

AAAID Newsletter



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

As businesses and establishments seek innovative methods to combat recent global challenges, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) has prepared a strategic plan for the period between 2021-2025 based on systematic and methodical visions, directions and goals, whereby the most important sectors and the volume of the targeted investment projects for the next phase have been identified.

As such and in light of the effects resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and its significant changes and damage to the agricultural sector and food industries, represented in interruptions in commercial and logistical supply chains, shortages of production requirements and other damages that affected farmers' productivity. As a result of these challenges, a group of AAAID's affiliate companies were able to triumph and increase production performance as well as achieve progressive revenues. Among those companies are the Emirates Rawabi Company in the United Arab Emirates, the Arabian Cooperative Company (Aseer Cooperative) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Poultry Production and Processing Company, the Arab Sudanese Company for Vegetable Oils, Kenana Sugar Company, and El Muzdana Zero Tillage Agricultural Company in the Republic of Sudan, as well as both Al Ahliyah Vegetable Oil Company in Syria, Al Marga for Cattle and Agricultural Development Company in Tunisia, and Al Faiyoum Sugar Works Company in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Furthermore, in recognition of the significance of small scale farmers and producers and their role towards reaching food security, the Arab Authority's programs and activities for small farmers' revolving loans have achieved an increase and improvement in productive performance, achieving an increase of 61% in the countries benefiting from these programs. The number of beneficiaries has also increased to reach (151.2 thousand) during the period 2013-2019, this is in addition to providing direct and indirect job opportunities.

Over the years, AAAID also focused its concentration on rural women farmers by activating their role in food production and improving their standard of living, whereby, the total number of female beneficiaries during the period 2013-2020 reached about (3,412) beneficiaries.

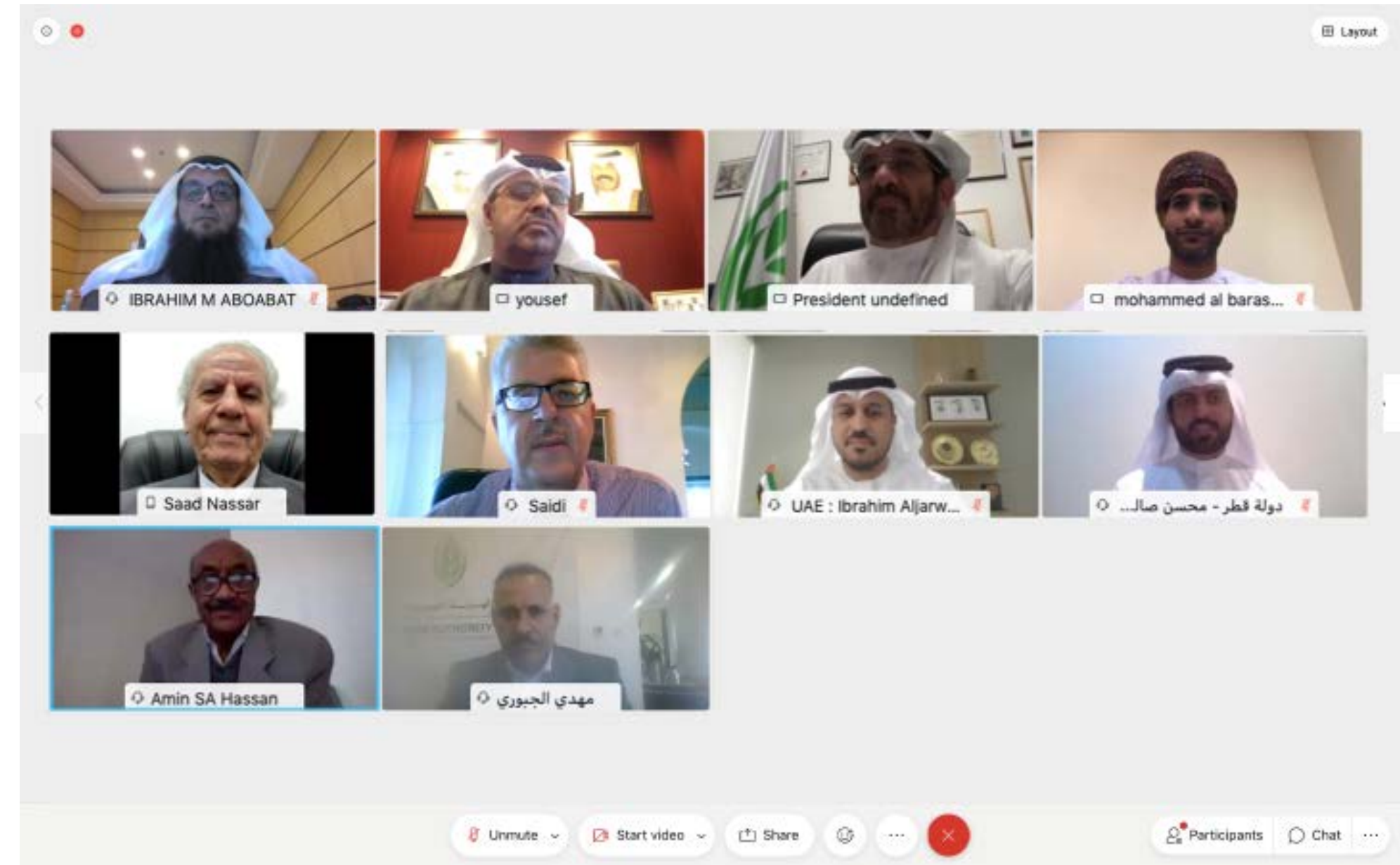
In continuation of these efforts, AAAID called in for a webinar titled «Financing Small and Medium Scale Farmers and Producers», that was organized last September to establish a Revolving Loan Fund that aims to support and empower small scale farmers with a proposed capital ranging between USD 150 to 200 million, with the participation and contribution of financial institutions and regional and international organizations.

Overall, and God willingly, despite all the challenges and obstacles, AAAID will continue to accomplish its set goals, as well as prevail as an Arab financial institution focused on investment and agricultural development with the aim of enhancing Arab food security.

AAID's Board of Directors' Meetings



Third meeting for the year 2020



Forth meeting for the year 2020

The Board of Directors of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAID) held its third meeting for the year 2020 via virtual communication technology on October 1, 2020, whereby the meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mohamed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of AAID, 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, including taking note of the conditions of some of the Arab Authority's Affiliate companies and the proposed amendments to the AAID's strategic plan due to the Corona Virus crisis.

The Board also approved a proposal to establish a company in Dubai with an investment and commercial activity to further diversify the sources of the Authority's income. Additionally, investment in global corporate bonds (GLOBALCREDIT) with Aberdeen Standard investment was also approved. As well As the approval of multi-asset credit investment with Mercer through the Mercer platform, and approval of the appointment of Mercer's consultant to carry out a general policy update for financial investments.

The Arab Authority Supports the Government of Sudan in Facing the Corona Virus Pandemic



Under the direction of His Excellency Mohammed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID), a delegation from the Arab Authority met with Lieutenant General Ibrahim Jabir, Member of the Transitional Sovereignty Council in his office at the Presidential Palace on August 25, 2020, with the aim of providing financial support to the Republic of Sudan to contribute in supporting the government's efforts to face the Corona pandemic.

The delegation praised the government of Sudan for the support and interest that the Arab Authority's projects receive in the host country, Sudan, adding that AAAID is looking forward to more support so that it can achieve its mission. For his part, Lieutenant General Ibrahim Jabir thanked AAAID's delegation for the visit, stating that such gestures are not surprising from AAAID, Lieutenant General Ibrahim also promised to arrange for a meeting with a team of experts from AAAID to discuss the challenges facing its investments in Sudan.

AAAID's vision in the G20 Summit Briefing Book, Saudi Arabia 2020

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development is the only joint Arab institution specialized in agricultural investment in the Arab countries, and due to its regional achievements and a pioneering position in its field of work, AAAID's vision has been published in the official [G20 Summit Briefing Book](#), which is the first summit of the G20 hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The event was held on 21 - 22 November 2020 led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, with the participation of heads and leaders of the member countries of the G20 nations.

AAAID's participation comes through the publishing of an advocacy in the official G20 Summit Briefing Book, which presented the vision of the Arab Authority to reinforce food security. The article states AAAID is working to provide basic food needs through agricultural investment in Arab countries, with 21 contributing Arab Member States, an equity capital amounting to USD 1.1 billion and a total asset value of USD 1.3 billion. AAAID currently has 53 Affiliate Companies, whose activities are concentrated in the agricultural manufacturing sector with 50%, 23% in the livestock production sector, 23% in the plant production sector and 4% in the agricultural services sector. AAAID's investments are distributed throughout different Arab countries, where, Sudan hosts 66% of AAAID's total investments, followed by Egypt 6.2%, UAE 5.6%, Iraq 4.4%, KSA 4%, Oman 3.4% and 10.4% in the remaining Member States as per the investment opportunities and the comparative advantages available to the region.

Following its mission to provide basic food needs through agricultural investment and development in Arab countries,



[AAAID's affiliate companies](#) work in production of grains, meat, dairy, oils and sugar. Accordingly, AAAID created and implemented numerous sustainable models that assist in increasing production and crop productivity, promote socio-economic development, protect the environment and grow a skilled workforce through organizing training and capacity building programs. One of the most recent programs implemented is focused on 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.

AAAID also implements programs supporting women farmers and small scale farmers and producers, through revolving loan programs, in rural areas of Sudan, Mauritania, Tunisia, Comoros, Egypt, among others, to grow corn, sesame, millet, peanut and other staple food crops. AAAID has been able to successfully alleviate the productivity and output of thousands of farmers with the number of beneficiaries reaching over 10,725 families, representing 58,557 families. As well as a threefold increase in cultivated areas and productivity as a result of AAAID's support to farmers in the application of modern agricultural technologies.

With the spread of the COVID-19 virus and recent global unrest, AAAID is relentlessly working on creating a pioneering investment and technical model in agriculture.

AAAID also has [10 applied research stations](#) that accelerate innovation with modern and advanced technologies, and disseminate the applicable results through its affiliate companies. The research stations also offer [gradual](#) and [accelerated](#) innovation processes.

Highlight of AAAID's affiliate companies and investment projects

1



The Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company

Republic of Sudan

2



CAAPP
Arabian Cooperative Company

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

3



Orbis Berries

Morocco (Under Implementation)

4



Orbis Green Olive

Morocco (Under Implementation)

5



Al Bashayer Meat Company

Oman



The Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company

Republic of Sudan

- [The Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company](#) is considered one of the major and pioneering companies in the field of vegetable oil industry in Sudan. It was established in 1982 and its paid-up capital amounts to about USD 65.6 million, in which the Arab Authority contributes with 88% and the government of the Republic of Sudan contributes 12%.
- The company has modern European technology in the field of crushing, refining and packing. With a crushing unit with a design capacity of about 75 thousand tons per year of oilseeds, the refining unit is about 18 thousand tons of crude oils and a soap production plant with a capacity of about 15 thousand tons. The company's market share is 13% of the total production of vegetable oils in the Republic of Sudan, where the company's products have a good reputation among consumers. The company has grown well-known brands such as the refined sunflower oil (Yara), refined groundnut oil (Al-Walima) and washing soap (Abu Qata). The company plans to export its products of various oils to other countries.
- During 2020, the company reactivated the soap plant after a hiatus of more than six years, and the company's distinctive product (Abu Qata soap) was launched, the product was widely popular in the local markets.
- The company achieved a net profit of about SDG 89 million in 2019, and the company's general assembly agreed to distribute dividends to shareholders at 25% of the net profits achieved.





Arabian Cooperative Company

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



- The Arabian Cooperative Company was established in 2009, as a partnership between the Cooperative Association of Poultry Producers (Aseer) with 80% and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, with 20%. The paid-up capital of the company is about SAR 200 million.
- The company provides breeders with chicks and fodder in addition to veterinary care, and in return, the company is provided with ready chickens for slaughter according to specific standards.
- The first phase of the project was implemented on the entire slaughterhouse, including the unit for treatment of waste and wastewater and the meat factory, where the total capacity of this phase is 42 million eggs / year. The company seeks to supplement the rest of the components of the project represented by increasing the capacity of the hatchery and establishing mother-hen farms.
- The company's production for 2019 reached about 37 million birds, with a rate of utilization of about 62% of the annual slaughterhouse capacity. The company has also succeeded in gaining a good reputation among the Saudi consumer through its brand (Osool and Taawoun), and aims to export its products to the UAE market.
- The company's market share is about 5% of poultry production in KSA.
- The company achieved a net profit of about SAR 12.6 million for the year 2019, equivalent to about USD 3.4 million. The company also achieved net profits amounting to about SAR 18.3 million in the first half of 2020, equivalent to about USD 4.8 million.





Orbis Berries

Morocco (Under Implementation)

- The Arab Authority contributes about MAD 87.17 million to the project, representing 49% of the project's capital. The project aims to create an integrated project for the production and packaging of various types of berries and citrus fruits.
- The project consists of :
 - i. 905 hectares of farms for growing berries and citrus fruits.
 - ii. A packing and packaging plant with a capacity of 33.5 tons per year.
- The investment cost of the project, according to the feasibility study, is about MAD 592.3 million, to be financed by contributions, loans, self-financing and government support.
- The project works to contribute to meeting local needs and exporting abroad.
- The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.



Orbis Green Olive

Morocco (Under Implementation)

- The Arab Authority contributes about MAD 21. million (USD 2.4 million) to the project, representing 49% of the project's capital. The project aims to produce olives and extra virgin olive oil.
- The project consists of:
 - i. A farm for growing olives on an area of 394 hectares to produce about 10,000 tons of olives.
 - ii. Crushing and packaging unit to produce about 2,000 tons of olive oil
- The investment cost of the project, according to the feasibility study, is about MAD 133.3 million, to be financed by contributions, loans, self-financing and government support.
- The project aims to contribute to meeting local needs and exporting abroad.
- The company is expected to complete the pressing unit at the end of 2021 and production of olives is to commence at the end of 2022.



Al Bashayer Meat Company

Oman

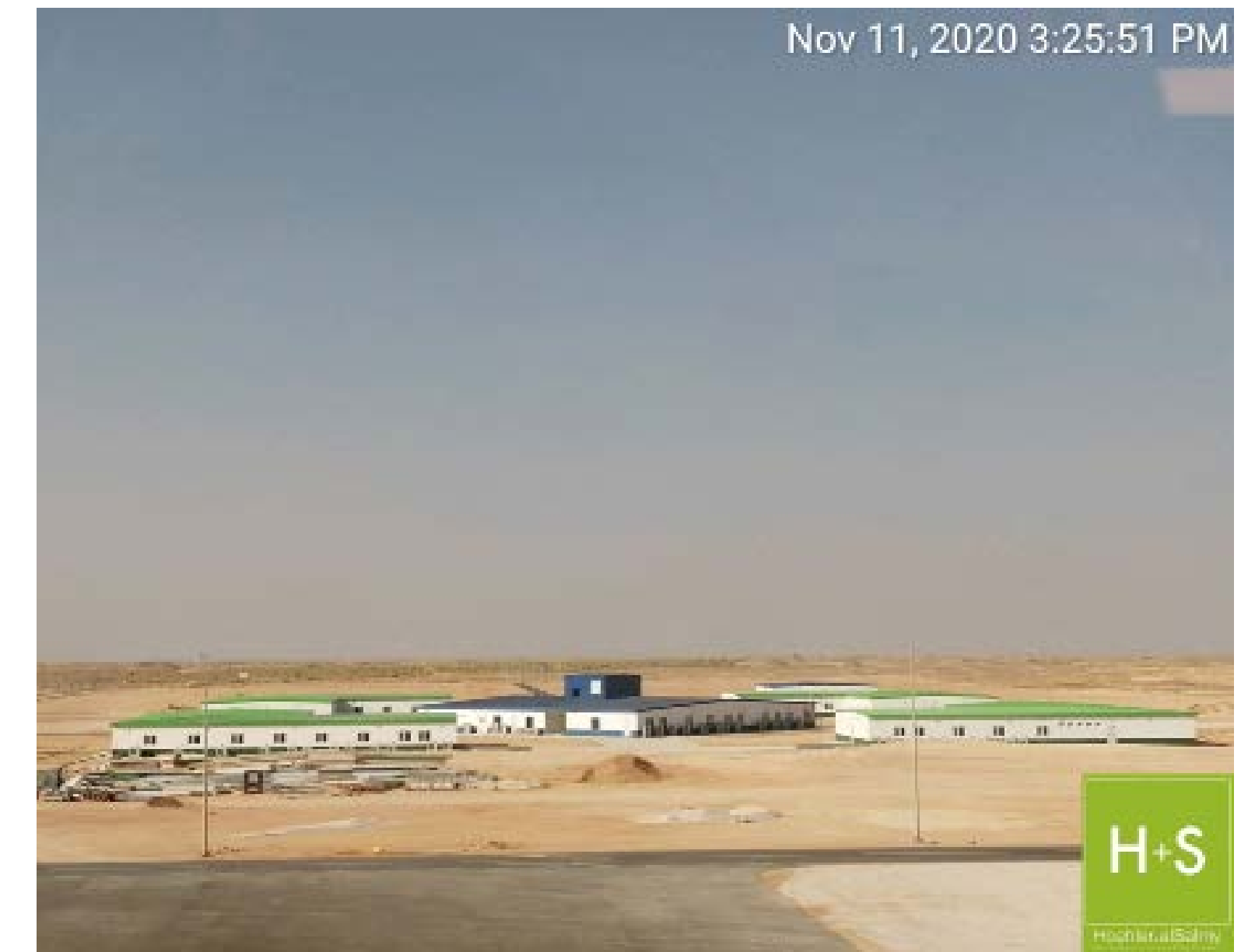
- The Arab Authority contributed to [Al Bashayer Meat Company](#) in the amount of OMR 5 million, representing 20% of the total contributions. The project aims to produce meat with high specifications for the Omani market and then the Gulf countries. As well as take advantage of the waste to obtain value-added products, and the project consists of:

- I. Cowsheds with about 45 thousand head per year.
- II. Sheep and goat sheds with about 150 thousand head per year.
- III. Slaughterhouse: 60 heads of cows per hour and 250 heads of sheep and goats per hour.

- The investment cost of the project, according to the feasibility study, is about OMR 36.5 million, which will be funded by short and long-term contributions and loans.

- The project works to provide one of the basic commodities to achieve food security in the Arab world, where the expected market share is 24% of the total domestic production, in addition to the presence of encouraging financial indicators.

- The project is expected to be functional and will start trial operation at the end of 2021.



Amidst a broad welcome for its initiative to establish a “Revolving Loan Fund”, AAAID discusses “Financing Small and Medium Scale Farmers and Producers” during an online Webinar

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) concluded the virtual forum that was held on September 24, 2020 under the title “Financing Small and Medium Scale Farmers and Producers,” amid widespread praise for its pioneering experience in the field of financing and insurance programs and activities for small and medium farmers and producers in some Arab countries. About 1000 participants attended the forum directly, to learn about the Arab Authority’s efforts to contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals represented in the eradication of hunger through the promotion of food security, and sustainable and smart agriculture.

The forum constituted an important platform to introduce the programs and activities related to financing small and medium scale farmers, livestock breeders, fishermen, and workers in the field of small manufacturing industries, as well as AAAID’s proposal to establish a fund for revolving loans or contribute to the programs implemented by the Arab Authority with the aim of increasing production, expansion and development of the agricultural sector in the Arab countries.

The attendees of the webinar welcomed the initiative of AAAID to establish a revolving loan fund to finance small scale farmers and producers, affirming their willingness to contribute to it and to extend an invitation to Arab, regional and international institutions and finance establishments to support the fund. The attendees stressed the importance of the experience of the Arab Authority and the parties participating in the forum in financing small farmers and the possibility of benefiting from it by expanding and spreading it to all Arab countries, as an integrated model that helps reduce the risks of financing small farmers and achieve the desired goals of increasing production and productivity.

The webinar resulted in a set of important recommendations, the first of which is the necessity of providing and sustaining support to the sector of small farmers and producers, while creating the appropriate environment for providing the necessary infrastructure and strengthening the role of relevant institutions and focusing on building and developing the technical, financial and administrative capacities of small farmers and producers, especially the youth and rural women. The attendees called on Arab governments to issue encouraging legislations and policies to provide an appropriate environment to attract the private sector to actively participate in financing small farmers, and to enter companies in contractual agriculture that provides the opportunity for small farmers to directly access markets.

ملقى تمويل صغار ومتوسطي المزارعين والمنتجين
Financing Small and Medium Scale Farmers
and Producers Webinar

 H.E. Mohammed Al Mazrooei President / Chairman of the Board of Directors Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development AAAID	 H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould TAH Secretary General Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa ABEDA	 H.E. Dr. Mansour Muhtar Vice President, Country Programs Islamic Development Bank Group IDB	 H.E. Foad Ibrahim El Dukheri Executive Director Arab Organization for Agricultural Development AOAD	 H.E. Dina Saleh Regional Director International Fund For Agricultural Development IFAD
 H.E. Saud A. Alsayyari Head of Investment & Business Unit Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank AIIB	 H.E. Yousif El-Tinay CEO United Capital Bank UCB	 H.E. Ammar Abdulrahman General Manager Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company ASVOC	 H.E. Adil Balla General Manager Ebdoo Bank For Microfinance	 Beneficiary farmers in Arab countries

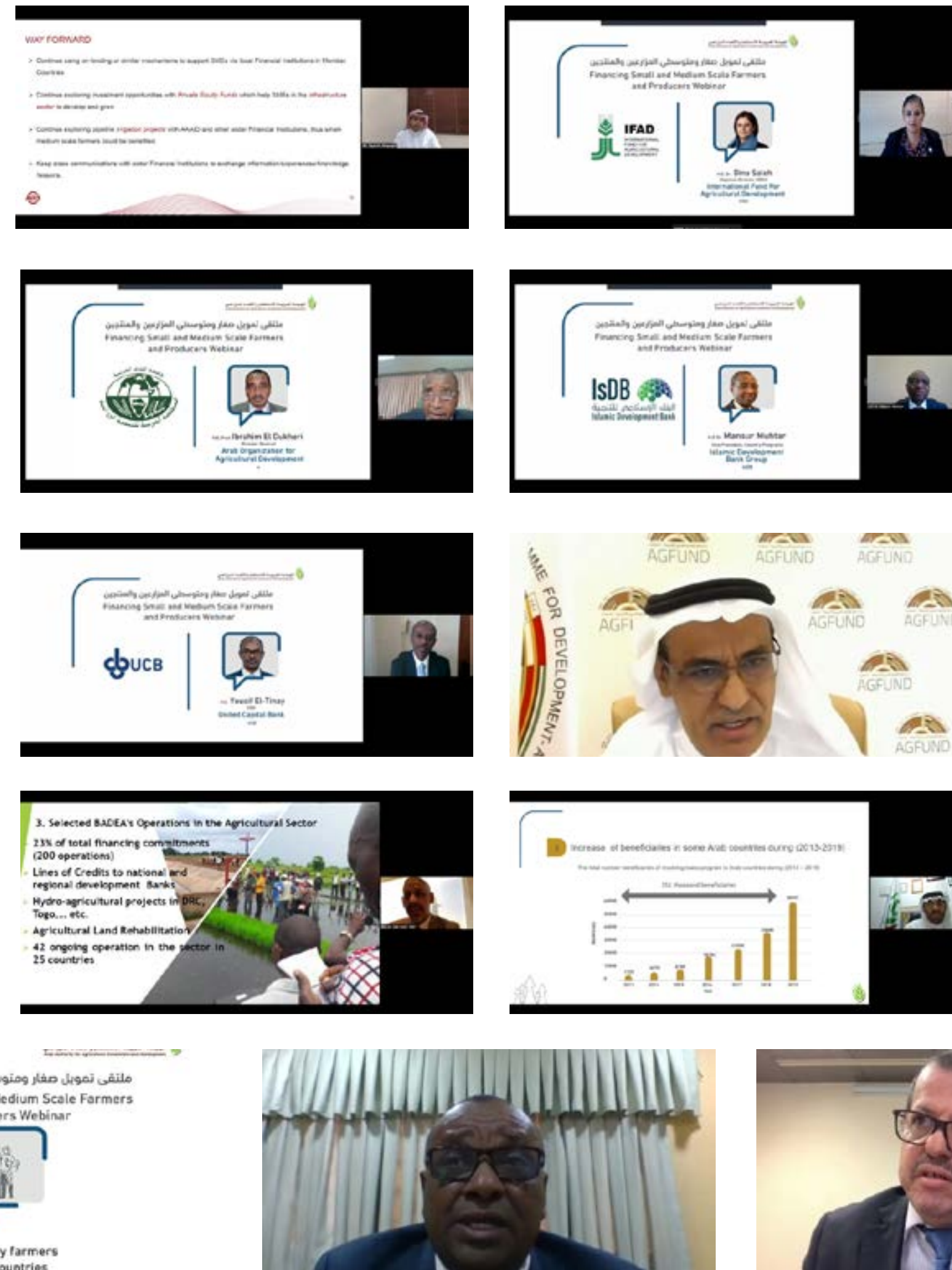
His Excellency Mohammed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, stated that AAAID has accomplished a lot in order to achieve the goals for which it was established, stressing its continuous efforts to contribute to enhancing Arab food security through its agricultural investments in various sectors, In addition to its development programs for the benefit of small and medium farmers and producers, who constitute the largest segment in the Arab countries, by approximately 80%. His Excellency pointed out that the Arab Authority succeeded in 2013 in expanding its activities with the establishment of revolving loan programs, which achieved encouraging results, most notably the total cumulative financing reaching about USD 22.4 million between 2013 and 2019, recording an annual growth rate of about 64%, with net profits of about 1.5 million dollars, in the Republic of Sudan, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Republic of the Comoros, indicating that the total number of beneficiaries reached more than 151.2 thousand individuals and families.

His Excellency added: "The Arab Authority's projects have adopted a contract farming mechanism with small scale producers and breeders in Arab countries. The consecutive successes and achievements of the Arab Authority in both the revolving loan programs and contractual agriculture constituted a strong motivation for AAAID to establish a revolving loan fund, in addition to inviting all the funds and financial institutions concerned with development in the Arab countries to contribute to the fund's capital, in a way that serves our ambitious aspirations."

Meanwhile, Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, [Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa \(BADEA\)](#), stated: "We look forward to working with the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) in order to unify and direct the common potential in achieving new success stories in sub-Saharan Africa. We appreciate the relentless efforts made by the Arab Authority in order to employ its pioneering experience, especially in the field of revolving loan fund programs and contractual agriculture, in the service of economic and social development plans in Africa."

Dr. Dina Saleh, Regional Director MENA, [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#) said, "The International Fund places key emphasis on investing in promoting rural finance to improve the livelihoods of small producers and farmers across rural areas, especially for the youth and women sector. We remain confident in the move that seeks to unite the efforts between the international fund and AAAID, which will represent an advanced step on the road to enhancing small farmers' access to rural finance, by enhancing knowledge exchange and directing resources to promote innovative rural financial products--falling in line with the framework of effective partnership with governments and financial institutions in the Arab world."

AAAID's virtual webinar saw valuable presentations made by keynote speakers coming from major regional and international institutions and organizations that adopt programs and activities for the benefit of small and medium scale farmers and producers. Participating entities included the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the [Islamic Development Bank Group \(IsDB\)](#), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the [Arab Organization for Agricultural Development \(AOAD\)](#), [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank \(AIIB\)](#) and [Arab Gulf Program for Development \(AGFUND\)](#). Participants also tackled the active participation of microfinance banks and beneficiaries from small farmers.

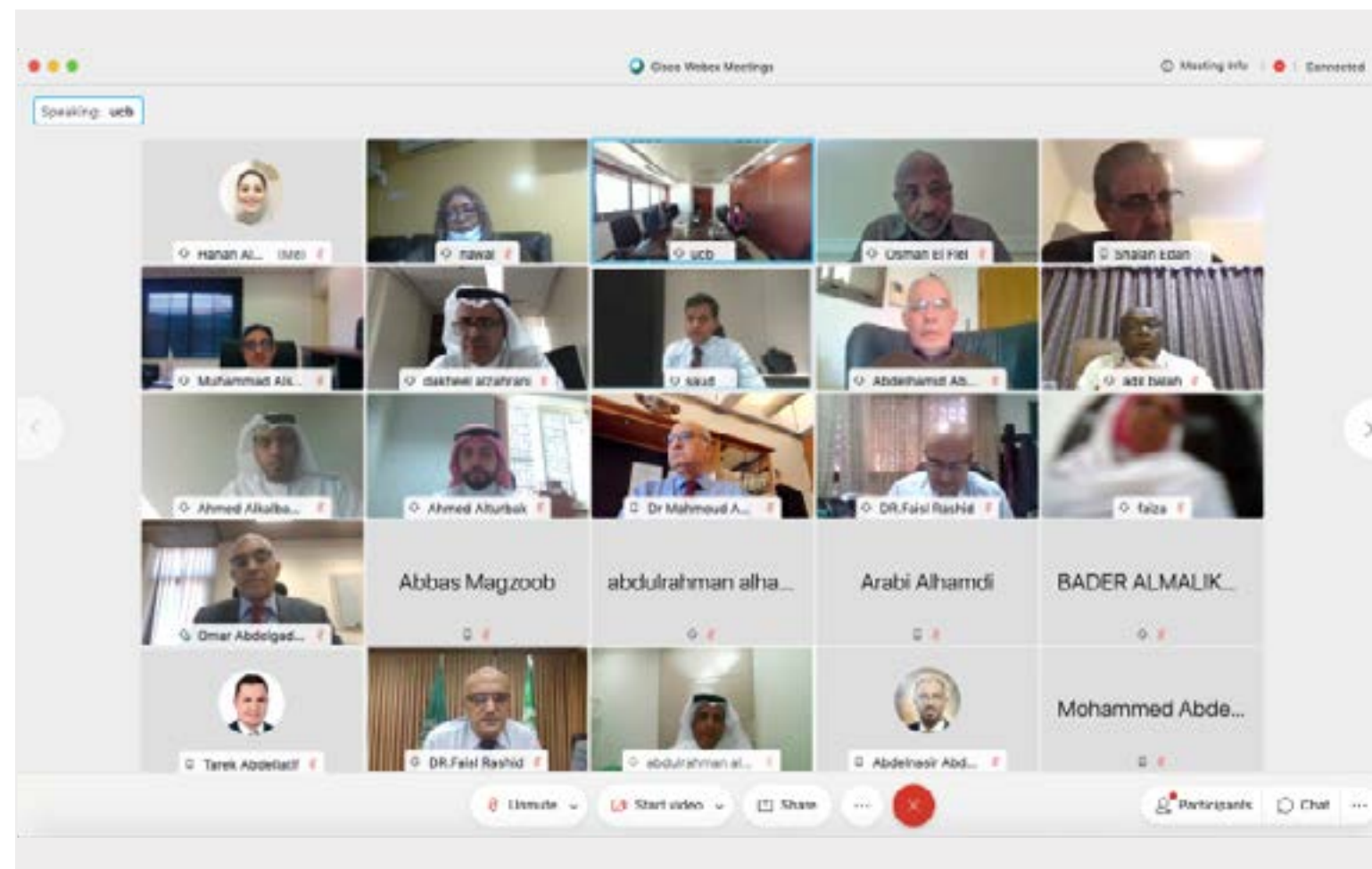


AAAID's initiative to establish a Revolving Loan Fund for small scale farmers

In continuation of its efforts to mobilize additional financial resources to finance small and medium scale farmers and producers in Arab countries, and in line with AAAID's webinar titled «Financing Small and Medium Scale Farmers and Producers», that was held in September 2020, the most important resolution of which was the invitation of Arab, regional and international funding institutions to contribute to the establishment of a revolving loan fund aimed to serve small scale farmers and producers. On 26/11/2020, the Arab Authority organized a virtual workshop on establishing a fund to finance small and medium scale farmers. During the event, about 30 participants from various regional and international institutions and organizations participated.

The workshop reviewed the AAAID's efforts in the field of supporting and financing small farmers in Sudan and Arab countries. A proposal was also presented to establish a revolving loan fund with a suggested capital ranging between USD 150 to 200 million. Whereby, the attendees stressed the importance of the pioneering role played by the Arab Authority for Investment and Development in Arab agriculture. As well as its ground-breaking experience in supporting and financing small and medium scale farmers and producers.

The workshop resulted in highlighting the importance of creating the loan fund and the recommendations, the most notable of which is to form a proposed technical committee consisting of: ([International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#), [Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa \(BADEA\)](#), [Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development](#), [Arab Organization for Agricultural Development\(AOAD\)](#), [Arab Gulf Program for Development \(AGFUND\)](#), The Arab Investment Company, [Saudi Fund for Development](#), [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), the Agricultural Bank of Egypt in addition to the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development(AAAID). This is in order to carry out the tasks of preparing the powers of reference to prepare a study for establishing the fund. As well as address qualified houses of expertise to submit their offers to prepare a feasibility study of the fund, evaluate the offers received from expert houses, and then recommend the offer that meets the conditions of the Supreme Committee.



The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development participates in the Annual Investment Meeting. Dubai, United Arab Emirates



The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development remains keen on participating in activities that support the process of reaching food security and strengthening its relationship with investment and agricultural development partners.

In this context, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) participated in the Digital edition of the Annual Investment Meeting, held during the period 20-22 October 2020, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The event was under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

During the event, [H.E Mohammed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority, gave a speech as a keynote speaker during a special virtual session entitled Agricultural Investment during and after Covid-19](#), through which H.E introduced the Arab Authority's projects and activities and the companies in which AAAID contributes and its involvement to reinforcing food security, development programs. As well as the Arab Authority's activities in the field of Agricultural investment and partnerships with the public and private sectors represented by the [Emirates Rawabi Company](#), [Al Faiyoum Sugar Works Company](#), and [Al Marga for Cattle and Agricultural Development Company](#). H.E further emphasized the importance of expanding agriculture with the use of modern agricultural technologies to cope with the increase in global demand for food, noting that the expected

number to be fed by 2050 is about 2.3 billion.

His Excellency explained that the Arab Authority has realized the importance of a segment of small farmers and producers and their role in enhancing food security, whereby AAAID has initiated a revolving loans program targeted at this segment with the aim of increasing production and improving productivity and thus their contribution to enhancing food security. The program achieved notable results that include increasing crop productivity by 61% and increasing the number of beneficiaries from the program, reaching 151,200 beneficiaries for the period 2013-2019. In addition to providing direct and indirect job opportunities. H.E also explained that AAAID paid attention to rural women by activating their role in food production and improving their standard of living. The total number of beneficiaries during the period 2013-2020 reached 3412, and women have demonstrated their keenness and commitment to work.

His Excellency, the President of AAAID, then affirmed that the successes achieved through the revolving loan fund program to finance small scale farmers and producers show that the fund is the most optimal way to develop and increase agricultural production, calling on Arab, regional and international organizations and institutions to contribute to this fund.

The Arab Authority also participated in the event through the virtual round table meeting for agricultural investment led by the Islamic Development Bank Group, which aimed to discuss the best agricultural investment models and highlight areas for preparing agriculture to promote foreign direct investment. AAAID also participated in the Investors Hub through a special virtual booth. The Hub provided a platform for representatives of major investment companies, development banks, funds and portfolio investors, and facilitated the possibility to communicate with participants who want to know more about AAAID in addition to linking companies that wish to cooperate in the field of agricultural investment and its related activities.

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development as the Exclusive Investment Partner in SIAL Middle East 2020



The SIAL Middle East exhibition is one of the most leading events in the food and beverage sector, in this context and for the fourth consecutive year, the Arab Authority participated in the SIAL Middle East Exhibition 2020, which was held in the form of virtual E-sessions during the period 23 - 27 November 2020. This comes in line with the current conditions that the world is witnessing in light of the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic and international restrictions imposed on travel, and in order to adhere to the health and safety procedures and measures followed to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

[His Excellency Mohammad bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of the Arab Authority, delivered a speech during the first session of the event](#), through which he stated that while the year 2020 is a year full of challenges that motivated scientists, technologists and agricultural experts to create and find innovative mechanisms and technologies in various sectors and fields. Further explaining that the unprecedented spread of the Covid-19 virus has stimulated multiple innovative and creative efforts to overcome the financial, social, economic and environmental challenges that affected individuals, companies, and governments.

His Excellency also stated that AAAID adopted a new and enhanced strategic plan for agricultural investment, where the criteria for all [investment opportunities](#) and new projects are set based on bench-marking with best global practices. The flexibility of the new strategic plan enables AAAID to respond to unforeseen changes in a timely and appropriate manner. AAAID has also launched an initiative for fulfilling the urgent demand of Arab countries for basic food commodities through its affiliate companies and their intra-Arab partners, resulting in increased agriculture trade. Further stating that the initiative was a consequence of Covid-19 and the break-down of international trade and food supply due to limited mobility. The goal is to secure the nutrition needs of the Arab nations and rid them of the fear of food shortages.

His Excellency also expressed that AAAID and its affiliate companies create and implement numerous sustainable models that assist in increasing agricultural production and productivity, promote socio-economic development, protect the environment and build a skilled workforce through training and capacity building programs. Whereby, AAAID currently has invested in 6 companies in the UAE. Three of which are currently operational, while the rest are in various stages of establishment. The total value of AAAID's investments in the UAE reaches about AED 343 million in corporate assets.

In conclusion, His Excellency the President of AAAID invited companies, financial institutions, agricultural organizations and governments to join the Arab Authority in combining knowledge and experience to improve current practices and focus on creating innovative and sustainable methods that support the advancement of the agricultural sector and thus reach global food security.

AAID's efforts in developing small scale farmers and women farmers in Arab countries

The Arab Voluntary Union and the Good Word Society in cooperation with the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, the Arab Federation for Food Industries, the Arab Agricultural Engineers Union and the Arab African Center for Investment and Development (CAAID), organized the Arab symposium on the reality of food security in the Arab world, which came under the title of Applied Mechanisms Contributing to Raising the Level of Arab Awareness on Food Security, whereby, the event took place on October 21, 2020.

During the symposium, His Excellency Mohammed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAID presented a working paper under the title "The Arab Authority's Efforts in the Advancement and Development of Small Scale Farmers and Women Farmers in Arab Countries", in which HE introduced the Arab Authority's work, [mission, objectives](#) and [affiliate companies](#), as well as [the sectoral and geographical distribution](#) of AAID's agricultural investments. Further explaining the Arab Authority's efforts in developing small and medium scale farmers, indicating that AAID has realized the great role that this sector plays in providing commodities and food products, where AAID has implemented an integrated program to increase their contributions to enhancing Arab food security. The program included a package of integrated processes, including encouraging the farmers to form associations and cooperatives to benefit from the services of the program, providing financing through purchasing all the requirements of the agricultural process until the harvest stage, and cooperating with research centers to provide extension awareness to farmers, applying modern agricultural technologies, linking small farmers with agricultural insurance institutions, as well as supporting women farmers by ensuring their access to finance that is compatible with their capabilities.

H.E also stated that the results from the implementation of the integrated program for small farmers show that the number of beneficiaries reached about 151 thousand beneficiaries in the Arab countries as of December 2019. The cultivated areas increased to 51 thousand feddans, the productivity of crops exceeded 150%, and direct and indirect employment opportunities and temporary employment were provided in the targeted areas, leading to notable returns for farmers and improving their standard of living. H.E President Al Mazrooei also added that AAID has given the rural women farmers sector special focus in Arab countries due to its importance as a productive economic sector in addition to its social role within the family. The number of beneficiaries of the program during the period 2013-2019 reached about 2,812 women beneficiaries, where results demonstrated women's eagerness and commitment to work and repay with great effectiveness.

In conclusion, H.E recommended the need to pay attention to the development of the small scale farmers and producers' sector by providing and sustaining support for this sector. In addition to stressing the importance of building technical, financial and administrative capacities for small farmers and producers, especially youth and rural women, and calling on companies and insurance institutions to provide insurance services for this segment on easy terms that take into account the agricultural conditions of the region, particularly, rain fed areas.

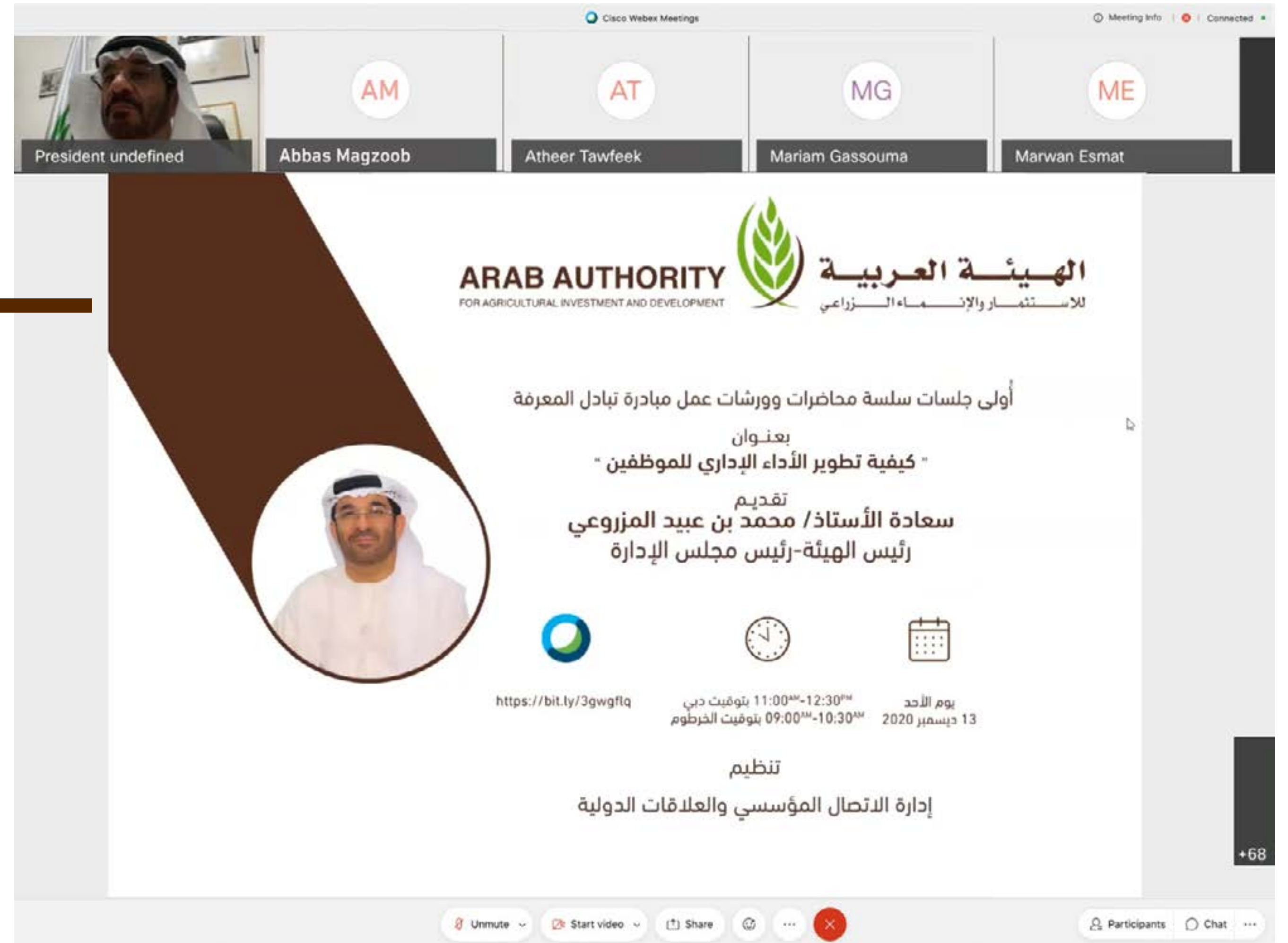
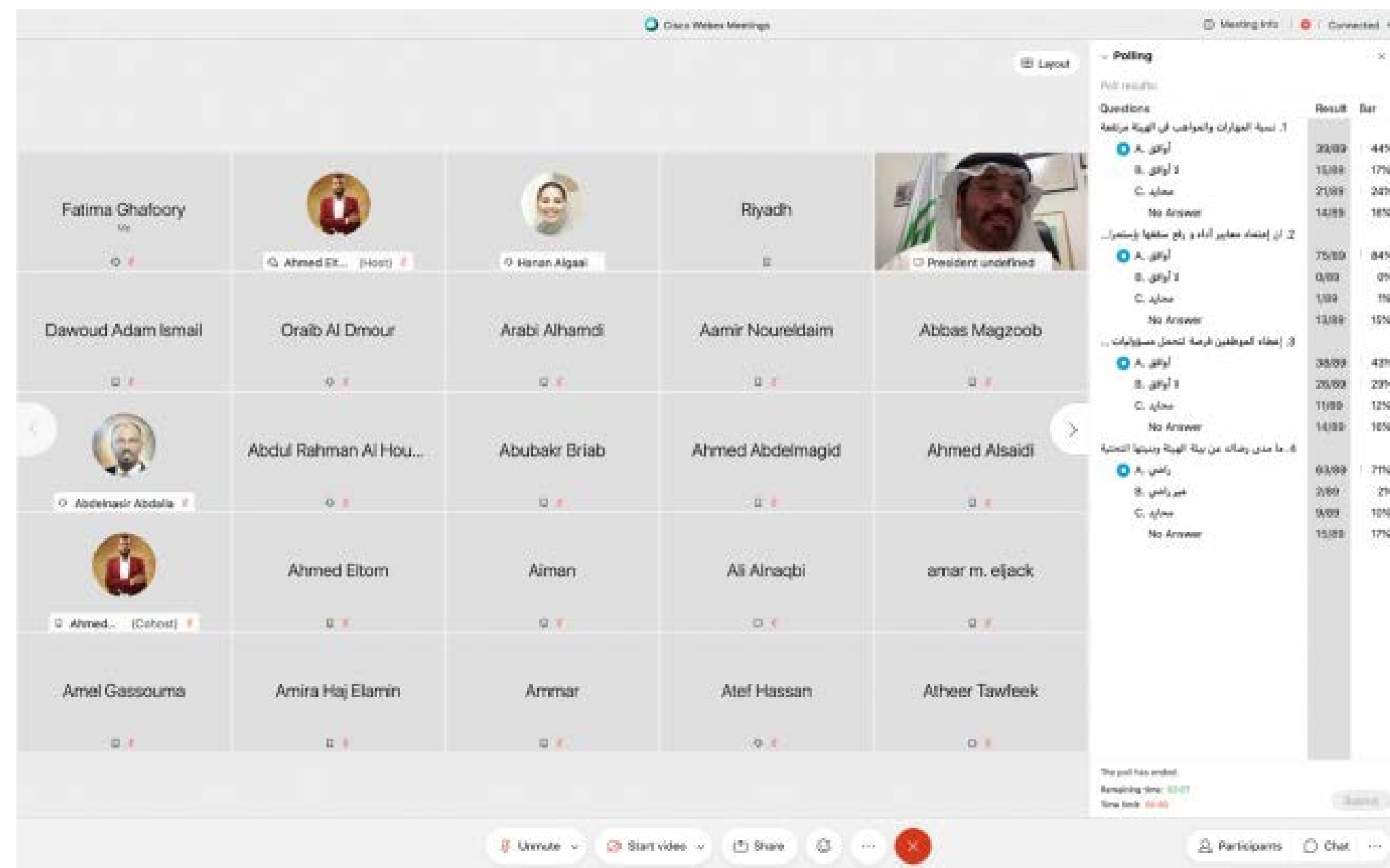
The symposium intended to contribute to raising awareness among the community of the importance of food security in general and encouraging the community to take measures to confront crises and combat hunger, and reduce malnutrition, disease and poverty rates. As well as to create recommendations and action mechanisms that assist in the implementation and contribution to achieving food security.



AAID hosts the first Knowledge Exchange Workshop among its departments.

On December 13, 2020, the first Knowledge Exchange Workshop commenced with the contribution of His Excellency Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID, who was the first speaker by presenting on the topic of developing the administrative performance of employees. The workshop was attended by more than eighty of the workforce of the Arab Authority who wish to exchange skills, knowledge, experiences and expertise.

The Arab Authority is scheduled to organize periodic workshops to exchange knowledge and open the channels for the organization's staff to share their knowledge through an internal virtual platform. These workshops will contribute to developing capabilities and skills at work and instilling a culture of spreading knowledge in the work environment.



The Sixth Career Excellence Award Ceremony

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) annually organizes its Career Excellence Award Ceremony, which is dedicated to celebrate and honor distinguished staff from various positions and categories at the Arab Authority.

In order to adhere to the health and safety procedures and measures followed to limit the spread of the Corona virus. The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development organized the Sixth Career Excellence Award Ceremony for its staff at the headquarters in Khartoum and the regional office in Dubai, virtually, through the Zoom video communications application, on October 3, 2020.

During the ceremony, His Excellency Mohammed bin Obaid Al Mazrooei, President of AAAID gave a word of welcome to the attendees, thanking them, and congratulating the employees who were honored from the departments and organizational units at the Arab Authority. His Excellency also commended the continuity of the celebration in its sixth year to spread the culture of creativity and excellence and its practical application to develop the spirit of competitiveness and leadership. His Excellency wished that the next year would come to witness more successes and creative initiatives that are in the interest of advancing AAAID and its human resources. To conclude his speech, His Excellency congratulated all the workforce of the Arab Authority and thanked them for their presence, wishing them good health and prosperity.

In continuation of the generous initiative of His Excellency the President of AAAID to pay tribute to individuals who have worked at the Arab Authority in previous years, Professor Hamid Othman Burhan, renowned scientist and expert in the field of crop production was honored. Professor Burhan, during his tenure at the Arab Authority, contributed to the establishment of the Agadi research station for modern technologies and the pioneering rain-fed agriculture farm in Agadi, Sudan. He also contributed to the development of the cotton variety that was developed by the Agricultural Research Authority in Sudan and named after him, the «Burhan» strain, due to its development in Agadi, Sudan.

Additionally, the Department of Corporate Communication and International Relations received the Distinguished Department Award for the fourth year in a row at the level of all departments in the Arab Authority. Likewise, the Distinguished Director and Distinguished Consultant were honored as well as the distinguished employees at the level of the AAAID's bodies as well as the distinguished employees from the different departments of AAAID.

