HAWAII-IRAQ PARTNERSHIP FOR REVITALIZING AGRICULTURAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (AHEAD) PROJECT

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HAWAII-IRAQ PARTNERSHIP FOR REVITALIZING AGRICULTURAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (AHEAD)

The AHEAD project, also named the Hawaii-Iraq Educational Partnership (HIEP), is one of the five projects funded competitively in 2003 by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the HIGHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HEAD) PROGRAM. HEAD aims to establish partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities to revitalize, invigorate and modernize Iraq’s institutions of higher education. Projects were initially funded for one year, with the possibility of two one-year extensions. AHEAD was funded effective October 1, 2003 with a current ending date of June 30, 2005.

Partners from the three Universities at work.
THE PARTNERS

AHEAD engages the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH/CTAHR) in partnerships with the University of Mosul College of Agriculture and Forestry (UM/CAF) and the University of Dohuk College of Agriculture (UD/CA).

AHEAD is also building partnerships with other Middle East institutions whose mandates and experiences are directly relevant to the Iraq’s agricultural development in general and to the Project’s objectives in particular. At present, these include the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), the University of Jordan, and the American University of Beirut.
PROJECT GOAL

The project goal is to establish a Center of Excellence in agricultural education, research, extension, and training, which, in time, will serve as a lightning rod for rebuilding and strengthening the agricultural industry in Iraq.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen academic programs and extension training in agricultural sciences at UM/CAF and UD.

2. Rehabilitate the research infrastructure and agricultural research programs at UM/CAF.

Undergraduate student stakeholders

Water resources research vital for Iraqi agriculture
IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

- Enhancing expertise of “future faculty” through graduate degree training and graduate research fellowships
- Professional development of current faculty through visiting scholarships at sister institutions, especially designed curriculum, course, administrative and scholarly workshops, professional and scientific conference participation, and competition for research grant
- Rebuilding the fundamental infrastructure for high quality teaching and research through acquisition of modern scientific equipment and supplies, library enhancement, and improved access to, and use of electronic communications.

Graduate Students

Management Team
WHY THE FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL HIGHER EDUCATION?

Even though Iraq’s economy is dominated by oil revenues, it remains predominantly an agricultural nation. Agricultural industries, whether in production, processing, marketing, or utilization have not progressed well in recent years because of reduced priority and trade sanctions under the prevailing political setting. Revitalizing higher education in agricultural sciences is critical for achieving food security and self-reliance in the country.
SOME PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Internet Center

Learning center and modern library (renovated former palace building)

The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL)
MORE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Modern field machinery

Training for internet use
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1. **In Hawaii:**

Director, AHEAD Project  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
NREM  
1910 East-West Center Road, Sherman 101 Lab  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
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2. **In Iraq**

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Northern Iraq landscape
Coming Soon:

* Website
  www.hawaii.edu/ahead

* Special News Bulletins