

# AAAID Newsletter

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الهيئة العربية  
للإستثمار والإنماء الزراعي  
**ARAB AUTHORITY**  
FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



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## Editor's Note



H.E Mr. Mohamed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei  
President and Chairman of AAAID

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) closes down 2017, which was full of many successful and fruitful activities and programs, the most important of which being the reinforcement of partnerships with a large group of investors in the public and private sectors in the field of agricultural projects. In this context, the Arab Authority organized Mauritania's Livestock Investment Forum in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under the patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister Yahya Ould Hademine on 13 November 2017. The forum witnessed a remarkable success with the signing of seven agreements to establish a number of projects in the fields of fish, poultry, red meat and the cultivation of various field crops.

With the aim of reaching food security, the Arab Authority agreed to increase the capital of some of its affiliate companies in order to enable them to exploit their full productive capacities, including The Arabian for Preserving and Manufacturing Agricultural Crops, Arab Poultry Production and Processing Company and the White Nile Sugar Company. Additionally, the Arab Authority's contribution to the fish farming project in the Sultanate of Oman was approved. In order to improve Al Marga for Cattle and Agricultural Development Company, the Arab Authority supported and financed the development and rehabilitation of the company starting from the 2016-2017 season by about USD 2 million. This is by establishing new sheds and buildings and buying modern and sophisticated equipment. The Arab Authority also contributed to The Arab Mauritanian Fish Company an amount of USD 5.4 million, which aims to establish an integrated industrial complex with advanced technologies to provide healthy fish meat to meet the growing demand for fish internally and externally.

As part of its vision to enhance its role in the sustainable development of rural areas, AAAID has embarked on development programs for the advancement of rural women through the establishment of successful and pioneering models. AAAID funded 150 women in South Kordofan municipalities through the Revolving Loan Fund to grow 1,500 feddans with corn, millet, and sesame. AAAID also continues its efforts to implement developmental programs targeting small farmers and producers, and has achieved remarkable successes in the region of Gabojja in the Al Jazirah state. Whereby the output of peanut yield increased from 15 sacks/feddan to 30 sacks/feddan. Wheat output went from 10 sacks/feddan to 21 sacks/feddan. This is in addition to an increase of 100 feddans of peanut cultivation, up from 369, while wheat went up from 280 feddans to 1250 feddan. Meanwhile the number of farmers increased from 79 to 225.

The goal of these development programs was to help improve the incomes of small farmers and producers, raise their standard of living, achieve good profit margins, enhance farmers' capacity to increase the productivity of cultivated areas and organize them in cooperative societies to increase cultivated areas and contribute effectively to reaching Arab food security.

Within the framework of joint collaboration with international and regional institutions, AAAID received in the second half of 2017; the Director General of the African Development Bank, the Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. This is in addition to the Ambassadors of Mauritania and France, and a delegation from the US Embassy in Khartoum. Not to mention many investors and companies wishing to participate in current and future investments in agricultural and animal resources sectors. As well as the participation of the Arab Authority in a number of exhibitions, forums and important agricultural events globally.

The Arab Authority launched on 28 September 2017 the "Green Culture Awareness Campaign" under the slogan "Our Food... Our Responsibility". This is with the belief that it is important to raise the awareness of Arab youth about the significance of the Arab agricultural sector as one of the pillars of the national product of most Arab countries. As well as a source of livelihood for most of its inhabitants. The Arab youth is one of the important influencers of the national output of Arab countries and have potential to develop the Arab agricultural sector and enhance its role in achieving prosperity.

AAAID also organized the Third Career Excellence Ceremony for its employees on September 28, 2017, in which a number of distinguished employees were honored. The Arab Authority seeks, through such events, to upgrade the work environment and motivate employees to do more to improve performance.

AAAID welcomes 2018 and looks forward to developing its role in the Arab agricultural sector and increasing its agricultural investments in both plant and animal sectors to ensure food for the Arab people and future generations and ensure the stability and welfare of the Arab societies. Due to its accumulated experience in the Arab agricultural sector and its management of different projects, the AAAID is more than capable of utilizing investments to support its role in achieving Arab food security.

**The success of Mauritania's Livestock Investment Forum organized by the Arab Authority  
for Agricultural Investment and Development on 13 November 2017,  
At the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott**

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and the Ministry of Veterinary in cooperation with the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of GCC Chambers, organized Mauritania's Livestock Investment Forum, under the patronage of His Excellency Eng. Yahya Ould Hademine, Prime Minister of Mauritania. The event took place on 13 November 2017 in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

During the opening session, HE Mohamed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, affirmed that the livestock sector is considered one of the main sectors in enhancing food security due to the large volume of animal resources in Arab countries, estimated at 356 million head in 2016. In addition to estimated lands of 32% of the total area of Arab countries, and about 35% of the food needs of livestock. Further explaining that animal products are a staple food for humans and an important source of protein.

H.E further added that in the framework of the strategic partnership with the Mauritanian government as one of the Member States, and its continuous support of the Arab Authority, an integrated agricultural research station was established in Rosso with the goal of improving field crop productivity, establishment of modern technologies and the application of integrated agricultural packages. Moreover, within the course of this year a study was completed on expanding the company's activities to produce various types of crops such as grains (rice, wheat, and maize), oil seeds, vegetables, potatoes and onions on an area of 3,400 hectares in the Brakna Region. Adding that the Arab Authority is also in the process of establishing a fish production company with an investment cost of Ouguiya Mauritanian 11.5 billion, with the participation of private investors to manufacture fish and its derivatives with international specifications and high quality. In addition to a project for the production of poultry meat and table eggs with an investment cost of about Ouguiya Mauritanian 12 billion. The Arab Authority also prepared feasibility studies for a number of other investment projects in the fields of dairy, red meat, and field crops.

H.E Mr. Mohamed Al Mazrooei further declared that there is considerable scope for increased investment in the various areas related to livestock production in Mauritania, starting with the establishment of projects for the marketing of animal products and the development of techniques of election, breeding and hybridization. As well as the expansion of the cultivation of fodder grains and green fodder, and to increase the added value of these resources through the manufacture of various animal products and agricultural residues by converting them to concentrated feeds, as well as providing health care services and veterinary medicines.

## H.E Eng. Yahya Ould Hademine

On his part Prime Minister, H.E Eng. Yahya Ould Hademine, stated that this forum will shed light on the promising opportunities for investment in this field, in which both Mauritania's public and private sectors are keen to carry out the roles assigned to them. Also explaining that the high level of participants including investors, businessmen and experts, "makes Mauritania have high hopes for the value of the outcomes that will result, stressing at the same time that the government will keep up with those results and work to translate them on the actual ground."



## H.E Fatima Bent Aswyne

On the other hand, H.E Fatima Bent Aswyne, confirmed that the forum is considered as “an important workshop and an important platform for introducing Mauritania’s livestock resources”. The Minister also pointed out that one of the objectives of the forum was to create a new environment for cooperation between the Mauritanian private actors and their counterparts from the countries involved in the field of livestock. Adding, “Working with partners to overcome the traditional methods, and moving from production for self-sufficiency to production for marketing and export”. Further explaining that the contents that were presented, valuable discussions and B2B meetings of the forum, will meet the goals of the participants and will guide them to choose the development projects that best suit their aspirations.



To conclude the opening session, memorandums of understanding and partnership were signed between the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and some national and international private parties, additionally, B2B meetings were held on investment in livestock in Mauritania.

Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of Mauritania, received on 14 November 2017 at the presidential palace in Nouakchott, H.E Mr. Mohamed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, and a group of investors who participated in the forum. His Excellency the President of AAAID briefed His Excellency the President of the Republic on the projects of AAAID that are being implemented and will be launched in the future such as the Agricultural Services Company in Rosso and the fish project in Nouadhibou. In addition, they discussed the developmental projects of the Arab Authority to help and provide assistance to families, small producers, farmers and educators. In conclusion, the President of Mauritania was briefed on the results of Mauritania's Livestock Investment Forum.

## Investment and Development



H.E President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir welcomed H.E Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, accompanied by the members of the Board of Directors of AAAID, at the Presidential Guesthouse in Khartoum on 27 December 2017. H.E Mohammed Al Mazrooei discussed with H.E President Omar Al Bashir the new projects of the Arab Authority and its activities, as well as the obstacles and difficulties facing AAAID's projects in the country of the headquarters, Sudan. His Excellency pointed out that Sudan is the largest country with agricultural resources where AAAID has invested about USD 700 million and established 12 agricultural projects in different sectors. H.E President Al Mazrooei further explained that the Arab Authority has three new projects in the sector of sugar and red meat worth USD 120 million and veterinary medicines worth USD 46 million. In addition to approximately ten thousand feddans provided to small farmers that twenty thousand farmers were able to benefit from. His Excellency further stressed that Sudan is rich in agricultural resources that have the potential and requirements that make the country the food basket of the Arab world. His Excellency also pointed out that the Arab Authority contributed to the initiative of the President of the Republic to achieve Arab food security, and provided a number of agricultural projects in support of the initiative of the President of the Republic H.E Omar Al Bashir, including the Agadi project in the Blue Nile province. On his part, H.E President Omar Al Bashir confirmed Sudan's support of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development. As well as to provide all facilities and aid in overcoming obstacles to implement AAAID's projects.



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## **The Arab Authority supports The Tunisian Fund for Fish Farming with a contribution of %15**

- The Fund was established in 2017 with a capital of Tunisian Dinars 50 million, equivalent to USD 25 million. It aims to finance small and medium enterprises involved in the aquaculture sector (production of fodder, larvae production, and fish breeding and marketing) mainly in Tunisia and secondary in the Maghreb, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions.
- The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development contributed 15% to the Tunisian Fund for Fish Farming with a contribution of Tunisian Dinars 7.5 million equivalent to USD 3.75 million.
- The Fund operates through a portfolio of about 15 projects with an average investment of 3 million Tunisian Dinars equivalent to about USD 1.5 million.
- The total investment cost of the projects invested is about Tunisian Dinars 98.5 million equivalent to USD 49.25 million and the expected contribution of the Fund is Tunisian Dinars 43.45 million which is approximately USD 21.7 million.
- The Tunisian Fund for Fish Farming will provide funding of more than Tunisian Dinars 50 million to enterprises and entrepreneurs who wish to develop their own projects in the fisheries sector. This will create new employment opportunities and increase the national production of fish to 20 thousand tons within 2020.





## **Al Marga for Cattle and Agricultural Development Company-Tunisia Produces 12 million litres of raw milk**

- Al Marga for Cattle and Agricultural Development Company, one of AAAID's affiliate companies, was established in 1982 in the state of Jendouba-Bousalem in the north-western part of the Tunisia. With an area of about 4070 hectares equivalent to about 9690 acres. The company aims to produce 10 million litres of milk annually, as well as producing fodder crops, sheep breeding and feed processing.
- In order to develop and rehabilitate the company, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development has supported and financed the project of developing and reorienting the activities of the company starting from the season 2016/2017 with about 2 million dollars. The rehabilitation included the construction of new sheds and buildings and the purchase of modern and high-end shops according to international standards. In addition to the rehabilitation of the old barns and the establishment of a new unit for the production of dairy. The number of existing cows is expected to increase, thus increasing the current capacity of the company from 9 million litres of raw milk per year to about 12 million litres of raw milk per year, an increase of about 30% from the current production capacity.

## The Arab Mauritanian Fish Company (Samak) – Mauritania (Under Implementation)

- AAAID contributes USD 5.4 million to the project of the Arab Mauritanian Fish Company, making up 45.9% of the total shares. The project aims to establish an integrated industrial complex with advanced technologies to provide healthy fish meat to meet the growing demand for fish internally and externally, in addition to the development of intra-Arab trade in fish products. The project consists of:
  - Fish reception unit with production capacity of 400 tons per day (about 100 thousand tons per year).
  - Unit for sorting and processing fish with production capacity of 300 tons per day (about 65 thousand tons per year).
  - Frozen fish unit with production capacity of 250 tons per day.
  - Frozen fish stores with a capacity of 10 thousand tons.
  - Fish production plant with a production capacity of 8000 tons per year (40 tons per day) and fish oil of 2000 tons per year (10 tons per day).
  
- The investment cost of the project according to the latest study is about USD 34.5 million to be financed through cash contributions by shareholders and short and long-term loans. The project is expected to achieve a profit of about USD 16 million in 2020. The strengths of the project are based on the high and growing demand for fish in international markets. As well as the fact that the project's stakeholders have long experience in fish processing and exportation. It is worth mentioning that the financial indicators of the project are encouraging, in addition to the availability of medium and long term loans in cooperation with one of the financial partners.

## **Arab Company for Veterinary Medicines Production- Sudan ( Under Implementation)**

- The project is designed and implemented according to the highest specifications required. In the first phase, the project consists of the manufacture of veterinary medicines from four European production lines, consisting of; a production line of powders with a capacity of 152.4 tons per year, a production line of pills (50 per can) with a capacity of 68 thousand can per year. This is in addition to a production line of injections with a capacity of 212 thousand litres per year, as well as an ingestion line (oral fluids) with a capacity of 472 thousand litres per year. In the second phase, the company is planning to manufacture medicine for human consumption. The project is expected to launch in the first quarter of 2018.

## **AAAID's Development Programs**

The Arab Authority has implemented a number of development programs and activities targeting small farmers and producers;

## AAID's Development Programs

### ■ The small-scale farmers support program

The Arab Authority started the implementation of small-scale farmers support program. The idea of the program is to support and develop the agricultural sector, both animal and vegetable and the maximum utilization of available natural resources present in the most promising areas. This comes through the provision of specialized credit lines to serve and support the different parties working in this sector to achieve their objectives, including the possibility of contributing to the provision of developmental credit services for small producers through financial funding that suits their potential. Improving the opportunities of small producers to achieve good profit margins, enhancing the ability of small farmers to improve their standard of living and contributing to food security in their regions, contributing to the promotion of work and increase of community institutions from agricultural associations, institutions and federations. The following areas have been targeted:

### ● Gabojja irrigation area – Al Jazirah State

The program targeted the summer loop with the cultivation of 1,500 feddan with peanut yield. The program benefited about (220) farms where all production inputs for the agricultural program were provided from seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and all agricultural operations in addition to the technical supervision of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and development. The program also targeted the cultivation of wheat in the winter loop in an area of 1,450 feddans. The program benefited up to 386 small farmers in the region. The program included 7 agricultural links distributed over 7 irrigation channels including; Umm Al Ujoor, Mussalam, Abu Hamra, Wad Khalid, Al Aghar, Abu Ruwaishid and Al Anaj.

- **Al Matouri irrigation area – Al Jazirah State**

The program targeted the summer loop with the cultivation of 1,500 feddan with peanut crop in an area of 324 feddan and benefited 54 farmers. As well as the cultivation of 315 feddan with wheat crop, benefiting 48 small farmers in the region. The program included two agricultural associations distributed over two irrigation canals, including: Al Rawyana and Al Hjeirat Association, and Hind Association.

- **Al Shawwal irrigation area – Al Jazirah State**

The program aimed to plant 220 feddans with wheat crop during the winter loop. The program benefited 42 small farmers, and included two agricultural associations distributed on Al Agher Aadi and Wagiehalah canals. It should be noted here that there are 11 agricultural associations in the Al Jazirah State which benefited from the program during 2017. The Arab Authority used the profit formula in financing farmers, whereby production inputs are given to suppliers and payment of services to companies (in-kind funding).

- **Al Gozz Region – South Kordufan – Female Farmers Development Program**

The program targeted 150 women farmers in the region of Al Gozz in the state of South Kordufan, to grow and produce seeds of peanut, sorghum, millet and sesame in an area of 1,500 acres. In the efforts of taking the initiative of increasing production and productivity and the Arab Food Security Initiative, which targeted the cultivation of about 1 million feddans in the state of South Kordufan, the Arab Authority has already contributed to launching the second version of the initiative. The program included five women's associations;

Manafu Association: Number of women farmers (30) Area (300 feddan) Production of sesame seeds  
Tanjoor Association: Number of women farmers (30) Area (300 feddan) - Production of millet seeds  
Al BalGhati Association: Number of women farmers (30) Area (300 feddan) - Production of corn seeds  
Al Diryan Tamam: Number of women farmers (30) Area (300 feddan) - Production of peanut seeds.

- **Al Alga Region(Breeding and fattening of sheep) – White Nile State**

The program targeted (60) pastoralists in the region of Alaga in order to support and develop the livestock production sector (raising and fattening sheep) by making maximum use of the available natural resources. Where a model program was designed for these shepherds to own flocks of sheep. The program has so far been utilized by the targeted 60 beneficiaries. The fourth stage has been completed where 15 shepherds were provided 20 lambs with the purpose of fattening instead of breeding. The herd started with (479) head of sheep (the first stage), and the herd size increased by 70% of the total herd. The second and third phases of the first stage were implemented and the fourth phase was carried out by recycling the initial capital.

- **North Kordufan and White Nile Region – Drinking Water Program**

Within the framework of the Arab Authority's efforts to establish effective partnerships with organizations working in the field of rural community development, the Arab Authority signed an agreement with the Al-Suqaya Charitable Organization. Under the agreement, AAAID manages the drilling unit owned by the Arab Authority, which was devoted to mobilizing resources for the Fund. In this framework, 6 wells were drilled in the regions in Sudan suffering from scarcity in drinking water, 5 being in North Kordufan, and one in the White Nile region. This led to a positive impact on the stability of farmers' communities in the regions.

## AAID's Development Programs

### ■ Program for the development of vegetable growing at the Bandasmilini Research Station / Moroni

AAID also implemented the program for the development of vegetable cultivation at the Bandasmilini research station, Moroni, Comoros, where the station carried out 12 experiments during the autumn and winter seasons of 2017 in exposed fields, they included trials of varieties and times of harvest for sweet potatoes, tomatoes and potatoes. The results obtained showed the superiority of specific potato strains during the summer and autumn summer season, with a good yield of about 2.5 tons per feddan, despite the scarcity of rainfall during 2017. However, the plant achieved the estimated yields of crops in the potato harvest, where half of the production (about 1.2 tons) was used for cultivation during the 2018 season thus reducing production input expenses. The station continues to play an important and key role in the training of farmers and students in the Comoros. During the year 2017, a number of delegations visited the station, including a delegation from the Comoros Ministry of Agriculture to stand and benefit from how to adapt banana seedlings imported by the Ministry previously in terms of breeding them in the cellars before distribution to farmers. A number experiment was carried out in one of the greenhouses in the station and the experiments have succeeded significantly. Also, a number of students from the Agricultural Training Institute visited the Comoros, where they were trained on how to grow potatoes and how to use pesticides in addition to introducing drip irrigation system and its mechanism. In the future, the station will be planning to develop the performance of the station through the establishment of projects supporting farmers, such as the introduction of revolving fund to provide loans to farmers in the region.

### ■ Providing a funding line for the local funds network in Mauritania

The Arab Authority granted a loan of USD 2 million to the Local Funds Network to implement development programs for small farmers in accordance with the financing agreement decided between the Arab Authority and the Network. The activities included vegetable farming, animal husbandry and income-generating activities to contribute to improving the situation of small farmers and producers. The duration of the project extends over four years from 2017-2020 (inclusive of an exemption year). The number of projects executed is 1751 small projects and about 5,251 small farmers distributed in 13 states in Mauritania benefited from funding. The projects implemented included agricultural activities and breeding small ruminants (sheep, goats), apiaries, poultry and fattening of calves.





During 2017, the station carried out six research experiments in open fields, including: testing of varieties and times for different strains of imported potato seeds from the Netherlands including; Sagitta, Bartina, Fortus, Rosi, Lucinda, Farida, and Flamenco. Experiment with testing varieties of potato seeds (17 categories) for the selection of varieties suitable for the Mauritanian environment. Experiment with two varieties of onion (Red creole, Texas grano) to test their off-season productivity. The experiment of cultivating 3 varieties of cantaloupe (Tanor, Exelor, Quijano) and 5 varieties of melons (No 161, Dattona, Crison raby, Crimstar, Wat 1941) and two varieties of zucchini (Suha, SQ01936) for the selection of varieties suitable for the Mauritanian environment. Test cultivation of varieties of vegetable crops from the eggplant family. Experiment of testing two types of maize seeds (Early thai, Golden bantam) using drip irrigation. Results obtained from the cultivation of different varieties of seed potatoes experiment has shown that the potato cultivation in the Mauritanian environment is promising in the event of early agriculture (end of October and beginning of November). The Sagitta potato varieties outweigh other varieties in terms of productivity and their endurance of the Mauritanian climate. It is worth mentioning that there is a research plan for the year 2018 for the cultivation of potatoes (Sagitta type), to prove its high productivity and its strength against the climatic conditions in Mauritania. This is in addition to the cultivation of various varieties of field crops (wheat, barley, maize and maize) with sprinkler irrigation, cultivation of various varieties of vegetable crops under drip irrigation and off-season farming in green houses.





**The Minister of Finance of Sudan appreciates the role of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development in the Republic of Sudan**

**H.E Dr. Mohamed Othman Sulaiman Al-Rikabi  
Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Sudan**

H.E Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, met with H.E Dr. Mohamed Othman Sulaiman Al-Rikabi, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Sudan, on Tuesday 22 August 2017 at his office in the Ministry of Finance premises in Khartoum. H.E Mr. Al Mazrooei expressed his thanks and appreciation to H.E the Minister for providing the opportunity to have the meeting, which comes within the framework of discussing the developments of investment prospects and studies concerning the restructuring of some of the companies operating in Sudan. This is with the aim of utilizing their full productive and operational capacity in coordination with the Ministry. The meeting also tackled the challenges faced by the companies of the Arab Authority where some practical recommendations were discussed on how to overcome these challenges. There was also a review of the role played by the Arab Authority in supporting small farmers to increase agricultural production through the Revolving Loan Fund program. H.E the President stressed the need to coordinate efforts of the Arab Authority, the Ministry of Finance and Agadi Company to attract Arab funding to support the project of a supplementary irrigation channel in the Damazin region. This will accelerate the process of agricultural development in the region and enable the company to take advantage of both the summer and winter seasons. On his part, the Minister welcomed the President of AAAID and wished the Arab Authority success in its serious efforts to increase investments in Sudan, appreciating the role of the Arab Authority in the Republic of Sudan and its contribution to the Sudanese economy.

## **The importance of agro-industrialization is the focus of the meeting of the President of AAAID with the Minister of Industry of Sudan**

### **H.E Dr.Moussa Mohammed Karama, Minister of Industry of Sudan**

H.E Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, welcomed at his office at the headquarters of the Arab Authority in Khartoum Dr. Moussa Mohammed Karama, Minister of Industry of Sudan, accompanied by Mr. Hassan Saty, Director General of White Nile Sugar Company on 19 September, 2017. The meeting also included a number of directors of departments in the Arab Authority H.E the President welcomed H.E the Minister and expressed his thanks and appreciation for his visit. H.E Mr. Mohamed Al Mazrooei also presented an explanation of the different projects of the Arab Authority in the Headquarters in Sudan. For his part, H.E the Minister thanked H.E the President of AAAID for the warm reception and the opportunity to meet with him. During the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of the role of the Arab Authority and its investments in Sudan, which works to support the agricultural sector and the food-processing sector. The meeting also discussed support for the White Nile Sugar Company, which is one of the Arab Authority's affiliate companies, with an authorized capital of USD 471 million. The Minister further explained that the White Nile Sugar project is considered one of the important and strategic projects in Sudan and is very reliable in the supply of sugar. He went on to add that the project contributes to the Arab private sector and Arab financing institutions and funds, at a cost of 1.2 billion US dollars. At the end of the meeting, the Minister reiterated his support for the Arab Authority's projects in Sudan, stressing the importance of the role of the Arab Authority in achieving Arab food security by utilizing the agricultural resources that Sudan is rich in, and implementing the initiative of His Excellency the President of the Republic

**The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in Khartoum Visits the President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development.**



**Cooperation and unity of objectives between the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development**



On 14 October 2017, H.E Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, received HE Prof. Ibrahim Adam El-Dekheiry, Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development at the regional office of the Arab Authority in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The meeting happened in the presence of department heads from AAAID and an accompanying delegation from the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. H.E the President welcomed the visit, praising the close relationship between the Arab Authority and the Arab Organization and the constructive cooperation in various fields that support the agricultural sector For his part, His Excellency the Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development thanked H.E the President of the Arab Authority for his warm reception and welcome, stressing the unity of agricultural development objectives between the two institutions to achieve the goals of Arab nations. Pointing out the new vision of the Arab Organization to strengthen cooperation ties with all regional and international organizations, as well as establish a system of international partnerships and implement programs to meet the challenges of Arab agricultural development such as the effects of climate change and desertification. This is in addition to the transfer of modern technologies, noting that the Arab Organization is preparing studies for agricultural projects analytical framework, taking advantage of the statistical information center developed by the organization. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to start cooperation in the field of exchange of technical and statistical information between the two institutions, cooperation in the preparation of studies related to the agricultural field, and benefiting from the regional offices of the Arab Organization to promote the investment projects of the Arab Authority This is in addition to cooperation in the organization of conferences, seminars and meetings in the field of agricultural investment, and benefiting from the organization in training in the field of agriculture. The Arab Organization supports the Arab Authority through the inclusion of each of the White Nile Sugar Company and the Agadi project within the initiative of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sudan. Furthermore to providing the opportunity for the Arab Authority to present its activities and investment initiatives in the field of agriculture to the Arab Ministers of Agriculture.

## The Third and Fourth AAAID Board of Directors Meetings of 2017

The Board of Directors of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development held their third and fourth meetings for 2017 at the headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan during the period of 20-21 September 2017. The meetings were headed by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID and Chairman of the Board of Directors. During the meetings, a number of decisions were discussed to address the situation of some of the Arab Authority's affiliate companies and the new investment projects that support the enhancement of Arab food security.





**Al Mazrooei stresses the possibility of cooperation with American companies and investors.**

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development received, Mr. Theodore T. Senasu, Economic Adviser to the United States Embassy in Khartoum, on 2 November 2017, at his office at the AAAID headquarters in Khartoum. His Excellency welcomed the visiting delegation and thanked them for the visit, which comes in order to discuss aspects of cooperation in the common areas between the two sides. They were briefed on the activities and investments of AAAID in Sudan. He stressed on the possibility of collaboration of the Arab Authority with investors and American companies, especially after the lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Sudan. Focusing on the field of the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies in the irrigation and agricultural machinery sectors, fertilizers and agricultural pesticides. H.E Mr. Mohamed Al Mazrooei also expressed his happiness about the agricultural potential enjoyed by Sudan. His Excellency further discussed the familiarity of the Arab Authority in the field of financing small-scale farmers and providing them with integrated technical packages of improved seeds and facilitating the use of agricultural mechanisms in all agricultural operations in addition to the usage of agricultural transactions recommended by agricultural research, resulting in increased productivity of farmers. On their part, the American delegation thanked the President H.E Mr. Mohamed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei for the warm welcome, praising the importance of the role of the Arab Authority in investment in the agricultural sector. They also stressed the need to attract American companies to invest in Sudan and enter into partnerships with the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development to achieve the objectives of both parties.

## **French interest in the projects of AAAID and coordination for collaboration in food security projects**

On 27 November 2017, Her Excellency, Emmanuelle Blatmann, Ambassador of the French Republic to Khartoum visited His Excellency Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, at his office at the AAAID headquarters in Khartoum. The Ambassador thanked His Excellency the President of the Arab Authority for providing the opportunity to meet with him as well as the warm reception, stating the potential of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, and its projects that contribute to reducing the food gap. She further explained that the aim of the visit is to get to know more about AAAID and its fields of work and to strengthen the bonds of cooperation with the Embassy in areas that serve the development and promotion of establishing food security. This is through partnership in food production between AAAID and the French Development Agency and through the implementation of development programs with small-scale farmers. The meeting also touched on the interest of the French side in the development of livestock through the establishment of slaughterhouse for the production of meat for export purposes. This is in addition to their partnerships with the private sector in the manufacturing of processed peanut products, and the Sudanese French Company for the Production of Gum Arabic. As well as their desire for partnership in the small-scale farmer projects on the Gezira Agricultural Project located on the Sudanese state of Al Jazirah.



## **The Minister of Animal Resources in the State of South Darfur discusses collaboration with the Arab Authority**

On 29 November 2017, H.E Mr. Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID, welcomed Mr. Masar Ali Masar, Minister of Animal Resources of South Darfur at his office at the AAAID headquarters in Khartoum. H.E the President welcomed the Minister and briefed him on the plans and activities of the Arab Authority in various fields, especially developmental programs. He explained that the Arab Authority's responsibility is increasing day by day as the Arab food gap increases. This requires the concerted efforts of all concerned parties to increase agricultural production in the Arab world. He further added that Sudan has the resources to achieve Arab food security and is a candidate to become a world leader in agriculture. For his part, the Minister thanked H.E the President of AAAID for his warm hospitality, pointing out that the aim of the visit is to strengthen the cooperation between the Arab Authority and the State of South Darfur, especially in the field of development. The two sides exchanged collaboration ideas between the Arab Authority and the State, which is rich in enormous animal wealth, noting also the density of sandy valleys in the state, which can be used in the process of water harvesting.

## **HE. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID Discusses investment opportunities in Oman through the Seminar on Investment Prospects in Food Security**

HE Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President and Chairman of AAAID, participated in the Seminar on Investment Prospects in Food Security under the theme "Opportunities and Challenges" organized by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), represented by Food Security Committee, in cooperation with OCCI Branch in the Governorate of Dhofar. The seminar was sponsored by Mr. Sayyid Mohamed bin Sultan Al Busaidy, Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar.

The Arab Authority's participation focused on highlighting the most important investment opportunities in the areas of food security and the challenges faced by the private sector to invest in food security projects. The seminar aimed at highlighting the importance of food security and its active role in societies, emphasizing the most important opportunities for investment in this sector, identifying the challenges and problems facing investment in food projects, and reviewing some successful experiences inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman, and through sharing experiences and knowledge in food security.

The President of the Arab Authority, H.E Mr. Al Mazrooei presented a working paper titled "The efforts of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development", which offered an overview of the Arab Authority and its objectives as well as distribution of its investments, capital and projects. He also discussed the investments of the Arab Authority in Oman and its projects that are under implementation and investment opportunities. He added that Oman contributes 0.07% of the paid up capital of the Arab Authority, equivalent to USD 424 thousand, while AAAID's investments in the Sultanate are estimated at RO 17.8 million (equivalent to USD 47 million). These investments consist of the project of the mother of broiler chickens and the production of hatching eggs, with a target of producing 150 million fertilized eggs annually at an investment cost of RO 62 million. Additionally, Al Bashaer Meat Company, which aims to produce around 28,000 tons of red meat with high specifications for the Omani market and the Gulf countries, replacing meat imports with local meat with reliable sources and stabilizing the markets of red meat. Al-Murooj Dairy Project in the Dhofar Region (under implementation). It aims at the collection and production of milk, butter, cheese and other dairy products, pasteurization, sterilization and packing of milk and fresh milk and processing dairy products as well as sweetened and natural products.

In conclusion, the seminar recommended the importance of a specialized entity to clear all procedures and provide the necessary data for food investment. It also recommended providing a package of investment incentives to the private sector to attract investment in the Sultanate of Oman in projects that produce basic food commodities.

## The Arab Authority's launch of "A Green Culture Awareness Campaign" Receives appreciation and unrivalled encouragement



The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development launched the "A Green Culture Awareness Campaign" under the slogan "Our Food .... Our Responsibility" on the morning of 28 September 2017 at the Arab Authority in Khartoum in the presence of H.E Dr. Sabri El-Dawar, Ministry of Agriculture and a number of strategic partners. The strategic body is represented by H.E Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, H.E Mr. Babagana Ahmadu, FAO Resident Representative. In addition to support and collaboration with Mr. Tariq Ahmed, Country Program Manager of IFAD, Mr. Mustafa Khojali Director of Programs and Partnerships, British Council Sudan and Mr. Taha El Roubi, Founder, Capital 91.6FM Radio. There was also an attendance from the Sudanese Youth Union, representatives of agricultural colleges and a group of individuals interested in the agricultural sector and a number of local and Arab media organizations.

H.E Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President and Chairman of the Arab Authority, delivered a speech during the ceremony welcoming the audience. In his speech, he explained that the campaign is accompanied by a variety of programs and activities aimed at raising the awareness of Arab youth about the importance of the Arab agricultural sector as one of the pillars of the national product of most Arab countries. The campaign comes in line with the initiatives of the Arab Youth Center, which is supported by President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and H.H Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. H.E Mr. Al Mazrooei further stressed that Arab countries have agricultural resources and climate diversity in addition to a strategic geographical location, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency in commodities and attain a surplus of agricultural products that can be exported. He also called for the promotion of culture among Arab youth.

During the ceremony, a number of fruitful seedlings were planted in the garden of the Arab Authority. The process of planting continued in a number of agricultural institutions, embassies of Arab and foreign countries, strategic partners of the Authority and a number of media institutions. This initiative found a wide resonance and encouragement from all these institutions. The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development is the main sponsor of the campaign, which is carrying out its awareness mission through its social networking sites. The first phase will be launched in the capital Khartoum, with the aim to reach the largest number of young people in the Arab countries in the future. The program will reveal a lot of promotional materials and future activities.

“Our Food Our  
Responsibility”

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a.green.culture

A\_Greenculture



## Appreciation and gratitude as a result of the success of the revolving loans fund of the Gabojja Associations in Al Jazeera Agricultural Project in Sudan

A delegation, headed by Dr. Al-Jaili Al-Bilal of the Gabojja branch of Al Rhadi Office in the Al-Jazeera Agricultural Project visited the headquarters of the Arab Authority in Khartoum on 18/7/2017 to give their thanks and appreciation to the Arab Authority on the provision of the funding made accessible to the different associations. These include Um Al Ujoor Association, Msallam Association, Wad Khalid Association, Abu Hamra Association, and Al Aghar Association. The delegation met with HE Mr. Mohammed Bin Obeid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority, and expressed their gratefulness for his standing with them in all stages of the work since the funding and up to the harvest phase. The delegation assured AAAID that they would continue with the same enthusiasm and keenness so that the experience will prevail throughout the region. For his part, HE the President of AAAID expressed his readiness to continue the efforts of the Arab Authority to stand with them, support them, and even participate in the field. It is worth mentioning that the project management has paid the entire loan granted to it by the Arab Authority, under which 1000 feddans were cultivated during the summer season and 500 feddans of wheat in the winter season of 2016-2017. These associations operate through the revolving loan fund established in 2008 to support small farmers in Arab countries. The Arab Authority is providing its development programs through the Small Farmers and Producers Support Program initiated by the Arab Authority with the aim of optimizing the use of natural resources through the provision of appropriate, continuous and reliable credit services to small farmers. This in addition to encouraging rural finance institutions and civil society organizations in the member countries of AAAID to improve the living and food standards of the rural population.



## Honoring the Arab Authority at the celebration of the Arabian Cooperative Company, Aseer

HE Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, participated in the celebration organized by the Arabian Cooperative Company in Aseer on the occasion of reaching an output of 30 million birds in the year. The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Mansour bin Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz, Prince of Aseer Region, on October 9, 2017 in Ben Hamsan traditional village in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. H.E the President of the Arab Authority delivered a speech during the ceremony, praising the Arabian Cooperative, which represents the embodiment of the spirit of joint Arab action and a model of effective and productive partnership in the working interest. This is in addition to the strategic partnership and successful experience of the Arabian Cooperative Company in Aseer and its impact on the supply of estimated quantities of production. He also pointed out that the Arab Authority, since its establishment 40 years ago, seeks to enhance food security in the Arab world by providing sustainable, nutritious and affordable agricultural and food products, noting that the Arabian Cooperative Company in Aseer is one of the investments of the Arab Authority. He also stressed that the Arab Authority is committed to its vision through its continuous efforts in agricultural investment, in addition to the development of agricultural and human resources. In his speech, H.E the President expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and all officials in the Kingdom for the support of the poultry sector, which has had a clear impact on achieving these results. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Abdullah Saeed Bin Kaddman was elected Chairman of the Council of Cooperative Societies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and H.E Mr. Mohamed Obaid Al Mazrooei was awarded as well. Additionally, he also signed two agreements between the Arabian Cooperative Company in Aseer, and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and another between the Arabian Cooperative Company in Aseer and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Abha.





## **French interest in the Arab Authority's projects and activities**

H.E Mr. Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID, participated in the Sudanese-French Economic Forum held on 4 July in Paris, France. The event was jointly organized by the General Federation of Sudanese Employers, the French Embassy in the Republic of Sudan, ADEPTA, which provides technical, financial and technological services to companies working in the agricultural sector and AX-EMA, which is a consortium for manufacturers and importers in France. The meeting was attended by a number of businesspersons and companies working in the agricultural field in Sudan and France.

During the forum, H.E Mr. Mohammed Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID, presented a paper in which he explained that, since its establishment, the Arab Authority has been interested in agricultural development and has achieved many accomplishments in the agricultural sector. He further explained that the Arab Authority's work is divided into 4 major sectors as follows: agricultural manufacturing, plant production, livestock production and agricultural services. H.E Mr. Mohammed Al Mazrooei also stated that AAAID contributed to the implementation of several development programs targeting mainly small farmers and producers as they contribute the largest share of agricultural production in African and Arab countries.

These programs included the deployment and settlement of modern agricultural technologies and the provision of agricultural services such as revolving loans to provide the requirements of agricultural operations. He further explained to the forum participants that the Arab Authority has experience in the field of agricultural investment in Sudan gained over the span of four decades. Additionally, there is stability, advantages and potential available in Sudan that France needs, and the activation of cooperation between the two countries can lead to the development of the Sudanese economy. His Excellency also called on French companies to collaborate with the Arab Authority in establishing pioneering agricultural projects in Sudan. He also invited French and Sudanese companies to attend a promotional forum organized by AAAID in collaboration with the Mauritanian Ministry of Veterinary, to be held in Mauritania during the second half of 2017.

During the forum, H.E Mr. Mohammed Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID met with the director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). He explained that the objectives of the Organization are to ensure transparency in the general situation of animal diseases and to protect international trade through the dissemination of health standards for the international trade of animal products. This is in addition to evaluating the performance of veterinary services in various member countries through the use of the international quality standards and evaluation mechanism and collaboration with the OIE regarding the red meat project in Mauritania. Adding that there are areas of cooperation within the framework of the regional program for protection against trans-boundary animal diseases, which is being implemented in cooperation with the World Bank in West African countries (including Mauritania). AAAID's President also met with PROPARCO, a development financial institution partly owned by French Development Agency and B2Marine. During these meetings, H.E Mr. Mohammed Al Mazrooei discussed fields of collaboration and coordination between the Authority and those institutions. The forum program included working sessions on the large agricultural potential and agricultural investment opportunities in Sudan, in addition to organizing B2B meetings for a number of companies and economic institutions participating in the forum.

## **His Excellency the President of AAAID visits the area of Gabojja Al Jazirah State, Sudan**

In 2008, AAAID launched an initiative to establish a revolving loan fund for small producers in its member states with a proposed capital of USD 100 million. Whereby the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development contributed in the amount of USD 10 million to stimulate other institutions to mobilize additional resources for the fund. The fund was set up in order to enhance the role of AAAID in the fields of sustainable development in rural agricultural communities through mobilizing resources and directing them to contribute to increasing the productivity of the rural agricultural community. The Fund aims at providing agricultural financing directed at small producers to achieve the investment and development objectives of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development. As well as encourage them to increase their production, improve their standard of living, raise their productivity, diversify their activities and develop their abilities. The Fund also aims to activate the role of producers' associations to contribute to the advancement of agricultural development in the Arab region.

On 26 November 2017, H.E Mr. Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID, accompanied by a delegation from AAAID, visited the area of Gabojja located in the Al Jazirah state in Sudan. This is in response to the invitation of the Gabojja farmers to launch the harvest activities and fulfill the pledge made by H.E the President with the farmers of the region during their visit to the AAAID headquarters in April 2017. They also wanted to provide awards as a token of gratitude for the support they received from the Arab Authority, which promised to visit the area to witness the physical output of their productivity. H.E the President and his accompanying delegation also wanted to learn about the success of cultivation of peanuts, which was cultivated during the summer season on an area of 1500 acres and the beginning of the cultivation of wheat on an area of 1250 acres with funding from AAAID.

During the ceremony, which was held in honor of his visit to the village of Kados in the province of Al Managil located at the Al Jazirah state, His Excellency thanked the farmers of Gabojja for their invitation to the launch of the harvest process. The ceremony witnessed attendance and participation from the mayor of the Al Managil province, the director of the Gezira Agricultural Project, the agricultural research director, representatives from the Ministry of Irrigation, and managers and directors of agricultural insurance companies. This is in addition to the director of the National Security office in the province. As well as the associations of the Gezira Agricultural Project and students and citizens of the region.

H.E pointed out that the Arab Authority has contributed to changing the way of life in the region. He further pointed out that the Arab Authority, since 2004, has worked on the interest of the associations of producers and farmers through the implementation of a series of programs and activities and technical support, through agricultural extension and settlement of agricultural technologies and providing loans, and establishing successful model projects in various Arab countries. He further called on farmers to double their efforts, explaining that during the period of 2013-2017, the total output increased from 15 sacks/feddans to 30 sacks/feddans. While wheat output went from 10 sacks/feddans to 21 sacks/feddans. This is in addition to an increase of 100 feddans of peanut cultivation, up from 369, while wheat went up from 280 feddans to 1250 feddan. Meanwhile the number of farmers increased from 79 to 225.

For their part, all farmers stressed that the experiment of funding they received from the Arab Authority was successful and enabled the farmers of the village of Kados to change their economic conditions, stressing that this funding has facilitated a boom and growth in the region, as well as the lives of citizens. They also confirmed their readiness to continue with AAAID to increase the number of beneficiaries of funding in the coming seasons.

For his part, Engineer Jaili Mustafa, Mayor of Al Managil, said that the Association of Gabojja is a model for contractual partnerships between AAAID and the cooperative societies, praising the position of AAAID, which contributed to the development of the agricultural process of the Gezira Agricultural Project.

Engineer Othman Samsaah, Governor of Al Jazirah said that the Gezira project requires increased funding; calling on the Arab Authority to raise the ceiling of funding for this promising project.

To conclude the ceremony, the citizens of the village of Kados and the farmers of Gabojja honored H.E the President of the Arab Authority with certificates of appreciation and souvenirs for the support from AAAID in the region.

It is worth mentioning that farming was carried out using integrated agricultural machinery, equipment and technology under systematic, scientific and field supervision. The results were impressive in terms of plant density and growth consistency and the absence of weeds, showing promising future results.

At the end of the visit, all farmers stressed the need for the continuation of AAAID to provide funding to increase agricultural areas with full commitment to pay off their debts. The delegation got a look at the process of harvesting the peanuts, which is nearing its end and signifying high productivity through the survey of a number of farmers. The delegation also visited exhibition accompanying the celebration, which contains a number of agricultural equipment and informational posters.

## **Third Annual Career Excellence Ceremony 2017**

In order to stimulate the work environment and motivate employees to make more efforts to improve, advance and progress their performance, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development organized the Third Career Excellence Ceremony for its employees and their families on September 28, 2017. The event saw the presence of a number of the strategic partners of the Arab Authority as well as different media representatives.

During the ceremony, the President of AAAID H.E Mr. Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei gave a speech of welcoming the employees and their families, and thanking them for their attendance. He also congratulated the employees who were honored and praised the continuation of the celebration in its third year to spread the culture of innovation, excellence and practical application that develops the spirit of competitiveness and leadership.

He also expressed his wish that the coming year witness more successes and creative initiatives that are in the interest of upgrading the Arab Authority. At the end of his speech, H.E congratulated all employees of the Arab Authority, and thanked them and their families for participating and wished them success and good health.

## Employees Were Honoured

### Distinguished Counsellor 2017:

Mr. Rajah Gopal

### Distinguished Department Director 2017

Ms. Hanan A. Al Gaai Corporate Communications and Media Department

### Distinguished Managerial/Executive Level Employees

- |    |                          |                                     |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr Omer A. Bahr          | Research and Development Department |
| 2. | Mr. Sameh Masnour        | Finance Department                  |
| 3. | Mr Mohammed Elamin       | Internal Auditing Department        |
| 4. | Mr Mohammed Abdul Jabbar | Agricultural Investment Department  |
| 5. | Dr Mohammed Faal Hassan  | Legal Advisory                      |
| 6. | Eng Ahmed Ali Altom      | Services Department                 |

### Distinguished Admin Level Employees

- |    |                    |                                    |
|----|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Salma Albashir     | President's Office                 |
| 2. | Ms Sara M. Alzeber | Internal Auditing Department       |
| 3. | Ms Manal Babikir   | Agricultural Investment Department |



- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 4. Ms Amel B. Gassouma  | Research and Development Department           |
| 5. Saeeda H. Mohammed   | Legal Advisory                                |
| 6. Mr Sufian A. Hamed   | Finance Department                            |
| 7. Mrs Mai A. Ahmed     | Human Resources Department                    |
| 8. Mrs Elham A. Alarifi | Corporate Communications and Media Department |
| 9. Mr Badereldin Hassan | Administrative Services Department            |

### Distinguished Support Level Employees

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Almubarak M. Almubarak | Human Resources Department         |
| 2. Mr Elnaeem Nooreldaem     | Protocol Unit                      |
| 3. Mr Hassan M. Kheir        | Administrative Services Department |

### AAAID's Distinguished Employees

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| From Managerial Level : Mr Omer A. Bahr | Research and Development Department |
| From Admin Level : Ms Mai A. Ahmed      | Human Resources Department          |
| From Support Level :                    |                                     |
| Mr Almubarak M. Almubarak               | Support Services Division           |

### Distinguished Employees Chosen by President

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr Shalan A. Edan    | Director, Research and Development Department |
| 2. Mr Mohammed Othman   | Director, Agricultural Investment Department  |
| 3. Mr Ahmed Abdelwahid  | GM, ARAPPCO                                   |
| 4. Mr Atheer Z. Tawfeek | Director of Human Resources Department        |
| 5. Dr Talal Petrus      | GM, Al Marga Company                          |

### Employees with more than 30 years of service

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mr Kamal Hamza           | Finance Department |
| 2. Mr Abbas Mubarak Aballah | Protocol Unit      |

### Distinguished Department

#### Corporate Communications and Media Department



## **2016/2017 session of the Community Initiative Program comes to an end**

At the conclusion of the Community Initiatives Program of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, the team implemented the latest initiative of the current session in August 2017. As a touch of loyalty to the family of their colleague, the late Mousa Ada, the team bought sheep for Eid Al Adha for his family, as well as a financial sum to help them meet some of the needs of the Eid like clothing for the children and others, at their residence in Sennar and Khartoum.

## **The Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera Frugiperda*) attacks and destroys corn harvest of Agadi Company**

As part of its periodic follow-up to its agricultural companies in Sudan, a team of experts from the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development visited the Arab Sudanese Blue Nile Agricultural Company (Agadi). The team noticed that the total area planted with maize (about 3 thousand feddans) was attacked by *Spodoptera Frugiperda* (also known as Fall Armyworm), and the entire crop was completely damaged. The fall armyworm is considered one of the more serious pests recently discovered in Africa. It was first detected in Central and West Africa in early 2016 and soon spread almost all over sub-Saharan Africa, as it is able to fly up to 100 kilometers per night. It is an insect native to the tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas and can cause significant damage to crops, particularly maize, which it considers as a staple source of nutrition. Due to the seriousness of the worm on crops, FAO has proposed a five-year program to assist smallholder farmers, their organizations, public institutions, national governments and development partners to respond quickly to the challenges of infection from the fall armyworm throughout Africa. FAO is also actively involved in coordinating the activities, plans and approaches of its partners to provide sustainable solutions to the fall armyworm issue.

Within this framework, scientists from around the world have called for emergency measures to curb the spread of the fall armyworm that is causing significant damage to maize crops in Africa. The International Center for Agriculture and Biological Sciences warned of the seriousness of the worm, saying it threatened food security and the trade of agricultural crops, where agricultural crops would be exposed to the risk of larvae moving from Africa to Asia and the Mediterranean region. Scientists believe that the larvae and eggs of this insect moved to the African continent through imported products, adding that adult insects can move to distant places and spread very quickly. That is why farmers need to be assisted to have better results, and work to recognize what the fall armyworm is and how to identify and understand the biological and ecological factors related to it. As well as the ability to determine the level of risk in context to their production systems and to take appropriate action, whether related to prevention or response, based on their assessments. It is also imperative to deliver an integrated and sustainable program to combat the fall armyworm suited to the African environment and can be applicable by tens of millions of smallholder corn farmers throughout Africa.