



ICBA, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development to open Emirates Soil Museum

September 5, 2016, Dubai, UAE – The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) signed today a memorandum of understanding to complete the construction and enhancement of the Emirates Soil Museum, a unique facility in the Gulf Cooperation Countries and the Middle East and North Africa region.

As soil plays a critical role in the natural environment, it is important to maintain and increase public awareness about its functions and management. The United Arab Emirates has a wealth of soil knowledge that has been gathered from several soil surveys in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and the northern emirates.

Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General of ICBA, said: “As soil is a non-renewable resource, it is essential to ensure its preservation for food security and sustainable future. This requires continued public awareness of the importance of soil and negative impact of unsustainable uses of soil. Therefore, we are setting up the Emirates Soil Museum with support from the Government of the UAE, and in particular Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), so that the museum will serve as a repository of knowledge for scholars and the general public who are interested in soil preservation.”

The partnership between ICBA and ADFD will help to make the Emirates Soil Museum a unique national educational hub of soil-related information for a diverse range of audiences.

ADFD will provide funding to improve the exterior landscape of the museum located on the ICBA premises in Dubai, as well as enhance the interior exhibits by using modern technologies such as augmented reality. The funding will also help to cover the operational costs of the museum for two years.

H.E. Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director General of ADFD, said: “At ADFD we possess the expertise, know-how and resources to profoundly drive socio-economic growth; stemming from 45 years of experience and the successful development of 481 projects 55 of which fostered expansions in the sector of agriculture and irrigation. Our newly formed memorandum with ICBA, directly complements our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives that seek to support local society; by tactically assisting the progression of educational and social causes. The Emirates Soil Museum, an exciting addition to our UAE portfolio, will now enjoy the use of cutting edge technologies within the spheres of augmented reality and audio-visuals, guaranteeing the Museum a hub for disseminating critical information for industry stakeholders and enthusiasts alike. At ADFD we take responsibility to arm our youth with the learning opportunities to defend our food source and the preservation of our land.”

The museum is designed to cater to the needs of a variety of visitors, including school children, university students, researchers, professionals and scientists, environmentalists, professional contractors, land use planners, decision- and policy-makers.

It is hoped that the museum will help to raise awareness and foster appreciation and understanding about the importance of soils for national development and food security.

The official opening is scheduled for December 2016.



صندوق أبوظبي للتنمية
ABU DHABI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT]

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About ICBA

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is an international, non-profit organization that aims to strengthen agricultural productivity in marginal and saline environments through identifying, testing and facilitating access to sustainable solutions for food, nutrition and income security.

www.biosaline.org

About Abu Dhabi Fund for Development

About ADFD

Abu Dhabi Fund for Development is a national organization owned by the Abu Dhabi government. It was established in 1971 to help emerging countries achieve sustainable development by offering concessionary loans to finance development projects in these countries, adding to other long-term investments and direct contributions. Additionally, the Fund manages government grants offered by the UAE by overseeing and directly following the course of projects.

<https://www.adfd.ae/>