARD Fellow), Senegal*

Q&A with audience 20 minutes

Concluding remarks: 10 minutes