



ICBA strengthens cooperation with Brazilian agri-tech industry

- Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, joins thought leaders, scientists and experts from around the world for discussions on global food security and hunger.
- ICBA strengthens partnerships with Brazilian agri-tech entities and showcases its agricultural research and development work.

São Paulo, Brazil, June 19, 2024 - The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture ([ICBA](#)) is looking to expand collaborations with leading Brazilian agri-tech institutions to bolster national and international efforts aimed at increasing food security and alleviating hunger worldwide.

Joining more than 500 high-level delegates, including senior government and business representatives, from different countries, Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, participated in the International Conference on Food Security and Fighting Hunger “Josué de Castro” in São Paulo, Brazil, at the invitation of Mr. José Aldo Rebelo Figueiredo, Municipal Secretary of International Affairs of São Paulo.

ICBA’s participation in the conference is aligned with its endeavor to strengthen cooperation with leading Brazilian agri-tech institutions to support local and global efforts to increase food security and reduce hunger. Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi held discussions and meetings with different partners with a focus on these goals, as well as ICBA’s work in saline and arid regions to address agricultural challenges through research and innovation.

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi participated as a speaker in a special session on science and biotechnology and spoke about the challenges to food security in the Arab region, including water scarcity, drought and salinization, and severe effects of climate change that the region is experiencing. She also presented examples of the innovative solutions that the center uses to mitigate and adapt to these challenges, including climate-resilient crops, water-saving technologies, solutions for reject brine management, soil amendments, and plant pest controls. She also emphasized the importance of collaboration between organizations and countries, pointing out ICBA’s partnerships with Brazilian agri-tech institutions such as the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa).



Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi said: “As a global agricultural powerhouse, Brazil has many leading agri-tech and agribusiness companies. And we aim to build long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with them in various fields. We believe it is important to exchange scientific know-how and expertise, conduct joint scientific research, and exchange experts and specialists to achieve greater impact as we work towards more sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.”

Dr. Celso Moretti, a member of ICBA’s Board of Directors, a researcher and former President of Embrapa, also participated in the conference. He said: “This conference was an exceptional platform to exchange insights and experiences on effective ways to deal with global challenges like hunger and climate change, among other things. South-South cooperation was at the center of these discussions, bringing together leading agri-tech organizations from various countries. We look forward to seeing the results of this cooperation in the near future.”

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi also took part in another panel discussion titled “Commerce, Sustainability and Nutrition” at the headquarters of the Brazilian Rural Society in São Paulo. This discussion convened scientists and experts in agriculture, sustainability, and nutrition from several countries.

She briefed the audience about ICBA’s research and development projects aimed at increasing food security and nutrition and addressing climate change and other threats to agriculture in saline and arid environments. In particular, she noted the role of ICBA’s genebank collection of salt-, heat- and drought-tolerant plants in developing more resilient and nutritious varieties.

These events underscored the importance of collaborative efforts locally and globally and presented new opportunities for cooperation in agricultural science and innovation.

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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 saline and arid 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.

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