

ICBA Marks 25 Years of Harnessing Science for Sustainability

Dubai, UAE, 02, December 2024:

As it approaches its 25th anniversary, The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture ([ICBA](#)) reflects on a journey marked by resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to supporting sustainable agriculture in some of the world's most challenging environments. Established in 1999 through a visionary collaboration between the UAE Government and the Islamic Development Bank, ICBA has grown from a regional initiative to a global leader in biosaline agriculture and climate-resilient farming solutions.

Headquartered in Dubai, UAE, ICBA was founded to address the urgent challenges of agriculture in saline and arid environments. Initially focused on tackling soil and water salinization, ICBA's mandate has since expanded to encompass broader global issues such as food security, water scarcity, and adaptation to climate change. Over 25 years, ICBA has extended its reach to support communities in more than 50 countries, equipping them with solutions for sustainable agriculture.

A Legacy of Innovation and Strategic Collaboration

ICBA's early work centered on identifying salt-tolerant crops and developing resource-efficient technologies to enable agriculture in water-scarce regions. Today, ICBA leads pioneering projects that range from natural resource management and climate adaptation to agri-aquaculture. Its genebank holds one of the world's largest collections of drought-, heat-, and salt-tolerant plants, ensuring the preservation of crop diversity essential for resilience in extreme environments.

ICBA's portfolio of initiatives includes groundbreaking developments such as the Emirates Soil Museum and the Desert Life Sciences Laboratory, each contributing to a better understanding of soil and plant resources in arid climates. Additionally, ICBA has championed the use of climate-resilient crops, like quinoa and pearl millet, to strengthen food security and support sustainable production in arid regions.

Empowering Global Communities Through Knowledge and Partnerships

Beyond research, ICBA has prioritized capacity development, partnering with organizations worldwide to empower farmers, scientists, and policymakers with expertise in sustainable



agricultural practices. Strategic alliances with entities like the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment underscore ICBA's influence in agricultural innovation on a global scale.

Looking Ahead: A Vision for the Next 25 Years

As ICBA celebrates 25 years of achievements, it remains dedicated to leading advancements in biosaline and climate-resilient agriculture. With an unwavering commitment to addressing climate challenges, ICBA aims to deepen its research, expand its partnerships, and continue building resilient food systems to benefit communities around the world.

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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 arid and saline 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.

www.biosaline.org