

ICBA's e-learning platform to offer certified courses in agriculture

Dubai, UAE, 21 June 2022 – The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture ([ICBA](#)) has launched a new [e-learning platform](#) to provide specialized courses in agriculture accredited by the Continuing Professional Development ([CPD](#)) Certification Service, the UK.

The courses are created with support from donors and partners, including the [Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi \(EAD\)](#).

The platform also gives access to courses designed in collaboration with the [e-learning Academy](#) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)).

It features both advanced courses for professionals and specialists and intermediate ones for students and beginners in land management, crop diversification, genetics, climate change modeling and adaptation.

The courses are self-paced and include presentations, videos, quizzes and reading materials. Students receive certificates upon successful completion of each course.

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Acting Director General of ICBA, said: “As knowledge transfer is integral to ICBA’s mission, we always work to diversify our capacity development offerings and reach a larger number of stakeholders in different countries. This is the reason why we are now focusing on e-learning as a means to achieve this objective. With a growing interest in online education today, we believe it is important to create e-learning opportunities, especially in such fields as agriculture, food security and environmental sustainability.”

Dr. Charbel Tarraf, Senior Manager - Corporate Services and Development, ICBA, said: “We are committed to developing courses and programs aimed at equipping farmers, students, specialists, researchers and decisionmakers with skills and resources for sustainable agricultural development. And this platform is another step in our continuous efforts to cater to our stakeholders’ needs. It is a result of close collaboration with our partners such as EAD and the FAO e-learning Academy.”

Since its establishment in 1999, ICBA has reached thousands of people from more than 100 countries through its capacity development offerings. The center provides technical training courses, farmer field schools, fellowships and internships. It pays special attention to developing the capacities of young people and women through tailor-made programs like the ICBA Youth Engagement Society (ICBA YES) and the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA). Many educational programs specifically targeting young people are also offered by the Emirates Soil Museum located at ICBA.

To date, the center’s scientists have reached out to and demonstrated some of the best biosaline agriculture practices to over 30,000 farmers and conducted 150 technical training courses for over 3,000 specialists. The center has also hosted more than 200 students and recent graduates as interns from different countries and provided fellowships to around 30 post-doctoral researchers.

With the launch of the e-learning platform, the center aims to increase the reach and impact of its capacity development offerings and help various stakeholders, especially youth and women, to acquire necessary skills, resources and tools for sustainable agricultural development, agricultural

research and innovation, as well as contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Currently available free of charge, the courses cover such subjects as water resources and irrigation management systems in arid regions; integrated land management in the UAE; and designing a nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food system. The platform will be regularly updated with new courses on different topics.

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About ICBA

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is a unique applied agricultural research center in the world with a focus on marginal areas where an estimated 1.7 billion people live. It identifies, tests and introduces resource-efficient, climate-smart crops and technologies that are best suited to different regions affected by salinity, water scarcity and drought. Through its work, ICBA helps to improve food security and livelihoods for some of the poorest rural communities around the world.

<https://www.biosaline.org/>