

ICBA Publishes New Book Exploring Science Behind UAE's Traditional Agricultural Practices

- The book “Agricultural Practices in the UAE: Heritage and Science” aims to showcase local farming traditions and explore the science behind their wisdom
- It is published in recognition of the UAE's efforts to foster sustainable agricultural development, food security and climate action at the national and international levels

Expo City Dubai, UAE, 12 December 2023 – A new book titled “Agricultural Practices in the UAE: Heritage and Science” was unveiled by the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture ([ICBA](#)) at the UAE Pavilion on COP28's Food, Agriculture and Water Day.

In keeping with the legacy of the late founding father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the purpose of the book is aligned with the UAE's values of preserving tradition and heritage and advancing science and innovation. It aims to link traditional wisdom with agricultural research and technology. More importantly, it promotes sustainable farming approaches that have existed for generations and underscores their importance and relevance for the future in view of climate change.

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, said: “ICBA is proud to present the book ‘Agricultural Practices in the UAE: Heritage and Science’ to the wise leadership of the UAE led by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may God protect him. It is published in appreciation of their dedication to fostering the sustainable agricultural sector and supporting scientific research and development to ensure the sustainability of food security at the local and global levels.”

The book reviews traditional agricultural practices maintained by Emirati farmers, connecting them with scientific theories, research, and modern technologies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and development. It documents some of the best local agricultural practices and provides their scientific underpinnings within the context of environmental sustainability and climate change.

It also explores the significance of bridging the gap between agricultural heritage and scientific research in enhancing the agricultural sector.

The book is designed as a resource for knowledge dissemination at the local and international levels.

It was prepared in collaboration with different local partners, involving interviews with local farmers and consultations with stakeholders, in connection with the Year of Sustainability and COP28 in the UAE.

The official launch ceremony was attended by senior government officials and dignitaries and featured a statement by H.E. Eng. Mohammed Mousa Alameeri, Assistant Undersecretary for the Food Diversity Sector, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE.

The book was announced at the UAE Pavilion at the International Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar, during the UAE's 52nd National Day celebrations in the presence of H.E. Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, Minister of Culture of Qatar; H.E. Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, Minister of Culture and Youth of the UAE; and H.E. Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE.

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About ICBA

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is a unique applied agricultural research center in the world with a focus on marginal areas where an estimated 1.7 billion people live. It identifies, tests, and introduces resource-efficient, climate-smart crops and technologies that are best suited to different regions affected by salinity, water scarcity, and drought. Through its work, ICBA helps to improve food security and livelihoods for some of the poorest rural communities around the world.

www.biosaline.org

Media inquiries:

ICBA

Mr. Abdumutalib Begmuratov, ICBA, Dubai, UAE: a.begmuratov@biosaline.org.ae, or +971 55 917 0029