

# Summary of Overheads

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**Review of Regional Policy Instruments,  
Developments and Trends:  
CWANA**




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**Objectives of the Day**

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1. Present the objectives and the schedule for the day's activities
2. Review policy frameworks in the CWANA region
3. Identify regional genetic resources and crop-specific networks
4. Discuss regional initiatives


Review of Regional Policy Instruments, Developments, and Trends/CWANA – 1.2

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**Schedule of the Day**

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08:30 – 09:00	Opening of the Day's Activities
09:00 – 09:30	Session 1. Review of Regional Policy Instruments, Developments and Trends in Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA)
09:30 – 10:30	Session 1A. Developing Goals, priorities and Strategies for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-Biodiversity in the Mashreq Region
	Tea/Coffee Break
10:45 – 13:00	Session 1A. (continued) Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Session 1A. (continued)
15:00 – 15:30	Session 1B. Implementing TRIPS Agreement and UPOV System at the Regional Level
	Tea/Coffee Break
15:45 – 17:00	Session 1B. (continued)
17:00 – 17:30	PAPA and Evaluation of Workshop
17:30 – 17:45	Final Remarks, Closing and Delivery of Certificate

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## **Review of Regional Policy Instruments, Developments and Trends in Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA)**

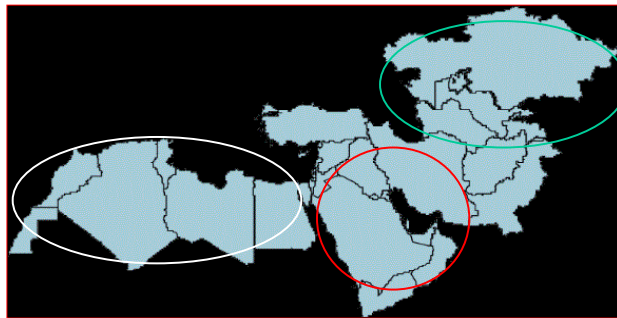


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## **The CWANA Region**



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## **Major Characteristics of the CWANA Region (1)**

- Vast differences in climate and geography resulting in wide diversity in vegetation and biodiversity
- The CWANA sub-regions are especially important with regard to plant genetic resources





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### Major Characteristics of the CWANA Region (2)

- The region contains the most financially endowed countries (Arabian Gulf States) and some of the poorest in Central and West Asia
- Modest international attention has been given towards the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the region

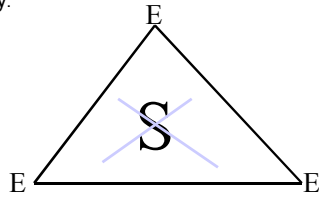



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### Major Characteristics of the CWANA Region (3)

- **The 3-E Syndrome:**  
The three pillars of sustainability are E (Environment), E (Efficiency) and E (Equity in resource distribution). In many parts of the CWANA region, at least one of the 3Es is missing, which results in a threat to sustainability in all areas related to biodiversity.




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### Access and Benefit Sharing in CWANA

- Historically, indigenous farmers have conserved their plant and animal diversity through traditional farming systems
- Traditional sharing practices have been passed from generation to generation
- Structural changes may soon result in the disappearance of many traditional farming systems
- Access and benefit-sharing systems should be adapted to enhance the exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agricultural production

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### **Regional Policy Instruments Related to Genetic Resources in CWANA (1)**

- Few policy instruments exist and current efforts are limited to
  - providing financial support to plant and animal preservation in selected areas
  - binding law through market-oriented instruments and labeling
- Many countries in West Asia, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula are full members of the WTO
- Several Mediterranean countries have signed partnership agreements with the European Union, covering topics such as intellectual property rights, agriculture, environment, etc.
- Jordan, Bahrain and Morocco have signed agreements with the US to establish 'free trade areas' (FTAs)



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### **Regional Policy Instruments Related to Genetic Resources in CWANA (2)**

- Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Morocco have signed the IT; none of the Central Asian countries had signed the Treaty as of October 2004
- The adoption of these international agreements will have a major impact on the conservation and use of PGRFA
- Another important impact will arise from enabling the inflow of new investments and commercial research in PGRFA



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### **Intellectual Property Rights**

- The region shows a wide degree of implementation and compliance with IP issues
- Fewer countries in the CWANA region, than in other regions, have adopted and implemented TRIPS
- Fewer countries in the CWANA region, than in other regions, have adopted and implemented the convention of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
  - As of October 2004, Tunisia is the only country from the CWANA region that is a member of the UPOV Convention (Act 1991). Tunisia became a member on 31 August 2003
  - Jordan will soon become a member. Jordan's new Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Law is compatible with UPOV



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### **Institutional Structures**

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- These vary considerably from region to region and country to country, depending on political structure and pre-independence prototype
- At the national level, major problems include:
  - ★ overlapping authority
  - ★ contradictions
  - ★ judiciary sequence and bureaucracy in the public system
  - ★ deficiencies in facilities and personnel
  - ★ relationships between the different international institutions related to PGR



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### **What are the national priorities for the majority of the CWANA countries?**

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- ◆ Increasing poverty and unemployment
- ◆ Food insecurity and a food trade gap
- ◆ Managing degrading natural resources
- ◆ Marketing and trade
- ◆ Maintaining a sustainable genetic resource system
- ◆ Determining and efficiently using available legal instruments related to trade
- ◆ In Central Asian countries, focusing on horticultural crops and conserving the remaining agricultural heritage



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### **Regional Initiatives, Institutions and Approaches (1)**

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- Financial and technical support from GEF to all Mashreq countries, except Iraq, for preparing *biosafety action plans* and *biodiversity strategies*
- 'Participatory Management of Plant Genetic Resources in Oases of the Magreb', regional cooperation project between the Magreb countries, supported by GEF
- 'Conservation and Sustainable Use of Dryland Agro-Biodiversity', long-term regional project funded by GEF and managed by ICARDA, being implemented in the Mashreq region (except Iraq)


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## **Regional Initiatives, Institutions and Approaches (2)**

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- **The Cartagena Biosafety Protocol**
  - Has been signed and ratified by Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, as of October 2004
- **The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT)**
  - Has been signed and ratified by Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, as of October 2004
  - None of the Central Asian countries has signed the treaty; these countries must set new legal frameworks to replace those left over from the Soviet era
- **WTO agreements are not effective in many CWANA countries because they are linked to accession to WTO**



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## **Regional Initiatives, Institutions and Approaches (3)**

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- **Greater Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA)**; all Arab countries in the CWANA region are members
- **ICARDA**, centre for conservation of plant genetic resources in this region, conducts activities with all countries in the region at national, regional and international levels
- **The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**, agricultural development agency



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## **Regional Initiatives, Institutions and Approaches (4)**

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- **Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)**, regional institution linked to the Arab League, deals with management issues related to natural resources in the dry areas
- **The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)**, aims at fostering collaboration between member countries
- **The Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)**, main mission is capacity building




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### Regional Networks and their Objectives (1)

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1. Regional network for rangeland seed information with two sub-regional nodes in Jordan and Morocco
2. The Central Asia Network (CAN) on Plant Genetic Resources deals with research on rangeland resources and livestock production in Central Asian countries
3. The International Germplasm Testing Network disseminates advanced lines, parental lines and segregating populations of barley, durum wheat, bread wheat, lentil, kabuli chickpea, faba bean and vetches
4. The Southern Europe and WANA (SEWANA) Durum Wheat Research Network Turkey enforces cooperation between durum breeders and crop-improvement scientists from southern Europe, West Asia and North Africa



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### Regional Networks and their Objectives (2)

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5. WANA Plant Genetic Resources Network (WANANET) specifies priorities in plant genetic resources, identifies and implements collaborative projects, and implements regional activities
6. WANA Seed Network encourages stronger regional seed-sector cooperation, exchange of information, regional consultations and inter-country seed trade
7. Agricultural Information Network for WANA (AINWANA) improves national and regional capacity in information management, preservation and dissemination
8. Network on Drought Management for the Near East, Mediterranean and Central Asia enhances technical co-operation among concerned national, regional and international organizations in the region
9. Central Asian and Trans-Caucasian Network has a main objective to facilitate the development of national programs


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### A National Model for Adopting the CBD in Jordan

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***OBJECTIVE***

***Reform national policy alternatives that take into account social, economic and cultural factors to promote the maintenance of plant genetic resources***



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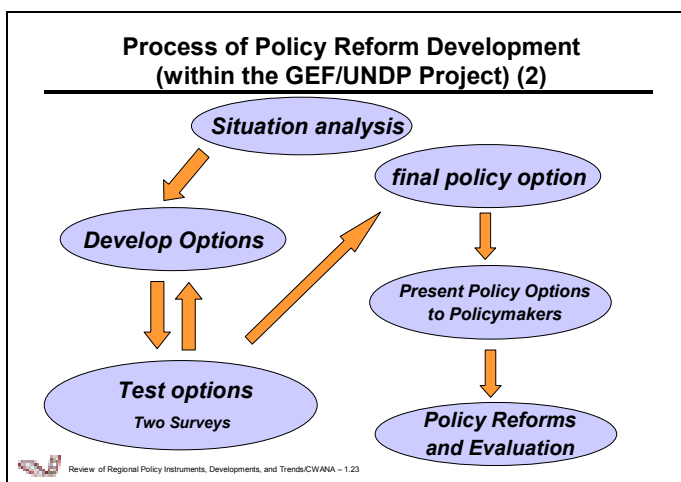
### Process of Policy Reform Development (within the GEF/UNDP Project) (1)

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- **Bottom-up approach**
- **Participatory decisions in policy making**  
(community participation and interaction)
- **All policy, legal, institutional, technical and socio-economic conditions within the community taken into consideration**
- **Different levels considered** (field, community, national, regional and international)

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### A National Model – Jordan *Why Policy Options?*

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- **A set of policy options was developed based on a socio-economic survey to:**
  1. identify ways to mitigate the negative consequences of actions affecting biodiversity in the project areas
  2. identify the proper instruments for implementing environmental policies related to biodiversity conservation
  3. provide options that fit with the socio-economic needs of local communities
  4. help in implementing the CBD and laws and legislation designed to conserve biodiversity in Jordan and in the region

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**A National Model — Jordan**  
***The Tested Policy Options***

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The policy options identified include:

- improving Extension Services
- investing in research and extension
- developing incentive measures
- establishing or creating a Farmers' Association
- promoting new activities through increasing diversity and encouraging organic production
- rehabilitating/restoring and reseeded native populations
- empowering local communities
- establishing tenure security, land consolidation or exchange
- establishing *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation


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**A National Model — Jordan**  
***Approach to Test Policy Options***

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- ☒ A workshop was organized with 30 participants from different groups of stakeholders
- ☒ Two surveys were completed to test the policy options
- ☒ A questionnaire was designed to identify and test the opinions of the decision makers in agro-biodiversity conservation
- ☒ Another questionnaire was designed to identify and test farmers' opinions on conservation of agro-biodiversity in their regions
- ☒ The two questionnaires were analysed using descriptive analysis; the results were presented to members of the the Jordan Parliament


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**A National Model — Jordan**  
***Primary Recommendations (policies and tools) (1)***

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- ☒ Several specific changes in the MOA and MOE should be made
- ☒ Many articles already included in existing laws and by-laws to be activated
- ☒ Extension Services need to be tremendously improved and more focus is needed on agro-biodiversity
- ☒ Policies related to agro-biodiversity in the Extension Services should be linked to applied scientific research

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**A National Model — Jordan*****Primary Recommendations (policies and tools) (2)***

- ☒ Land-use issues are another crucial factor that plays an important role in the conservation of agro-biodiversity
- ☒ Access to rangelands is closely related to farmers' understanding of property rights
- ☒ The farmers' favorite types of incentive schemes are individual incentives and group incentives
- ☒ Establish a Farmers' Association for improving the value-added from conservation and productivity improvement of landraces in the region

