

# AAAID Newsletter

Bi-Annual Newsletter Issued  
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Based on its keenness to reinforce food security in the Arab world, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development (AAAID), on 7 May 2020, announced the establishment of an emergency mechanism aimed at helping and contributing to providing the needs of Arab countries for basic food commodities. This comes as a necessary measure to confront the risk of a shortage of food availability in Arab countries in light of the spread of the Corona virus, which formed a global crisis that is the most dangerous of its kind due to its impact on all economic sectors. This is in addition to improving inter-Arab trade for these commodities through the companies in which the Arab Authority and other companies contribute. AAAID also indicated on plans to provide information on the quantities of surplus available for export from these commodities in Arab countries and elsewhere.

In the interest of the Arab Authority in the safety of its employees, and considering the precautionary measures taken in member states to confront the outbreak of the new Corona Virus, AAAID has adopted Remote-Work since March 2020. Whereby, the Arab Authority's employees continued to accomplish their tasks with regional and international partners smoothly and in record time. This is a result of AAAID's appropriate infrastructure for information technology, programs and automated systems, which support remote work.

The Arab Authority has also been keen to communicate with all the companies that it contributes in to know the precautionary measures the member states have taken to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This comes within the framework of the Arab Authority's efforts to preserve its investments by continuously monitoring the conditions of the joint-stock companies and providing them with technical, administrative and financial support. This is through determining the size and nature of the risks and the effects and repercussions resulting from the outbreak of the virus, which may adversely affect the progress of production operations of the companies. AAAID advised its companies to develop plans to reduce the negative repercussions and effects of those risks.

Through determined efforts, a number of the Arab Authority's companies were able to achieve lucrative profits by increasing production despite the global economic downturn following the Corona Virus crisis. In addition to providing and manufacturing some of the food commodities in shortage. These companies include the Arab Poultry and Cattle Equipment Company (APCECO) and Al Rawabi Dairy Company in the United Arab Emirates, and the Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company in Sudan.

AAAID is in constant support of the sustainable development goals, and to contribute to achieving one of its goals aimed at eliminating hunger, the Arab Authority has been able to achieve remarkable accomplishments through its implementation of finance programs to small-scale farmers in a number of developing Arab countries. In Sudan for example, the Arab Authority achieved successes in the previous seasons (2013-2019), after which it initiated financing an area of 18,500 feddan for small farmers in the Al-Jazeera project for the agricultural season 2019-2020, of which 8,000 feddan are peanuts and 10,500 feddan are of wheat crop. The program benefited (3,496) farmers for the summer and winter seasons. In the states of North and South Kordofan, the Arab Authority contributed to finance women farmers for the cultivation of 2,400 feddan of peanut and sesame crops. The number of women benefiting from this program reached 600 women, and the average productivity per feddan was about 328 kg for the peanut crop and about 360 kg for the sesame crop. The program contributed to the production of improved seeds, which increased productivity, and improved the economic situation of families as well as their standard of living and stability.

Lastly, AAAID declares to take all necessary action, in the hopes that, with due diligence and Divine support, Arab countries attain complete Food Security.



**H.E Mr. Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei**  
President and Chairman of the  
Board of Directors of AAAID

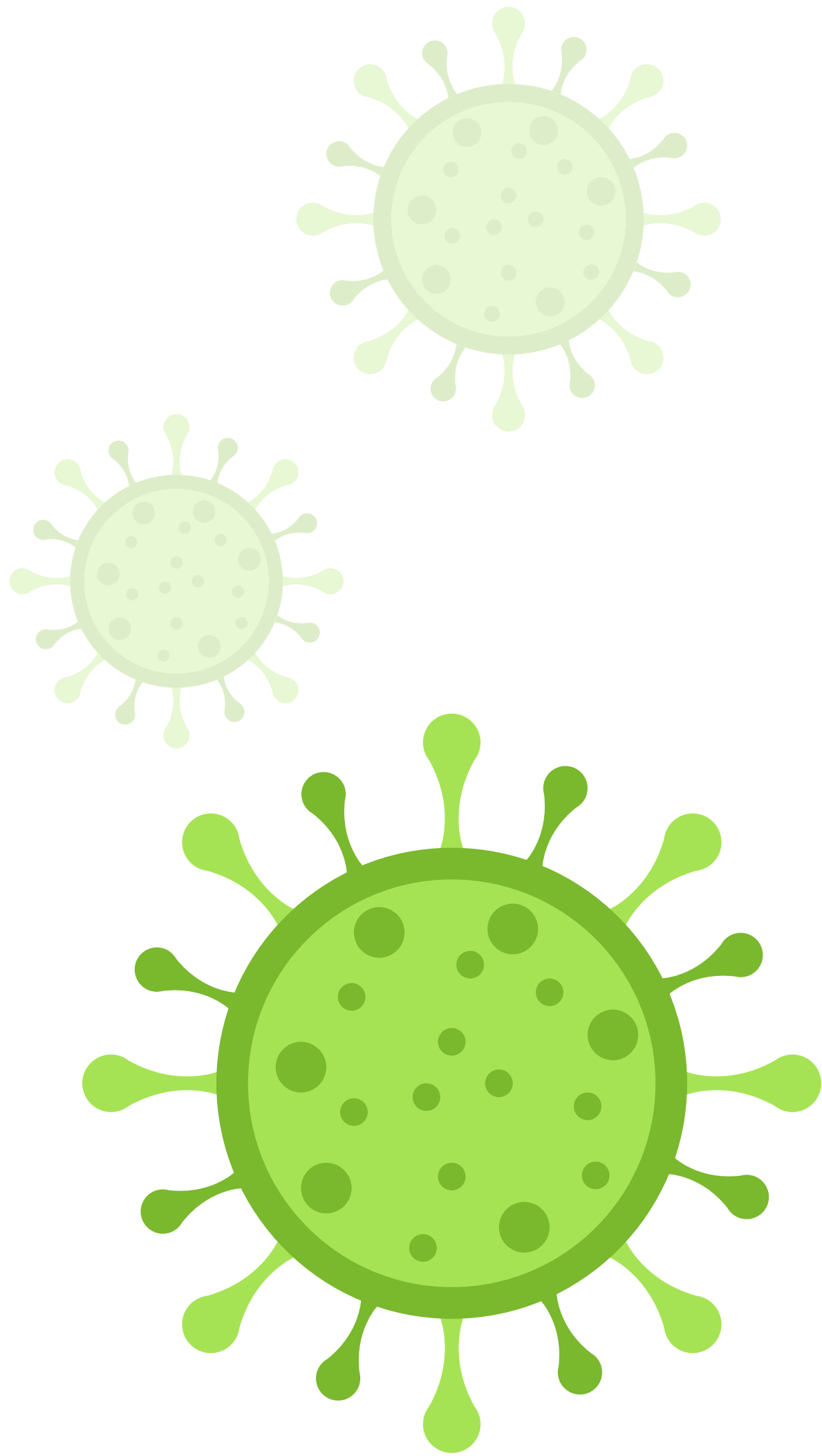
# AAAID's 44th Board of Shareholders Meeting



Taking into account the precautionary measures taken in member countries to confront the outbreak of the new Corona virus (Covid 19), and by consensus of Arab financial institutions, it was agreed to cancel the direct meeting of the Board of Shareholders of Arab Financial Institutions that was scheduled to be held on April 2020 in the Kingdom of Morocco.

As an alternative, the Arab Authority's management sent the recommendations of the Board of Directors to the representatives of AAAID's member states and the draft decisions of the forty-fourth session through electronic means of communication and express mail, which facilitated the process of trading and communication. The recommendations and decisions were approved by the members of the [Board of Shareholders](#), which were approved by His Excellency Marzouk El-Quseir, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Chairman of the Board of Shareholders of the Arab Authority at its forty-fourth session.

Among the resolutions issued at the forty-fourth session of the Board of Shareholders were the decision to approve AAAID's investment operations program for the year 2020, the decision related to approving the AAAID Annual Report 2019, and approving the final accounts for 2019 and allocating 10% of the Arab Authority's net profits for the year 2019 to support the people of Palestine.



## The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development launches a new “Initiative to Contribute to the Provision of Basic Food Commodities”

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development (AAAID), announced, on 7th May 2020, its plans to set an emergency mechanism which can help provide the needs of Arab countries for basic food commodities and increase inter-Arab trade of these products through [the companies in which the Arab Authority](#) and other companies contribute. The AAAID also indicated on plans to provide information on the quantities of surplus available for export from these commodities in Arab countries and elsewhere.

The initiative is part of AAAID's commitment to reinforce food security in the Arab region and is part of its key measures to tackle the risks of any food shortage in Arab countries amid COVID-19 outbreak, which has adversely affected all economies.

H.E. Mohammed Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID, said: “Since its establishment, the AAAID has been working to reinforce food security in Arab countries by investing in agricultural projects and supporting small farmers' programs. With the spread of COVID-19 negatively affecting various sectors, including food and agriculture, AAAID has been exerting all efforts in cooperation with various companies and other relevant stakeholders to ensure continuous supply of basic food commodities, given that most Arab countries import a major part of their basic food needs from abroad.”

H.E added: “The AAAID is working on a pioneering investment and technical model intended to support relevant entities in increasing the

activities related to agricultural product trading in the Arab region. The Arab Authority is also coordinating with various Arab countries to secure the needs of the population for basic food stuffs and promote solidarity amid global fear of food shortages in the markets due to the disturbances in international trade and food supply chains as a result of the limited mobility of people due to the spread of the Corona Virus.”

With the goal to enhance the coordination and cooperation among concerned parties in this regard, the Arab Authority launched an electronic platform to receive the supply and demand of basic food commodities. Whereby AAAID invited companies and manufacturers to register on the AAAID Online Platform for Food Commodities (<https://food.aaaid.org>). Companies willing to participate are to submit updated information of the food products available for export or the products they wish to import according to the following list of agricultural commodities; wheat, rice, maize, vegetable oils (raw and refined), sugar (raw and refined), red meat, poultry meat, fish, table eggs, dairy and its derivatives, fruits(orange, apples, bananas), vegetables (potatoes, onions, tomatoes). Through this platform, AAAID aims to coordinate with its affiliate companies and partner establishments in the field of agriculture for the provision of the demand for basic food products in Arab countries. The platform is one of AAAID's procedures to confront the risk of a “shortage of food supplies in Arab countries.»

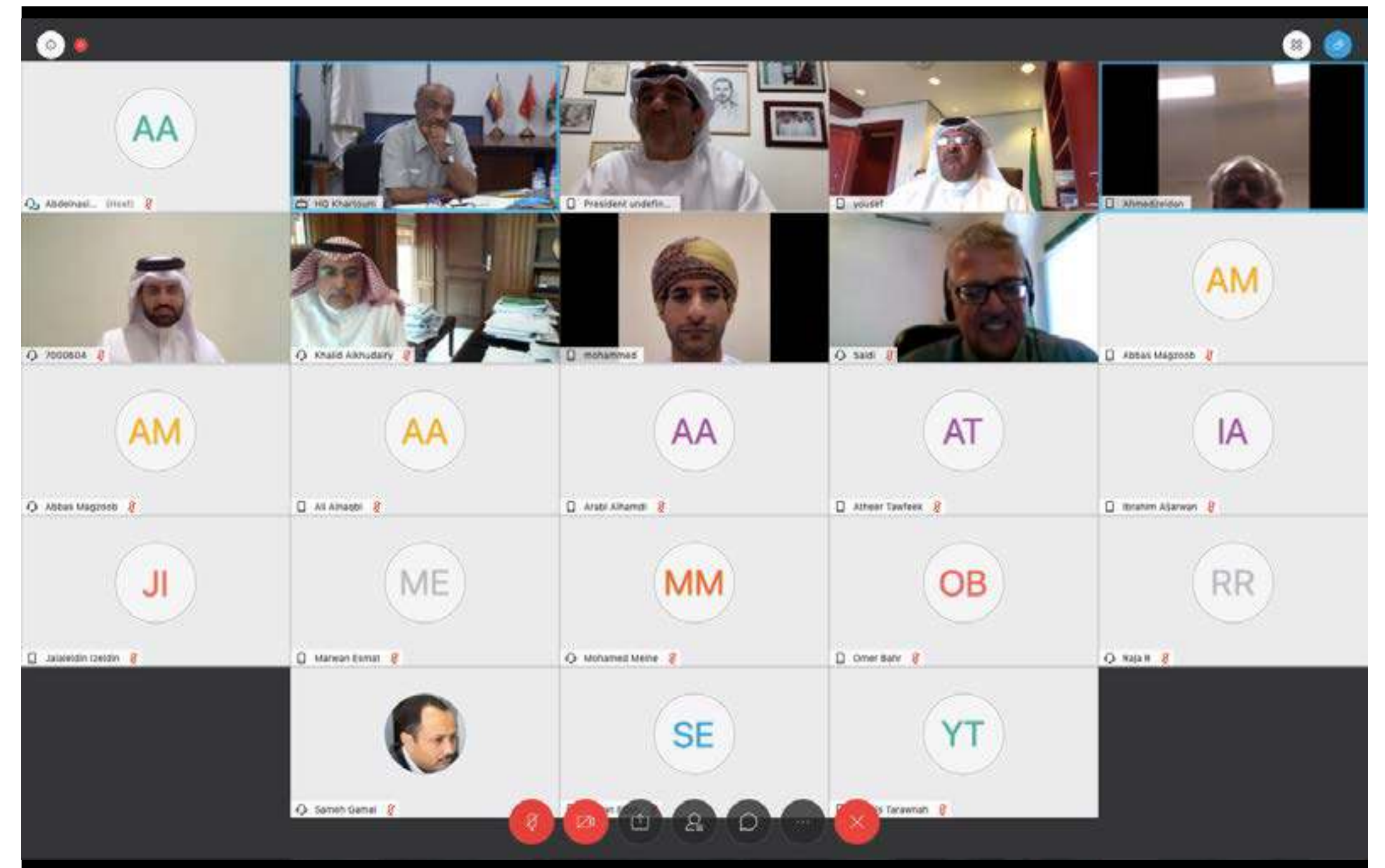
# AAAID's Board of Directors' Meetings

[The Board of Directors of AAAID](#) held its first meeting for the year 2020, on 4-5 March 2020 in Dubai, UAE, chaired by H.E Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of AAAID, in the presence of the distinguished members of the Board of Shareholders. The agenda of the meeting included a number of important topics related to the investments of the Arab Authority. The Board made a number of decisions and resolutions that included a recommendation to the Board of Shareholders of the Arab Authority, whose meeting was to be held on April 14, 2020, to approve the final accounts of AAAID for the fiscal year ending 31/12/2019. As well as the approval of AAAID's investment operations program for the year 2020 in the amount of KWD 9.1 million to implement new projects and development programs, the approval of the reappointment of the external auditor. The Board also approved the Arab Authority's contribution to the Themar Al Emarat LLC in the United Arab Emirates, and to contribute to increasing the capital of the Orbis Green Olive company in Morocco, as well as consent to invest in registered infrastructure stock and emerging markets sector.

The Board of Directors of AAAID also held their second meeting for the year 2020, on 7 June 2020; via internet video call technology, chaired by H.E Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of AAAID, in the presence of the distinguished members of the Board of Shareholders. The agenda of the meeting included a number of important topics related to the investments of the Arab Authority, including reports of the effects of the Corona Virus pandemic on AAAID and its affiliate companies, and on the problems and obstacles facing the Arab Authority's investments efforts to confront these challenges. In addition to notes on the status of some companies and other items related to the Arab Authority's financial affairs, administrative and legal work.

The Board also issued a number of decisions that included welcoming the esteemed members of AAAID's Board of Directors for the session (2020-2023), who are representatives of the sixteen member states whose contribution is less than 10% to the Arab Authority's capital. The Board, furthermore, praised the efforts of the AAAID's administration in following up the effects of the Corona Virus crisis on the Arab Authority and the companies that it contributes to it and the measures taken to confront the effects.

The Board also approved the increase of the capital of [Orbis Berries Company](#) in Morocco, and to expand and develop programs for financing small farmers and producers, and revolving loans in member states. In addition to other decisions related to monitoring the status of AAAID and the companies in which it contributes.



# AAID Successfully Implements Remote-Working and Completion of Tasks

Remote-Working is the choice of necessity to ensure business continuity in light of the commitment to staying at home and social distancing, for the safety and health of all in limiting the spread of the Corona Virus.

Based on the interest of the Arab Authority in the safety of its employees and its directives to preserve their well-being, as well as the safety of those dealing with AAAID from the Corona pandemic, the organization has approved, since March 2020, remote work and the continuation of work and tasks between employees internally and between the Arab Authority and the partners and dealers abroad. Whereby, the qualified infrastructure for information technology, programs and automated systems that support remote work contributed to the Arab Authority's employee's continuation to perform their internal and external tasks smoothly and in record time. In addition to the ability to communicate with all of AAAID's regional and international partners.

AAAID directed its executive departments to issue announcements to employees related to taking urgent and precautionary measures, provide temperature measuring devices and sterilizers at the entrances to the building and offices of AAAID and its buildings, and to display educational publications at entrance receptions.

AAAID also formed a committee to supervise its buildings during the Corona Virus pandemic and to control entry to the Arab Authority while adhering to the preventive instructions. Coordination was carried out between the technical services teams in the Maintenance and Services Unit. This is for the purpose of maintaining the operation of the electricity and air conditioning stations, in addition to preparing to provide the necessary traffic permits for the alternate work teams and for the employees whose work needs require their physical presence at the Arab Authority premises during the remote-work period.





# **Eye on AAAID's Affiliate Companies and Investment Projects**





**Trans Agri Holding Ltd  
(Under Implementation)  
United Arab Emirates**

- [The company aims to operate as an agricultural investment entity co-owned by the AAAID and Al-Rajhi International for Investment](#), with the objective to be a pioneering model in agricultural investment, and integrating related operations with a view to enhance food security in the Arab region.
- The investment entity plans to attract financing based on its good financial solvency, which contributes to sustainable agricultural development in the Arab countries through the integration of agricultural projects, the transfer and settlement of modern agricultural technologies, smart farming systems and the development of rural societies. Furthermore, it will manage investment projects in modern and innovative ways to achieve production efficiencies that will enhance Arab food security.
- The initial capital of the investment entity is SAR 2 million, contributed equally between the Arab Authority (50%) and Al-Rajhi International for Investment (50%).



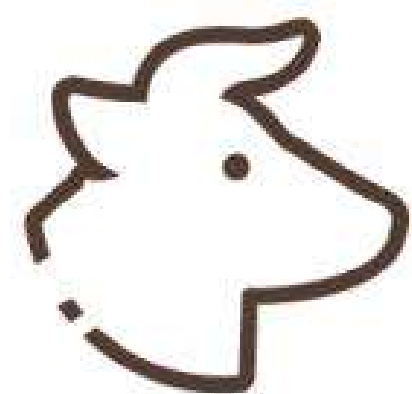
**National Veterinary Vaccines Company  
(Under Implementation)  
Sultanate of Oman**

- [The company was established late 2019](#), with the aim to contribute to meeting the demand in Arab countries for important widely used vaccines such as livestock foot and mouth disease vaccines, bird flu and Newcastle and other vaccines. The project will be implemented in two phases:  
Phase I: targeting aseptic filling and production of 114.5 million doses from different vaccines over an expansion plan of five years period.  
Phase II: production of 144 million doses of different vaccines from year 5 and onward.
- The equity capital is USD 20.91 million, and shareholders include; Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development with 30%, Middle East for Veterinary Vaccines Company (Mevac) 30%, Oman Food Investment Holding Company with 20%, and 20% in Unsubscribed Shares.



**Tunisia Aquaculture Fund Tunisia**

- [The Fund was established in 2016](#), with the objective of financing (Fully and Partially) small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in aquaculture (feed production, larva production, fish breeding and marketing) and mainly targeting Tunisia, and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions.
- The total investment cost of the fund is approximately TND 98.5 million (USD 49.25 million) and its contribution in projects is estimated at TND 43.45 million (USD 21.7 million).
- Three projects were approved for the Fund to contribute in as a shareholder, for a total of TND 6.9 million, and has already contributed to two of the three projects. Activity has also been expanded to include the Fund's investment in all actions related to sea fishing, as well as the fish farming sector.



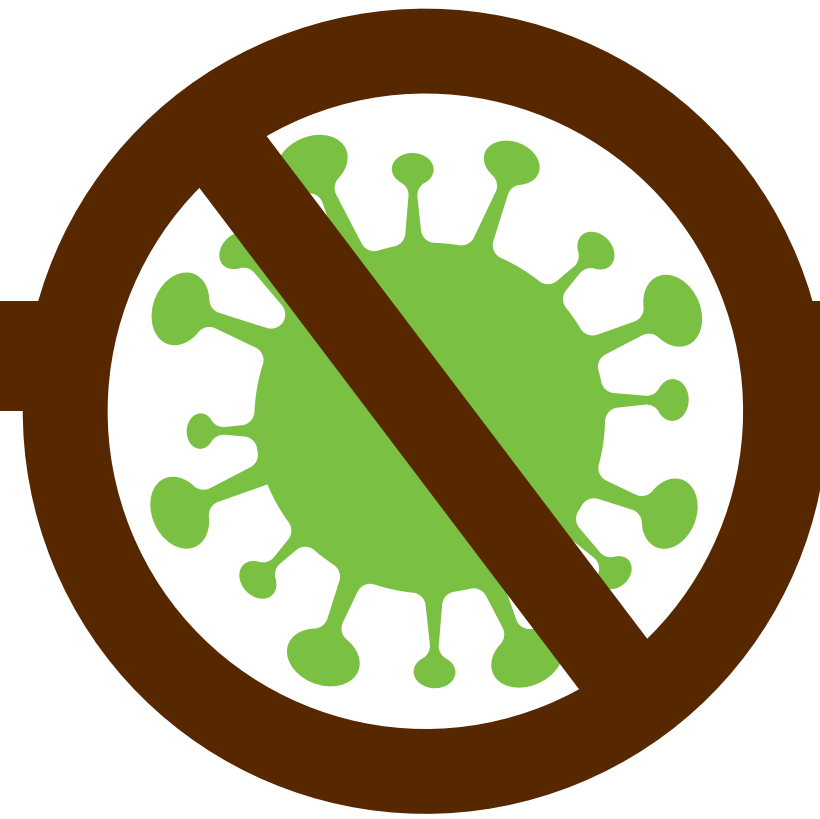
### **Arab Company for Meat Mauritania**

- [The company was established in 2018](#), with the aim to produce healthy meat according to the latest methods that meet international health requirements for export to external markets. As well as the establishment of a model slaughterhouse to operate with the appropriate quality and health specifications and modernization of the traditional methods used to slaughter, market and export meat in Mauritania. In addition to the fattening and slaughtering of calves, sheep and camels, the project also aims to contribute to covering the food gap (red meat) in the Arab Maghreb countries.
- The company's authorized capital is MRU 108 million (approximately USD 3 million). Its shareholders are; AAAID with 27.27%, Aynina Ould Eyih Group with 36.37%, Zine El Abidine Ould Cheikh Ahmed Group with 27.27% and an Arab Investor with 9.09%.
- The design capacities of the project are (fattening, slaughtering, and preparation) about 82,000 calves, 156,000 sheep and 28,000 camels per year, in addition to a storage capacity of 400 calves and 800 sheep.
- The company was registered as a hidden stock company with an initial capital MRU 11 million, which was paid by the shareholders.
- The investment cost of the project, according to the feasibility study, is about MRU 334.8 million, equivalent to about USD 9.3 million. The project financing structure includes medium and short-term loans, contributions, financing lease and Murabaha (which is cost-plus financing, an Islamic financing structure.)
- The project aims to contribute to covering the food gap (red meat) in the Arab Maghreb countries.
- The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.



### **Arab Company for Crop Production Sudan**

- [The Company was established in 2003](#), with an authorized capital of USD 30 million, shareholders of which AAAID with 52.75% and Emirates Rawabi Company with 47.25%. The project is located near Atbara town, north (376 km from Khartoum). The project has a total farm area of 20,000 feddans, of which 10,000 are being utilized, with a production capacity of 68,000 tons per year of alfalfa, 4,500 tons per year of wheat and 4,000 tons per year of maize.
- The company aims to cultivate, produce, trade and market alfalfa, wheat and green and dry fodder and export them. As well as carry out various efforts necessary to achieve its purposes that contribute to its overall development.
- The company currently has about 50 irrigation hubs and works in the production of alfalfa, Rhodes, maize and wheat, and exports most of its products, especially alfalfa and Rhodes, to the Gulf markets, which contribute to providing returns in hard currencies.
- The company installed 9 new hubs and electricity was connected to 9 additional hubs.
- As a future plan, the company seeks to invest the entire arable area at the project site by mounting and installing all 50 irrigation hubs, in addition to establishing fruit orchards and greenhouses to produce vegetables during the off-season. The company also plans to set up an animal production project to take advantage of the added value of plant waste on the company's site.



## Actions taken by companies in which AAAID contributes to face the Corona Virus pandemic

The Arab Authority has addressed all the companies that it contributes to in member states to know the precautionary measures it has taken to limit the spread COVID-19 virus. This comes within the framework of the Arab Authority's efforts to make its investments in companies successful by following up on the conditions of the joint-stock companies in which the Arab Authority is periodically providing technical, administrative and financial support. This is through determining the size and nature of the risks and the effects and repercussions resulting from the outbreak of the virus, which may adversely affect the progress of the companies' investment operations and laying down plans to reduce the negative repercussions of those risks and their effects. As such, a large number of companies have taken measures to contain this crisis from the beginning of the pandemic, as some companies have provided all the needs that support the progress of their investment operations. For example, [the Arab Poultry and Cattle Equipment Company \(APCECO\)](#) in the United Arab Emirates, purchased large quantities of imported goods, which resulted in unexpected success, as European and international companies stopped their production lines since the spread of the pandemic, which led to a severe shortage in the global markets, which resulted in the company achieving notable revenues in light of the depletion of goods with the competing companies in the poultry equipment manufacturing sector.

Similarly, all the companies in which the Arab Authority contributes took the necessary precautionary measures to limit the spread of the Corona virus and implement all the preventive conditions imposed by each state/country to protect employees and customers, as well as to adhere to the safety and security measures received from the relevant authorities in each state/country.



## Field Visits to AAAID's Affiliate Companies:

Within the framework of efforts related to developing and upgrading the performance of AAAID's agricultural investment activities in the [member countries](#), the management of Arab Authority made field visits to its investment projects in the member states in the beginning of the year 2020. These visits included meeting with ministers, senior officials and specialists in the concerned ministries, with the aim to review the problems and obstacles facing the [AAAID's affiliate companies](#), and work to overcome them in a way that helps support these companies and develop their performance and start towards their desired goals. The visits resulted in addressing most of the obstacles facing the Arab Authority's investments, and efforts are still ongoing to deal with the remaining challenges.

# Studies and Research and Development Activities

## The experiment of growing quinoa crops in the high salinity lands in Sudan

- The Arab Authority carried out a ground-breaking applied research experiment to cultivate quinoa crops on the lands of the Arab Company for Agricultural Production and Processing - Dairy Unit - in El Bageir (which is one of the lands with high salinity soil) for the first time in the Republic of Sudan.
- This experiment comes as one of the activities of the Arab Authority in reinforcing Arab food security by increasing the production and productivity of the prevailing grain crops varieties, in addition to introducing new varieties that contribute to providing alternative crops and are of high productivity.
- The experiment mainly aimed at measuring the plant's tolerance to high salinity, comparing its productivity with global productivity, and working on cultivating it in large areas of salinized lands as a supplement (and not an alternative) for other cereal crops that are difficult to adapt to saline soils
- “Quinoa” was chosen, which represents a kind of grain, and one of the promising future crops that contains high nutritional value and great medical and health benefit. The crop can bear various environmental conditions like drought and salinity, and contains a high percentage of protein, compared to other grains. Quinoa has many benefits, whereby grinding the grains into flour mixed with wheat flour can be used for making bread, making baby food.
- The results obtained so far showed the quinoa tolerance to the soil with high salinity, and this was evident in the vegetative growth of the plant in addition to the composition (grain). Productivity is projected to be high according to the current indicators.

## Development programs during the winter and summer agricultural season 2019/2020

- In light of the successes achieved in the previous seasons (2013-2019), In light of the successes achieved in the previous seasons (2013-2019), the Arab Authority funded an area of 18,500 feddan for small farmers in the Al-Jazeera project for the agricultural season 2019-2020, of which 8,000 feddan are peanuts and 10,500 feddan are of wheat crop. The program benefited (3,496) farmers for the summer and winter seasons, which achieved high productivity in both crops.
- The wheat harvest began on March 15, 2020, when the crop achieved unprecedented high productivity, as production per feddan in some locations reached 21 sack and 18 sack in other locations.
- In the framework of improving the performance of women farmers in the states of North and South Kordofan and the Arab Authority contributed, for the third year in a row, to finance the cultivation of 2,400 feddan of peanut and sesame crops during the 2019/2020 summer agricultural season. The number of women benefiting from this program reached 600 women, and the average productivity per feddan was about 328 kg for the peanut crop and about 360 kg for the sesame crop. This program contributed to the production of improved seeds, increased productivity, and improve the economic situation of families as well as their standard of living and stability.



# AAAID assists in organizing The Promotional Meeting for the “Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference” in Africa

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, in cooperation with the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, organized “The Promotional Meeting for the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference” on February 29, 2020. The meeting aimed at highlighting the most prominent investment and commercial opportunities in the African Great Lakes region. The meeting, which was held at the “Address Boulevard Hotel” in Dubai, was an ideal platform for investors and private sector institutions in the United Arab Emirates and the countries of the Middle East to explore areas that the private sector can invest in and contribute to achieving economic development in the region.

H.E Dr. Sidi Ould TAH, Director General of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, stated that, “The Bank continues its unwavering commitment to support economic and social growth in the African Great Lakes region. The convening of this preparatory meeting comes to provide an important platform that allows investors and private sector institutions from the UAE and Middle Eastern countries an opportunity to explore possible investment activities in the economies of the countries surrounding the Great Lakes. In addition to forming a deeper understanding in this regard before the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference scheduled for March of this year.”

On his part, H.E Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, stated, “The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development supports its sister organization, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, to achieve sustainable economic development in the African Great Lakes countries. This is in several areas, including the development side, in relation to small producers and farmers, as they constitute the largest proportion

in the field of agricultural and animal production and the agricultural sector in particular. In light of the resources that these countries have, they are beneficial to the [affiliate companies of AAAID](#) by opening new markets and advancing the countries through exchanging goods and common interests between them and the African Great Lakes countries. This paves the way for the development of these vital areas, which in turn contributes to achieving the global sustainable development goals, in which eradicating hunger in the world is one of its main pillars.”

The “Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference” will be held from 18 - 20 March 2020 in the Rwandan capital Kigali, and this event constitutes a global conference dedicated to mobilizing private sector investments and directing them to the African Great Lakes region, which includes Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The conference will be held under the theme “ Cross-border and trade investment as a catalyst for regional integration” with a focus on supporting and stimulating economic activities related to the value chains of logistics, agriculture, mining, energy, services and the tourism sector. The conference is expected to attract more than 700 participants from governments, private sector institutions, financial and development institutions and the most prominent international players in the investment field.

The “ Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference” is organized by the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for the Great African Lakes, the “International Conference on the Great Lakes Region” and the government of the Republic of Rwanda. The event is to be held by the signatories of the “Framework Agreement for Cooperation, Security and Peace” led by the United Nations, as a follow-up to the procedures and decisions of the “ Private Sector Investment Conference” held in 2016 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Great Lakes region is considered one of the richest regions of the continent of Africa in terms of untapped natural resources, which can be invested and developed with a view to achieving social and economic development in the region.



# AAID participates in a Webinar to discuss the implications of the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic on Arab food security - The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States



The Arab Authority for Agricultural investment and Development (AAID) participated on a Webinar organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, under the direction of H.E Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali, Assistant Secretary General, Head of Economic Affairs Sector, at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The Webinar took place on 20 May 2020, and saw participation from several organizations and institutions working in the food security sector.

During the Webinar, His Excellency, the President of AAID presented a paper entitled «The role of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development in the contribution towards providing the needed food products in Arab countries during the period of the Corona virus pandemic». Through which, H.E gave an [introduction of the Arab Authority and its goals and objectives](#), as well as the [sectoral and geographical distribution](#) of the Arab Authority's investments. The paper also discussed the impact of the pandemic on supply chains, the suspension of many countries from exporting their commodities, in addition to the policy of closures and embargoes that have affected local production and its delivery methods to consumers.

Furthermore H.E stated that the Arab Authority has prepared mechanisms to reduce the effects of the Corona virus crisis. These are represented by contributions from AAID's affiliate companies, whereby the companies provide basic food commodities such as grains, sugar, dairy, meat and oils. In addition to presenting AAID's initiative to contribute to the provision of basic food commodities.

H.E Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei also stressed that in order

to take necessary measures to confront the shortage of food supplies in the Arab countries, AAID has been exerting its efforts to create an emergency mechanism aimed at contributing to providing food commodities. This is by providing information on the quantities of surplus available for export and a deficit of those goods in the Arab countries and other countries to facilitate trade exchanges. In addition to creating an electronic platform to support the initiative, where AAID can exchange information, and informing the parties requesting food commodities of the available offers in order to facilitate the exchange of goods.

To conclude, H.E Al Mazrooei recommended the importance of establishing a free Arab agricultural trade zone in which all food products are exempt from fees and facilitating intra-regional trade. In addition to adopting joint Arab agricultural projects to produce basic food commodities and the associated food and transformational industries. H.E also recommended establishing a system for its implementation and for governments in Arab countries to execute infrastructure projects that serve the agricultural sector. As well as to provide an attractive investment environment for investments in the agricultural sector by providing exemptions and concessions to overcome obstacles and challenges, and encouraging all joint action Arab institutions to support the agricultural sector as it is an initiator for all economic sectors to achieve self-sufficiency in basic commodities. Likewise, Arab countries should cooperate in establishing an electronic system for exchanging knowledge and agricultural innovations, in order to facilitate dealing with such crises and develop the performance of the agricultural sector.

# A selection of the activities of AAAID's experts during the period January - June 2020



## Innovation and Future Foresight Diploma

The Arab Authority initiated the training of a diverse group of its employees to obtain a Diploma in Innovation and Future Foresight, with the aim of achieving a qualitative and innovative shift for the Arab Authority in its fields of work and its internal and external activities.

Whereby, Future Foresight determines the expected upcoming directions of AAAID and the opportunities and risks it carries, while innovation will help to respond to these opportunities and potential challenges in new ways and away from traditional methods and directs the Arab Authority to adopt modern applications that simulate accelerated future developments.

This training program is expected to achieve the following results:

1. Developing the capabilities of employees for long-term future planning using scenarios, through a series of workshops in the field of "future foresight and innovation" aimed to supplement the Arab Authority's efforts to develop innovative models for its projects and future activities. As well as developing flexible strategic plans that can be adjusted according to changeable variables, and dealing with various future directions and challenges to create a qualitative shift in the work of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development
2. Developing the capabilities of long-term future planning with scenarios, in order to achieve a paradigm shift, by adopting modern applications, techniques, technology and artificial intelligence.
3. Establishing concepts of prospecting for future foresight and innovation for the Arab Authority's employees in general, and for those concerned with the AAAID's future foresight and innovation committees in particular.
4. Achieve major benefit through the available capabilities in the disciplines and experience working at AAAID in order to create a clear and applicable business strategy and policy.
5. Empowering employees to be able to formulate innovative value-added initiatives.
6. Development of work in the spirit of one team, partnership in work, and exchange of experiences among the Arab Authority's employees.
7. For AAAID to be the first of the joint Arab financial institutions that invest in and empower its human cadre by qualifying them for the most important future methodologies and encouraging them to be creative and innovative.
8. Developing a sense of loyalty and belonging within the Arab Authority's employees, which reflects the interest of the higher management in developing their skills and benefiting from their capabilities.



## The first meeting of the Directing Committee of the Arab Project for Developing Agricultural and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Systems:

The Arab Authority participated in the meetings aimed to approve the executive plan of the Arab Project for Developing Agricultural and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Systems that was held at the headquarters of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Khartoum, Sudan on January 23, 2020, and the outcomes of the meeting were as follows;

1. Approving the project's implementation plan after making the below amendments:
  - The institutional framework of the project.
  - Schedule for the implementation of the project, especially activities in the first year.
  - Including a clause presenting the follow-up reports of implementation of activities to the directing committee for approval.
  - Introducing the evaluation assessment in the middle of the project period.
2. The decision to conduct an evaluation study of the agricultural statistical structure in the Arab countries during the first and second quarters of this year based on the guidelines prepared by the organization. As well as benefit from the study of AAAID for the establishment of the Arab Center for Agricultural Information and the study of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.
3. The invitation of the Directing Committee for the second meeting, after the collection of the results of a study assessing the current status of institutions of statistical work.