2018 Tenth Session AWARDS
The 6th International Date Palm Conference
19 - 21 March, Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi

YEAR BOOK
2018
They used to say that Agriculture has no future, but with thanks to God and our determination we succeeded in turning the desert into a green land.
The late Sheikh
Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
(May God Bless His Soul)
Today we stress to pursue the same approach and give our support to complete the institutional and legislative bodies and consolidate the government and people efforts to preserve and protect environment and wildlife.
H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Founder and Patron of the Award
(God protect Him)
The genius of the Late Sheikh Zayed in the field of agriculture lie in challenging the impossible, this gives a leading example to follow and to believe that there is no barrier against achieving our all dreams for a better future.
H.H. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces
The patronage of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President’s (God protects Him), to Khalifa International Date Palm Award has granted it excellence and leadership to reach a global prestige as the first specialized scientific award for date palm sector worldwide.

We are proud of this award, which contributed constructively and actively in the development of the date palm sector on a global level, and has become a bright event in the Emirates track record of achievements in all international forums. The award highlighted the civilization of the UAE, and is actually playing a constructive role in improving Date Palm cultivation as a part of our prestigious heritage and our bright present.
H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Presidential Affairs
We express today our deep gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President (God protects Him) for his wise decision to establish this Award and his strong support for it and his keen interest to encourage all efforts aimed at the continued improvement of date palm cultivation and the enhancement of its processing and even place UAE to be a leading center for research, development and production and all what is related to this fruitful and blessed tree.
H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan
Minister of Tolerance
President of the Award’s Board of Trustees
Introduction of the Secretary General to the Yearbook of the Tenth Session

An Eventful Year under Honorable Patronage and a Bright Future

While Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation is entering its eleventh year, the Secretariat General of the Award is honored to put between your hands all achievements of the past year, namely within the Yearbook of the Award for the Tenth Session 2018, through which we shall complement the success and leadership career the Award has assumed over ten years and during which it has achieved a lot of accomplishments and gains which effectively and largely influenced the date palm sector, in particular, and agricultural sector, in general, at the Arab and international levels. With an outlook vision, the Award has managed to distinctively highlight this important sector and to draw a brighter future for those serving the blessed tree and the agricultural sector in general, through the support and honoring such a sector is having and up to its significance in securing food and nourishment by providing creative and innovative solutions in accordance with the best practices conducive to fostering of the food security of peoples and communities around the world.

The achieved success and the characteristic imprint the Award has left over the last decade made us feel proud and our thanks to the great support and kind patronage of the Award’s founder and patron H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (God protects Him). The Award has been honored by bearing His Highness’ name and by having his patronage to realize such a prestige and leadership worldwide. His Highness’ honor of establishing “Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation” has further emphasized the keenness and attention he has rendered to date palm tree and agricultural innovation towards ensuring a better future for this sector as a cornerstone of the global food security.

The attention and support of H.H, Sheikh Mohamad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Higher Commander of the Armed Forces, have also had a great effect on the Award’s achievement of unique and quality
accomplishments in addition to the support and follow-up of H.H Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, who rendered the Award special attention and constant and industrious follow-up. The Award has been keen to translate the constructive visions and ideas of His Highness to achieve widespread and gain attention at the most important Arab and international forums. Moreover; the attention and follow-up of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of the Award, have largely influenced the gains and successes the Award has achieved at all levels.

We, the Secretariat General of the Award, are confident that the future would be lovelier and that our giving would be greater. The Award would spare no effort to play a bigger role and dramatically affect the agricultural scene by its comprehensiveness and distinctive support and sponsorship of all the activities and events related to date palm sector and agricultural innovation at the Arab and International levels. We are confident and hopeful that the award would maintain leadership and brilliance and would receive the attention and participation of the most important international institutions and organizations as well as influential personalities, including experts, scientists, growers and academics within a steady and purposeful methodology, which honestly translates the visions and attention of H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (God protects Him). As such, the Award would add extra achievements to the Emirates golden record at the most important platforms and forums and highlight His Highness’ attention and keenness to develop the date palm sector and agricultural innovation.

The Yearbook you have in hands, and while monitoring and documenting the activities, events and programs where the Award took part and provided sponsorship and support at the local, Arab and international levels during the Award’s Tenth Session, consists as well the fruitful harvest of concreted efforts and investment of ideas, science and technology for serving the agricultural sector, in general. It also emphasizes that Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation would steadily and confidently proceed forward to achieve leadership and excellence and to draw the outline of a yet brighter future for the date palm sector and agricultural innovation within an approach of equal opportunities, transparency, clarity and embracing of ideas and projects intended to achieve a distinctive imprint and quality shift in the international agricultural sector up to the vision of the wise leadership and the pioneering position the United Arab Emirates is occupying at the world’s level.

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid
Secretary General
Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation
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Board of Trustees
H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan
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President of the Award’s Board of Trustees

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DPGN

Prof. Ibrahim Al Musalm
KSA

Dr. Fatima Al Ansari
UAE
Second Winner - Competition Date Palm through the eyes of the world - Ninth Session - Anthony Austria
Chapter Two

Reports
Conveying thanks and acknowledgment to H.H UAE President
The Award’s Board of Trustees holds its Eleventh Meeting 2018

Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation held its eleventh annual meeting 2018 in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees and all members of the board, after honoring the winners of the award in its tenth session on Monday, 19 March 2018 at Emirates Palace - Abu Dhabi.

Board of Trustees Members conveyed their thanks and acknowledgment to H.H Sheikh Kalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE “God protect him”, for his ongoing support to the sector of date palm and agricultural innovation. H.H “sought to develop this sector with the aim of achieving the sustainable development.

The following items were discussed and approved during the meeting:
1. Opening the session in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Award’s Board of Trustees
2. Inspecting the financial and technical report and approving the award’s final account in its ninth session
3. Approving 8% that shall be allocated for the award from budget of festivals and projects supervised by the Award’s General Secretariat.
4. Approving the financial policies, procurements and human resources of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation that were audited by Ministry of Presidential Affairs.
5. The updated works
Opening of Nominations for the 10th Session 2018
Khalifa International Award for Date Palm
and Agricultural Innovation

Under the guidance and patronage of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the Secretariat General of the Award announced opening of nominations for the 10th Session 2018 of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation as from June 1st, 2017 till October 30th, 2017. Opportunity is allowed for all the farmers, producers, researchers, academics and lovers of the date palm tree and agricultural innovation around the world to for one of the Award’s five categories, namely: Distinguished Innovative Studies and Modern Technology Category, Distinguished Producers in Date Palm Sector Category, Pioneering and Sophisticated Innovations Serving the Agricultural Sector Category, Pioneering Development and Productive Projects Category and Influential Figure in the Field of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation Category.

The above is quoted from a press conference held by Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, at the Emirates Palace, Wednesday, May 24th 2017 morning, and attended by Prof. Hilal Hamid Said Alkaabi, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Award and Dr. Samir Al Shakir, Member of the Scientific Committee of the Award.
He pointed out that, after 10 years, the diagram of the Award is steadily growing forward at all the levels the Award has reached, thanks to the patronage of the Award’s owner H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (God protects him), the support of H.H Sheikh Mohamad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, attention of H.H Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and follow-up of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarakan Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation. The great openness to the local, regional and international community has had optimum results in increasing the numbers of candidates to the various categories of the Award within the last ten years.

The Secretary General also emphasized the keenness of H.H Sheikh Nahayan to promote the regional and international presence in the Award and to build on the successes achieved during the last ten years for the benefit and appreciation of all the farmers, producers and researchers in the field of date palm and agricultural innovation worldwide.

On the other hand, Dr. Hilal Hamid Said Alkaabi, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Award, pointed out that the total number of candidates to the various categories of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation was 1010 participants, representing 48 countries around the world. The percentage of Arab participants in the Award was 87.5%, representing 20 Arab countries and including 9.3% participants from the UAE. The percentage of foreign participants, however, was 12.5%, representing 28 countries around the world.

Alkaabi added that the highest participation rate at the Arab level over the last ten years was from Egypt with 189 participants followed by Iraq with 114 participants. Saudi Arabia was the third with 107 participants and Algeria fourth with 95 participants. The UAE was the fifth among the Arabs with 84 participants during ten years.

At the world’s level, India has had the highest participation rate over ten years with 26 participants; USA was the second with 13 participant and Italy the third with 12 participants.

At the categories level, the «Best Distinguished Studies and Researches Category» recorded the highest participation rate so far with 607 participants. The «Best Developmental Project Category” came second with 160 participants and the «Best Distinguished Influential Figure Category» third with 134 participants.
Opening of Nominations for the “Outstanding and Innovative Farmers Award”
1st Session 2018 in the United Arab Emirates

- Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid: “The Award contributes to enhancement of the quality of the Emirati dates”
- Mr. Mohamad Ghanem Al Mansouri: “The Award is for encouraging the farmers to cultivate the best date varieties in the UAE”

Under the guidance and patronage of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the Secretariat General of the Award announced opening of nominations for the 1st Session /2018 of the “Outstanding Farmer and Innovative Farmer Award” in the United Arab Emirates, as from June 15th and till July 15th, 2017. The opportunity is opened for all the farmers who produce dates at the level of the United Arab Emirates and registered with Al Foah Company to win one of the Award’s five categories, namely: the “Outstanding Farmer Award” for the small farm category, medium farm category, above-medium category and large farm category and the “Innovative Farmer Award”. This Award will be a national platform for appreciation and honoring of the Emirati nationals who have made significant contributions to the date palm sector in particular.

The above is quoted from a press conference held by Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation at the Emirates Palace, Wednesday, May 24th 2017 morning, and attended by Prof. Hilal Hamid Said Alkaabi, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Award and Mr. Mohamad Ghanem Al Mansouri, acting CEO of Al Foah Company.

The Secretary General pointed out that following 10 years of success and leadership achieved by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation (2007-2017) in the field of date palm and agricultural innovation, thanks to the patronage of H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (God protects him), the support of H.H Sheikh Mohamad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, guidance of H.H Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and follow-up of H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the Award is honored to launch, and for the first time, the “Outstanding Farmer and Innovative Farmer Award” in collaboration with Al Foah Company. This Award targets the farmers who produce dates at the level of the United Arab Emirates.
and registered with Al Foah Company, to be a platform for appreciation and honoring of the Emirati nationals who have made significant contributions to the date palm sector.

About the objectives of the Award, Dr. Hilal Hamid Said Alkaabi, the Administrative and Financial Officer of the Award, says that the Award aims at encouraging the farmers to cultivate the best date varieties, instilling the values and culture of quality and distinction among date palm farmers in the UAE, creating a favorable and motivating environment for creativity and innovation in the field of date palm and enhancement of their quality.

Mr. Mohamad Ghanem Al Mansouri, acting CEO of Al Foah Company, also expressed his pleasure at launching the “Outstanding Farmer and Innovative Farmer Award” at the UAE level due to having targeted, and for the first time, the farmers who produce dates and registered with Al Foah Co. in the UAE.

With respect to the Award’s categories, Mohamad Ghanem Al Mansouri says that the Award is divided into two parts:
1- The “Outstanding Framer Award” and is granted to the farmer who obtains the highest evaluation rate as far as the commercial varieties, quality and best agricultural practices at farm are concerned and according to the farm categories. “The Outstanding Farmer Award” includes four categories, namely:
   - Small farm category (production delivered to Al Foah Co. is less than 2.5 Tons).
   - Medium farm category (production delivered to Al Foah Co. is 2.5 -6 Tons).
   - Above -Medium farm category (production delivered to Al Foah Co. is 6 -10 Tons).
   - Large farm category (production delivered to Al Foah Co. is over 10 Tons).
   The first winner of each category will get a prize of AED 125,000, a trophy and appreciation certificate and the second winner will get a prize of AED 75,000 with a trophy and appreciation certificate.

2- The “Innovative Framer Award” of the UAE, is for the best innovation of a farmer and which positively affects the farm such as increased productivity, improvement of date quality, resolving a technical problem at the farm, savings in irrigation water, pest control, environmental protection…etc. There are two winners in two different areas and the prize is AED 100,000 for each.

About the importance of the Award, Al Mansouri adds that it contributes to motivating the farmers to apply the best agricultural practices and services which are eco-friendly and good for public health and to apply the results of the researches, studies and knowledge in the field of date palm at farms as well as celebration and honoring of the winners in recognition of their efforts which contribute to promotion of sustainable development at date palm plantations at the UAE’s level.
Under the Patronage of H.H. UAE President
Abu Dhabi Will Host the 6th International Conference of Date Palm, March 2018
Under the Slogan “Date Palm and the Challenges of Future Outlook”

Under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE (God protects him), the capital Abu Dhabi will host the 6th International Conference of Date Palm on March 19 - 21, 2018 amid a specific scientific and academic presence from world countries. Organized by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in collaboration with University of the United Arab Emirate and the International Centre of Bio-saline Agriculture under the slogan “Date Palm and Challenges of Future Outlook”, the conference aims at providing an opportunity for updating of scientific knowledge and foresight of the various challenges of production, propagation, protection and marketing of date palm around the world. The conference also aims at presenting the modern experiences of the United Arab Emirates and comparing them to those of similar date producing countries as well as support of international technical cooperation in the various areas of date production chain.

The above is quoted from a press conference held by Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, at the Emirates Palace, Wednesday, May 24th 2017 morning, and attended by Dr. Mohammad Abd Al Mohsen, Assistant Dean for Scientific in the Faculty of Food and Agriculture of United Arab Emirates, and Mr. Ghazi Jawad AlJabri, Director General of the International Centre of Bio-saline Agriculture.

The Secretary General of the Award added that the conference has the support of Lt. Gen. H.H. Sheikh Mohamad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, close follow-up of H.H Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and the attention of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation. The conference will focus on four main topics, namely: future challenges of date palm
cultivation and production around the world, development and improvement of date palm cultivation and dates production, date palm diseases and prevention methods and manufacture and marketing of dates.

Dr. Mohammad Abd Al Mohsen, expressed his great pleasure at the continued participation in organizing this conference, initiated by the University of the United Arab Emirates in its 1st session in 1998. Now, and after 24 years, we are witnessing organization of the 6th session/2018, thanks to the supreme patronage of H.H President of the UAE (God protects him). The 6th International Conference of Date Palm reflects the special attention rendered to this important economic sector, by H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Board of Trustees of the Award. This conference is the sixth in a series launched by the University of the United Arab Emirates 24 years ago (the 1st International Conference was held on March 8-10, 1998, the 2nd on March 25-27, 2001, the 3rd on March 19-21, 2006, the 4th on March 15-17, 2010 and the 5th on March 16-18, 2014). Today, we are announcing launching of the 6th session of the conference on March 18-20, 2018, which will be witnessing the widest participation as compared the earlier five sessions, God Willing. The conference will be a valuable opportunity for exchange of experiences and opinions among specialized date palm scientists and senior officials in its industry around the world.

He added that the University will supervise the Scientific Committee of the conference with respect to receiving the research abstracts, evaluation of the scientific papers and adopting the appropriate ones with the aim of improving the scientific content and selecting the best at the international level.

For her part, Dr. Ismahane Al Ouafi, Director General of the International Centre of Bio-saline Agriculture, praised the professional and scientific efforts of the organizational parties of the 6th International Conference of Date Palm/2018, where the International Centre of Bio-saline Agriculture has placed its full scientific capabilities and relations at the international level for service and success of the conference due to the strategic importance of the date palm tree in the food security equation at the world level.
The Award Scientific Committee Meeting

The Scientific Committee of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation (KIADPAI) held its annual meeting in Abu Dhabi on 22 of March 2018 under the chairmanship of Prof. Franz Hoffmann and in the presence of full Scientific members who are: Dr. Samir Al-Shaker, Dr. Harrison Hughes, Dr. Yofon Martel, Dr. Joseph Kupero, Dr. Fatima Al-Ansari and Dr. Ibrahim Saqr. The committee confirmed its intention to enhance the efficiency of competition among participants of the award categories in the world. His Excellency Prof. Abdelouhhab Zaid, the Secretary General of the Award, has so confirmed after the Scientific Committee Meeting that on the occasion of the passage of ten sessions characterized by transparency, professionalism and scientific honesty, and confidentiality of dealing with participants’ files based on the best international standards of handling awards as KIADPAI achieves local, regional and international success.

Prof. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary-General of the Award, said that the meeting of the Scientific Committee was guided by H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and President of the Award’s Board of Trustees. The meeting agenda included a comprehensive review of the award’s works over the last 10 years and how to develop the award to achieve its strategic objectives set out in basic regulation.

Prof Zaid added that the attendees reached to a set of conclusions, including expansion of international communication with research centers specialized in date palm and agricultural innovation worldwide, in line with the campaign of introducing the categories of the award, encouraging and urging the competent and efficient researchers to participate to in the award promoting, and participation in international conferences and related events in order to promote and introduce the categories of the award and activate the plan of direct visits initiated by the Secretariat several years ago to a number of countries in the region.
Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participates in Food & Agriculture’s regional conference for the Near East in its 34th session - Rome - Italy 7-11 May 2018

Enhancement of Food Security and enabling farmers in the Near East and North Africa

Thanks to the directives of H.H Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participates in Food & Agriculture’s regional conference for the Near East in its 34th session – Rome – Italy during the period from 7 to 11 May 2018. This conference was attended by ministers of agriculture, senior officials of the participating countries and the regional partners and organizations. The conference aims at enhancing the regional association regarding the global policies and agricultural issues.

Prof. Abdelouhhab zaid, the general secretary of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation and representative of the award in this conference, stated in press release that this conference aims at ensuring the effectiveness of FAO’s regional activities and determining priorities of its work for two upcoming years as these regional priorities reflect priorities of all member states, i.e. the sustained agriculture development and enhancement of food security. All the procedures determined within these objectives form a road map for the Organizations’ activities.
The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participated in the Agricultural Workshop for Areas of International Humanitarian Heritage in Rome, at the invitation of GIAHS Oases Organization affiliated to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), during the period 28th of June to 1st of July 2017, in the presence of representatives of Seven countries: Tunisia, UAE, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Japan and China. H.E. Dr. Abdelouhab Zaid, Secretary-General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation said that this participation comes within the framework of the role played by the General Secretariat of the Award as the representative of the Global Initiative for Agricultural Areas with Humanitarian Heritage (GIAHS) in the United Arab Emirates.
On the 3rd of November each year, the United Arab Emirates celebrates the “Flag Day” coinciding with His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of UAE. This day represents the highest values of unity, cohesion and nation building thanks to God Almighty and then to the determination of the early founders whose vision exceeded the present and touched future horizons. Flag Day celebration is a renewal of loyalty to the leadership and belonging to the homeland and the embodiment of the bright Emirati image where banners flap over all homes to emphasize the love and loyalty and the service of flag and its development and to scarify by the spirit to remain proud and strong like the pride and strength of the UAE.

The people of the UAE, including citizens and residents of this good land, take pride in this event in recognition of the comprehensive empowerment process led by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, to the highest rank in the world. Thanks to God, UAE became one of the best models of civilized and human development in the field of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and in the judiciary, justice and equality between human beings, both citizens and residents, irrespective of religion, gender and language. In addition, UAE has achieved great progress in the economic and social fields and accommodates the modern technological developments.

The flag is not just a cloth with four colors, but it is a symbol that lives in the soul and conscience and causes us to spare no efforts to keep it high and flapping, which distinguishes us among the peoples and means that we belong to this good land, a slogan that connects us to this country. A flag flies high to confirm that this spot of the world is the United Arab Emirates, which has established the most important and strongest entity all over the world.
On Martyr Day, we honored people who have sacrificed by their lives for the homeland, as values and ideals that we currently need to remember and deepen faith in them more than ever before.

Celebrating Martyr Day on 30 November each year attests to the commemoration of those who scarified by their lives in order to preserve our eternal heritage by establishing this strong union which is an honor. We honor the martyr who scarified their life for this homeland and who will receive the greatest status in the world between people and usher hereafter.

The celebration of the martyr in a day is not only derived from its symbolism, but also from the assertion of the authenticity of the Emirati national and nature, which is accustomed to show faithfulness to the faithful, show generosity to the generous and magnifies the great, which necessitates all of us to devote our capacities and possibilities to inspire the biography of this people and mediate the miracle of renaissance they created. We make this undertaking as a part of our awareness of our national, human and moral responsibility.

Martyr in the UAE is not a number but a state of loyalty, gratitude, appreciation and respect of the nation and its leadership and people for the martyr and his family after him who will find care and honor by the entire community.

We congratulate the people of UAE, historic leadership and the immortal martyrs on this national day, which elevates their status in our conscience, as is their place with God and congratulations to family of the martyrs on this position with God and people and leadership of United Arab Emirates, which glorifies God the martyrs who sacrificed by their lives. We undertake to God, our wise leadership and the people to be loyal soldiers at the call of duty.
The General Secretariat of the Award celebrates the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Palm of Arab

The General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation congratulated our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of their 87th National Day for 1439H, may God repeat it for all of them in prosperity and blessings. The Secretary General praised the deep historical relations between the two brotherly countries (KSA and UAE) and acknowledged the efforts exerted by KSA wise leadership in supporting the agricultural sector, especially the date palm tree, because of its importance in the life and soul of the people of the Arabian Peninsula throughout history.

The General Secretariat of the Award, under the guidance of H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Award’s Board of Trustees has paid a particular attention to the importance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the date palm sector at the Arab and international levels and its efforts in serving palm trees and workers in this sector whether in terms of industry, agriculture or scientific research. In addition, KSA participation in the award was distinguished as Saudi Arabia ranked third place among the participants in various categories of the award in the past ten years, where the number amounted to 107 participants, and the number of winners of the award is 7 winners, while the number of recipients honored by the award is 3 entities, in addition to the existence of one of the international experts from Saudi Arabia as a member at the scientific committee of the award. The General Secretariat of the Award also praises the fact that KSA includes more than one chair for scientific research of date palm, which clarifies the depth of the attention that Saudi Arabia pays to the palm tree sector and its employees.

KSA hosts the largest market for dates in the world, the first electronic stock exchange for the sale of dates, the largest date palm farm in the world and the largest share of the consumption of dates in the world.
The General Secretariat of the Award celebrates the 46th National Day of the United Arab Emirates

National Day .. A popular celebration to promote loyalty and belonging and share with UAE people and wise leadership the most important days of the nation, i.e. the 46th national day of the establishment of the Union State. We are keen to strengthen the national identity, values of belonging and loyalty to the nation and its wise leadership, celebrate its symbols, Headed by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE, may God protect him, the patron and founder of the award and to establish the concept of national cohesion. We are proud of the achievements of the UAE since the era of Union to date, which is an example to be followed in giving, excellence and creativity in various human life economic, social, and other aspects of development and growth witnessed by the march of the Union.

On this great day, we take pride in our leadership and appreciate their tremendous efforts to build our modern State. UAE has been led by men who have a wise vision and awareness of the importance of the role of society in all of its development sectors and, most importantly, that they have great confidence in the people and their values, customs and loyalty.

On this occasion, the General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation will present the best congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Crown Princes on the occasion of the 46th National Day of the UAE.
The UAE has made great and unprecedented achievements in the agricultural sector and date palms despite the harsh desert nature, climatic conditions, limited water resources and scarcity of rainfall. The agricultural sector and date palms in particular are an important part of the lives of UAE nationals. The blessed tree was a major source of food, shelter and income.

This came during a press release published by the Emirates News Agency on July 19, 2017 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation. The UAE was and still one of the first countries granting the palm tree special attention thanks to the efforts of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. As a result, the UAE had a global standing and contributed significantly to the development of this sector, reservation and development of resources and support of global food security through a number of initiatives and events achieving great success at the local, Arab and international level.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan established Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in 2007 in recognition of the outstanding efforts and contributions of individuals and institutions in the field of agricultural innovation and date palms to encourage and motivate them to make efforts to reach the agricultural sector and the date palms to the best levels.
Under the directives of His H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
The Award launches 11 initiatives in the Year of Zayed 2018
Under the title Zayed... Agriculture and Palm Trees
His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The President of UAE, May Allah protect him, announced that the year 2018 in UAE shall be titled “Year of Zayed” to commemorate the centenary of the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE who died in 2004.

The Year of Zayed shall witness a serious of national and international events honoring the memory of the late leader Sheikh Zayed and glorifying his legacy and emphasizing the values which he inculcated and worked hard to disseminate through several cooperative and innovative initiatives.

In line with the values of the late Sheikh Zayed and under the directives of H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the General Secretariat of the Award has adopted a number of initiatives related to the institutional identity of the award under the slogan “In love with Zayed Agriculture and Palm,” which is an opportunity to engage the public and target groups from all ages and nationalities inside and outside the UAE in various programs and initiatives.

Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, the Secretary-General affirmed that the Award seeks the participation in the Year of Zayed in a manner befitting the owner of the event. We started the same by; honoring the winners of Khalifa international award for Date Palm and agricultural innovation in its tenth session in 2018 as well as the winners of the most Distinguished and innovative Farmer Award and in its first session in 2018; organizing the Sixth International Date Palm Conference with the participation of 181 researchers and academics from 40 countries in the world; and issuing of the third edition of Zayed Genius in Agriculture and Environment Book, and we will issue a special edition of BLESSED TREE MAGAZINE about Zayed, Agriculture and Palm Trees on the next May. This in addition to the launch of the tenth session of “Date Palm through the Eyes of the World” Competition and the third session of “Date Palm Poetry” Competition.
The General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation confirmed that the directives issued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE of approving 2018 as the Year of Zayed on the occasion of the passage of 100 years of his birth, represent the most beautiful images of loyalty to the builder and founder of reinsurance in UAE, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was having a smart vision toward date palm due to its strategic importance for UAE. Sheikh Zayed said “Palm was and will remain for us as “Tree of Life” we brought up and grew together and benefited from its abundant and various bounties so that we cannot imagine our life without it”. In addition, Sheikh Zayed sees that the blessed tree represents the foundations and roots of civilization and the source of power that contributed to preserve of generations. Sheikh Zayed’s belief in agricultural in his love for the date palm tree was unprecedented and more than expected. We all remember the dialogue took place between Sheikh Zayed and the experts on the cultivation of the desert where they did not encourage cultivation saying that growth of plants in the desert and in the midst of this climate is impossible, he said to them “let’s try. Sheikh Zayed succeeded in transforming the desert area into a green area, which encouraged him to continue.

The Secretary-General added that the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation represented a token of appreciation and acknowledgment from the patron of the award, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE, the first man of the environment, who instilled the love for palm in the citizens and planted millions of trees throughout the country.
The winners of the “Date Palm in the Eyes of the World” competition will be announced at its ninth session of 2018. 1021 pictures showed the great love in the eyes of 497 photographers from 26 countries around the world.

The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation announced the names of the winners of the International Photography Competition; “The Date Palm in the Eyes of the World” at its ninth session of 2018 in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi International Photography Association, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Award, where the results were as follows:

This came in a press statement made by His Excellency Dr. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary General of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, who expressed his happiness of the achievements of the competition over nine years, which in turn reinforce the human relationship with the Date palm tree through the use of the photography art as a means to develop public awareness of the importance of date palm tree, creating a wider space for the exchange of experiences among photographers from all over the world, highlighting the tourist, environmental and heritage elements of the date palms tree through the photograph and encouraging the connection of humans to the land and environment.

The first place was won by the photographer; Mohammed Al Boulushi.

The second place was won by the photographer; Anthony Ostria.
The third place was won by the photographer; Sultan Al Zaidi

The fifth place was won by the photographer; Hamad Al-Ghanboussi

The Secretary-General of the award added that the ninth session was marked by the participation of 497 photographers representing 26 countries around the world, and the number of participating pictures was 1021 of the most beautiful pictures that expressed their love for date palm tree and their intimate relationship with the blessed tree.

The Secretary-General praised the intimate relationship between the photographers and date palm tree, which expressed a passion and love in the eyes of the Palm photographers from different countries of the world. This session is also characterized by the presentation of quality distinguished pictures. The Secretary-General also appreciated the efforts exerted by the amateur and professional participating photographers.
Announcement of the winners of the competition
“Date Palm Poetry” competition in its second session 2018

Eighty-one poets representing 14 Arab countries participated in the competition

The General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation announced names of the winners of the “Date Poetry” competition at its second session, 2018, organized by the General Secretariat of the Award under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance, and Chairman of the Award’s Board of Trustees. Results of the competition are as follows:

1- The first place - Poet/ Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Mqbali for a poem entitled “Al Nakheel”
2- The Second place - poet/ Abdullah Shafi Awad Al-Enezi for a poem entitled “Ghida Al-Shajar”
3- The Second repeated place - poet/ Rashid bin Hamad bin Mohammed al-Sunaidi for a poem entitled “Umm al-Atta”
4- The third place - poet/ Ateeq Khalfan Salem Al-Kaabi for a poem entitled “Shomokh Al Nakhl”
5- The third repeated place - poet/ Abdul Aziz bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al Amiri for a poem entitled “Men Mafraq Al Argoon”

The total number of participants in the competition amounted to 81 male and female poets representing 14 Arab countries: the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Yemen, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of Tunisia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Algeria, Kingdom of Morocco, Palestine and Republic of Sudan. The poets organized their poems in Nabatean dialect to showcase their love of the Palm and its virtue and impact.
Announcing the winners of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation 2018

Nahayan Mabarak: “The support of Khalifa bin Zayed has raised the Award’s regional and international status”

H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Mabarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, expressed his appreciation of superior patronage the Award has received by the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE (may Allah protect him), the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and the appreciation of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. The Award has been thereby prompted to go ahead towards assuming a leading position at both Arab and international levels and to contribute to promotion of the UAE role in serving the date palm blessed tree and agricultural innovation around the world.

A press conference held by Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, yesterday, Sunday February 18th 2018 at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi to announce the
names of the winners of the Award’s 10th session, in the presence of Dr. Helal Hamid Saed Al Kaabi, Member of the Board of Trustees and Secretary General of the Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council, members of the Scientific Jury of the Award, Mr. Musallam Obaid Al Khalis Al Ameri, CEO of Al Foah Company, Dr. Asmahan Al Wafi, Director General of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture. We are proud of the prominent level that the Award has reached in its 10th session thanks to the great confidence and guidance of H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, Abdelouahhab Zaid.

Winners
The Secretary General of the Award added that the winners of the 10th session have been selected according to the applicable criteria and mechanisms for granting the Award, the report of the Scientific Jury, and the Evaluation Committee assessment of the participating works and approval of H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development and President of the Board of Trustees of the Award, as follows:

Category: Distinguished Innovative Studies and Modern Technology
The Discovery of Wild Date Palms in Oman.
Dr. Muriel Gros-Balthazard
Assistant Professor Institute of Evolution Sciences /University of Montpellier /France.

Category: Pioneering Development and Productive Projects
Mr. Mohammed Suhail Al Mazrouei
CEO Liwa Dates Factory for Food Industries / UAE.

Category: Pioneering and Sophisticated Innovations Serving the Agricultural Sector (Equally Between):
Dr. Luigi Porcella
Future Innovation Right Solutions Technologies Innovation ELECTRAP / Italy.
THE PLATFORM
Utilizing Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things technologies for early detection of Red Palm Weevil in date Palm Tree farms / UAE.

Category: Influential Figure in the Field of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation
Prof. Abdallah Ben Abdallah / Tunis
On his part, Dr. Helal Humaid Al-Kaabi, member of the Board of Trustees of the Award, announced the winners of the Distinguished Farmer Award for date palm farmers in the UAE organized by the General Secretariat of the Award in cooperation with Al Foah Company. The results were as follows:

**Category of large farms**
1st winner: Mr. Rashed Saeed Al-Eriani
1st winner (duplicate): Mr. Said Hamouda Al-Eriani
2nd winner: Mr. Hamid Saeed Al-Eriani
2nd winner (duplicate): Ms. Mira Khalfan Al-Nuaimi

Mr. Musallam Obaid, CEO of Al Foah, pointed to the importance of the Distinguished Farmer Award in supporting and motivating the UAE farmers to develop agricultural services, improve UAE dates and enhance competitiveness at the local and international levels. He praised the winners who are distinguished in cultivating date palm and producing dates in the UAE.
The General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation (KIADPAI) participated in Zayed Al Khair Convoy in Al Ain City. This Convoy was organized by Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development during the period from 19 to 20 October 2017.

The General Secretariat highlighted the most prominent activities and events and introduced the public and visitors, particularly those who are interested in the cultivation of palm and encouraged them to participate in the award categories at the international level (KIADPAI) or at the local level (Most Distinguished and Innovative Farmer Award), as well as the International Date Palm Photography Competition (Date Palm through the Eyes of the World), the Arab poetry competition (Date Palm Poetry) in regards to the conditions for participating, the period of application, the deadline for receiving applications through the website of the award, and the announcement of the winners.

The award also prepared an exhibition of photography of the winning and distinguished photos at the eighth session of 2017. The award participation received the admiration of the attendees and visitors.
Introducing the Most Distinguished and innovative farmer award

The Award takes part in Liwa Ajman Dates Festival 2017

The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participated with a special pavilion at the 13th session of Liwa Ajman Dates Festival, organized by Cultural Programs and Heritage Festivals Committee- Abu Dhabi, during the period 19-29 July 2017 and focused on introducing the UAE farmers with the outstanding and innovative farmer award announced by H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Dates Palm and Agricultural Innovation during the ceremony held to honor the winners in May, 2017. The General Secretariat of the Award in cooperation with Al-Foah Company supervise this award, which targets farmers producing dates at the level of the United Arab Emirates, who registered with Al-Foah Co., to be a platform to recognize and honor UAE citizens who have made great contributions in this field.

H.E. Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary General of the Award, said that the Liwa Dates Festival is one of the largest platforms allowing farmers and producers of dates in the UAE and the region to learn about the new developments in palm cultivation, date production and agricultural innovation.
Encourage farmers to compete for the most Distinguished and innovative farmer award

The Award takes part in Liwa Ajman Dates Festival 2017

The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participated with a special pavilion at the 4th session of Liwa Ajman Dates Festival, organized by the Department of Tourism Development, Ajman, during the period 2-4 August 2017 and focused on introducing the UAE farmers with the outstanding and innovative farmer award announced by H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of the Award’s Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Dates Palm and Agricultural Innovation during the ceremony held to honor the winners in May. The General Secretariat of the Award in cooperation with Al-Foah Company supervise this award, which targets farmers producing dates at the level of the United Arab Emirates, who registered with Al-Foah Co., to be a platform to recognize and honor UAE citizens who have made great contributions in this field.
The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participated in the fifth Global Forum of Agricultural Innovations held in Abu Dhabi on 5 and 6 February 2018 under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. In his speech at the Innovation in Food Security Symposium, Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, the Secretary General of the Award praised the importance of partnership between the public sector, the private sector and civil society in order to promote the culture of creativity and innovation in various sectors of work, especially agricultural innovation due to of its strategic importance in emphasizing the UAE’s food security and sustainable development.

The Secretary General of the Award added that the Global Forum of Agricultural Innovation is an important platform to emulate, in the year of Zayed, the thought of the founder and patron of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who found the concept of food security through sustainable resources, and create an attractive environment for the best practices round the world.

The award also took part in the Innovation and Food Security sessions held on the sidelines of the Global Forum of Agricultural Innovations within the date palm hub, with the participation of the UAE authorities. The participants discussed the challenges of the date palm sector in the UAE and the proposed solutions.
The General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation participated in a workshop on technical cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) organized by Khalifa University - Abu Dhabi from 20 to 22 August 2017 with participation of a number of governmental and local authorities.

The workshop aims to highlight the cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the field of promoting sound applications of nuclear science and technology through the technical cooperation program. The workshop will serve as a forum to highlight areas in which the agency can provide technical support and strengthen communication among them.

The workshop participants reviewed, during the workshop, a number of working papers, the most prominent of which are as follows:

The technical cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency, UAE technical cooperation with IAEA, discussing the promotion of food safety, nuclear energy to improve human health, enhancing environment, water and nuclear energy safety, improving sustainable agriculture and food security and improving and strengthening infrastructure and technology capabilities.
Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation’s General Secretary issued the Annual Book 2017

Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation’s General Secretary issued the annual book 2017. This book includes all events, activities and participations of the award in its ninth session, as well as depicted documentation about the ceremony of honoring winners of the award in its ninth session. The book documents as well the second festival of Egyptian Date in Siwa, inauguration of governmental date factory in Siwa, Egyptian Date Competition, the second symposium of Egyptian Date that accompanied the festival and launch of work shop regarding the development of value added series of Egyptian Date. In addition, the award participated in SIAL Middle East Exhibition - Abu Dhabi over the period from 5 to 7 December 2016, International Dates festival - Erfoud - Morocco over the period from 27 to 30 October 2017, United Nations Climate Change conference 21 (COP22) that was held in Marrakesh over the period from 7 to 18 November 2018, Abu Dhabi Book Fair in its 27th session that was held over the period from 27 April to 3 May 2016, the International Conference for Investment in the sectors of dates and palms that was held in Sultanate of Oman over the period from 23 to 25 May 2018, Liwa Dates Festival that was held over the period from 20 to 30 July 2016, Liwa Ajman Dates Festival that was held over the period from 27 to 29 July 2016 and the Fifth Palm Festival that that was held in Dibba al-Hosn over the period from 12 to 15 October 2016.

Furthermore, the Award’s general secretariat issued bulletin about the award in January 5, 2018 edition.
The 2nd Edition of “Zayed Genius in Agriculture and Environment”
Issued by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation
In celebration of the Year for Zayed 2018

“Whoever had the chance to closely know our late father Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan (God bless his soul) must have known that his interest in agriculture and environment was not ordinary, but a deep interest preceded by nothing, safe his belief in Allah and in the Union, the flourishing and development of the country and the progress and welfare of the citizens”.

With these words, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Deputy High Commander of the Armed Forces, marked the introduction of the second edition of the book “Zayed Genius in Agriculture and Environment”, which was issued by the General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, within the initiatives celebrating the Year for Zayed 2018. The book was written by H.E. Helal Humaid Saaed Al Kaabi, Secretary General of Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council, member of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, who, introducing the book, said that few people only may be described as “history makers” and “nation builders”. Among those is the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan (God bless his soul), the founder of the United Arab Emirates, the builder of its renaissance and the patron of its march through to assuming a prestigious place, not only in the Arab World, but also among the nations of the entire globe. Even though he left us, Sheikh Zayed’s deeds and achievements in all the wakes of life are still there, firmly founded in the land of the UAE, witnessed by everybody and recorded in history books.

From his part, Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, added that the agricultural and environmental achievements made by the late Sheikh Zayed (God bless his soul) on the land of the UAE over more than three decades are almost miraculous. Imagine millions of trees planted in the UAE deserts, turning hundreds of thousands of barren hectares into lively and shady forests and farms producing fresh fruits, which all agricultural experts almost unanimously agreed to be impossible due to the nature of the soil and the harsh climate in the UAE, which is among the driest areas in the world. However, Sheikh Zayed (God bless his soul) proved otherwise. His achievements won the interest of the world and were told by everybody. Universities, research centers and international organizations studied his environmental experience and came out
with several lessons from the successes of this bold experience that changed many of the concepts related to the impossibility of changing environmental conditions in a desert region. This did not come out of the void. Behind it was a clear genius and a strong will that characterized this unique leader.

Regarding the book, Dr. Helal Al Kaabi, member of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, says that “Zayed Genius in Agriculture and Environment” is considered a specialized reference book, in which the chronological order of events over the years was taken into account, detailing a green march led by the late Sheikh Zayed (God bless his soul) from his assumption of responsibility as the Ruler’s representative in Al Ain City and the Eastern Region back in 1946 to his death (God bless his soul) in 2004. The book presents and discusses the major agricultural and environmental achievements made by Sheikh Zayed on the land of the UAE as well as the agricultural and environmental thoughts and visions Sheikh Zayed expressed when he said “Give me agriculture and I will give you civilization”, encouraging his own people early in their march. The book also outlines the major challenges faced by Sheikh Zayed along his green march and how he overcame them. It also presents a large number of events and real-life situations that reflect Sheikh Zayed’s efforts and unique genius thought based on which he turned the desert land into gardens everywhere. Sheikh Zayed (God bless his soul) will remain one of the major and most important leaders in our contemporary history. He is the best example of man as a successor on earth due to his great achievements on his own land, his fidelity to his own people and Arab and Islamic nation and his benevolent hand that was stretched out throughout his entire life with benevolence and giving to mankind.
Winners Book / Photography Book

The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation issued the third edition of series of books about those who won the award, which series includes searches, studies, projects, innovations and winners of various categories of this award over three consecutive years 2015 - 2016 - 2017.

The General Secretary of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation issued the third edition of the book related to Photographic Competition “date palm through the eyes of the world”, which series includes the winning and distinguished photos over three consecutive years 2015 - 2016 - 2017.
The Award’s Advertising and Media Campaign in its Tenth Session

E-marketing campaign shall be launched via the following outlets:
1. Search notice boards on Google Search Website all over the world
2. Advertisement in social networking websites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google).
3. Updating the electronic website of the Award, in addition to social media pages.

4. The Award’s general secretariat produced series of publications such as introductory book about the award, the award-related conditions form which contains information about the award’s foundation, categories, conditions of nomination and value in Arabic and English, form of the International Photographic Competition in its tenth session 2018 and date palm poetry competition in its second session 2018. In addition, the Award’s general secretariat designed and published commercial advertisements in the local newspapers related to the award in its tenth session 2018 within its 5 categories, printed small post card for the winning and distinguished photos in Photographic Competition and issued the Award’s annual book about the ninth session 2017.
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**First Launching Ceremony of Award** 2008

- Distinguished Figure
- Distinguished Development Project
- The Best New Technique
- The Best New Producer
- The Best New Studies / Research
- The Best New Categories
- Total No. of Participants
- Total No. of Categories

**Second Launching Ceremony of Award** 2016

- Influential Figure in the Field
- Distinguished Innovative Studies and Modern Technology
- Distinguished Producers
- Pioneering & Sophisticated Innovations
- Distinguished Pioneering Development & Productive Projects
- Influential Figure in the Field
- Distinguished Innovative Studies and Modern Technology
- Distinguished Producers
- Pioneering & Sophisticated Innovations
- Distinguished Pioneering Development & Productive Projects
- Total No. of Participants
- Total No. of Categories

**Award Statistics 2009 - 2018**
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Total Number of The Winners & Honored Persons
The winners in the world

Arab

Foreign

Local

Honored

Total Participants

1179

Foreign Participants

61

Local Participants

20

Arab Participants

44

Winners

1025

Local Participants

92

Foreign Participants

8

Arab Participants

154

Winner

18
Percentage Rate (2009 - 2018)

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Distinguished Producer</th>
<th>Distinguished Project</th>
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Tenth Session (2018)

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### Number of participants from Arab countries

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**Country** | **Season** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **Total**
Third Winner - Competition Date Palm through the eyes of the world - Ninth Session - Nidhal Alsalmi
Chapter Three

Harvest
On Saturday 18th November 2017 and under the patronage of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Siwa Oasis witnessed the opening of the third session of the Egyptian Date Palm Festival organized by the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry, H.E Major General Alaa Abu Zeid, Governor of Matrouh, H.E Sami Al Naqbi, Economic Advisor at the UAE Embassy in Cairo, and H.E. Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary-General of the Khalifa International Date Palm Award and Agricultural Innovation, H.E Saman Mana, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cambodia, H.E Hinadi Lati, the Ambassador of the Ukraine Republic and H.E De Hoang Long, the Ambassador of the Republic of Vietnam.
The festival was held under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs for the sake of improving the palm trees sector and supporting the agriculture of dates in Egypt and providing successful marketing solutions in order to increase the marketing value of dates. These directives reveal the close strong relationships between UAE and Egypt.

In his statement, H.E. Dr. Abdelouhab Zaid, Secretary-General of the Khalifa International Date Palm Award and Agricultural Innovation, focused on the importance of this initiative from the UAE under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan which in turn emphasizes the strong relations between the UAE and the Arab Republic of Egypt within the developmental projects made by the UAE in Egypt. The Egyptian Date Palm Festival is consider a national event held for the third year respectively in Egypt. The Secretary General expressed his appreciation for the great cooperation of the ministries and governmental and private institutions in Arab Republic of Egypt, which expressed willingness to cooperate and provided the necessary support for the success of this festival, besides the great efforts made by the General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Date Palm Award and Agricultural Innovation, the UAE Embassy in Cairo which provided all the facilities for the success of festival and achieving its goals.
Farmers of date palm in Arab Republic of Egypt celebrated their winning in Egyptian Date Competition in its third session 2017, which competition was organized by the general secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in cooperation with Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Matrouh Governorate.

This happened during the official opening of the third festival for the Egyptian Date 2017 on 18 November 2017. The value of awards submitted by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation amounted to EGP 300,000 divided into 10 categories at the rate of EGP 30,000 per winner.

Results of the competition are as follows:

1. Category of the best farmer that produces Siwa dates “Upper Egyptian”
2. Category of the best research for the development of palm cultivation and palm techniques
3. Category of the best sample for folklore product from Cellulose material of palm date
4. Category of the best date farmer that possesses various types of palm date
5. Category of the best used techniques
6. Category of the best organic cultivation that benefits from residues
7. Category of the best product of dates
8. Category of the best factor and house of date filling
9. Category of the best packages of dates
10. Category of the best character that serve Siwa Oasis and Western Oases
Palm experts focus on cultivating and serving dates, ways to control pests and diseases and the marketing and export of Egyptian dates.

17 researches at the third scientific symposium of dates palm at the festival of Siwa 2017

On November 16, 2017, the third scientific symposium was held within the third festival of Egyptian dates in Siwa with the participation of 17 researchers representing a group of experts, consultants and international academics specialized in date palm cultivation and date production from various governmental institutions and research centers in Egypt and Arab countries. Prof. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary-General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation opened the symposium and stressed the importance of scientific research in the development of the date palm sector and date production, praising the scientific efforts made by all competent authorities to develop this sector throughout the Republic of Egypt in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Award and the relevant international organizations.

Furthermore, H.E. Hanan Al Hadari, Rapporteur of Industrial Council for Technology & Innovation of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry welcomed the participants in the scientific symposium within the 3rd Egyptian Date Palm Festival in Siwa 2017 and stressed the importance of the scientific efforts presented in the symposium, as it reflected the results of researches conducted in various institutions and scientific research centers in Egypt.
The award signed the protocol of cooperation with Phoenix Inc. to develop the Siwa Festival

And the Governor of Matrouh reviewed the West Siwa development project

The General Secretariat of the Award has signed a memorandum of understanding with Phoenix Inc. in order to work together to develop the activities of the festival to become an institutional entity including many sustainable development activities according to their joint vision, as well as to develop a joint work plan that determines the strategy and objectives of developing the festival activities and to find the necessary mechanisms to market the festival internationally, including the necessary activities to keep pace with exhibitions and conferences associated with its activities.

His Excellency Major General Alaa Abu Zeid, Governor of Matruh, also reviewed in the presence of the official delegations of Siwa Festival, the West Siwa Development Project, subject to the Phoenix Group, where he stated that the place will be equipped according to Siwa style to preserve the historical heritage of the Oasis. The project will also include a residential city, a commercial area for displaying Siwa products, fair ground and a large theater to showcase a number of artistic works.
On the sidelines of the third Festival of Egyptian Dates in Siwa 2017

Opening of “Siwa Market” to preserve traditional crafts and promote sustainable tourism

Taziri village constituted an integrated laboratory for all components of Sustainable Development Project of West Siwa. Since the construction of Taziri in 2007, it has presented a unique experience to return to Mother Nature, in which the visitor enjoys the true magical power of Siwa and learns about the inherent means of evoking the elements of the ancient culture of the place and the rich culture of its inhabitants. This came during the press conference held in Taziri village, in which Ms. Huda Faisal Al Shaabi, the head of the cultural section of the West Siwa development project confirmed in the presence of the General Secretariat of the Award, that the village of Taziri contains a series of manual workshops, a market for Siwa products, a heritage library, a museum of antiques, in addition to organic farms, restaurant and guard for Arabian horses and environmental hotel, noting that the project includes an integrated plan for the establishment of a residential complex built by the traditional ways of Siwa houses with the development of innovative technologies for alternative energy and eco-friendly solutions.
Siwa farmers compete in showing the best dates in the Third Egyptian Date Palm Festival

189 exhibitors from 4 countries have participated in the Third Egyptian Dates Exhibition 2017 at the Olympic Village in Siwa

Under the patronage of the President of Arab Republic of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, the third Egyptian Date Palm Festival started its third session 2017 on November 15, 2017 with a wide international participation reached 189 exhibitors within 121 pavilions representing four countries: the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Sudan, the State of Libya and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The festival is Organized by the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Matruh Governorate, the International Date Palm Network, the Date Palm Friends Association in the UAE, Siwa Society for Tourism Services and Environmental Preservation, and Siwa Society for Community Development and Environmental Preservation, where exhibitors presented the finest types of Egyptian dates and their derivatives, which are included in various food industries.

The festival witnessed a large public presence from different groups of society, along with businessmen and companies, who specially attended to view the best Egyptian dates and to allow farmers and producers to make deals with companies. That is in addition to the presence of a number of businessmen investing in the date palm sector, including traders from Indonesia, Germany, India, Tajikistan and Vietnam at the invitation of Food Export Council of Egypt.
The Phoenix Group Inc. announced the launch of its first postgraduate program on sustainable development in Siwa, Egypt, on the sidelines of the Egyptian Date Palm Festival in Siwa 2017 organized by the General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Matruh Governorate. The postgraduate diploma is expected to cover the following subjects: sustainable economy of ecosystems, development of environmentally friendly industries, oasis socio-economic systems, green financial systems and agricultural heritage development.

This came during a press conference held by Ms. Huda Faisal Al Shaabi, Head of the Cultural Section in Phoenix Inc. on 17th of November, 2017 at Taziri Resort in Siwa, in the presence of H.E. Reda Baalbaki, consultant of the Phoenix Group, H.E Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Mrabet, current consultant of research and development in the Kingdom of Morocco, and representatives of the media in Egypt, in which Ms. Huda Al Shaabi stressed the importance of human balance and harmony with its vital environment through an environmentally friendly and sustainable lifestyle that considers the local environment and its culture and contributes to empowering the society to meet the challenges of the age and achieve sustainable development.
Siwa Oases New Achievements Supported by the Award’s Secretariat

200 palm farms obtain certificate of conformity for organic production as per the European Union law and American Law

As qualitative step, 200 palm farms in Siwa Oasis (Arab Republic of Egypt) obtained certificate of conformity for organic production as per the European Union law and American Law after Siwa Community Development and Environment Protection Society qualified and trained more than 200 farmers with small possessions in cooperation with Mediterranean Center for Agricultural Inspection and Certification under the supervision and support of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation’s General Secretariat.

Prof. Abdelouhhab zaid, the secretary of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, has acknowledged the guidelines and support of H.H Sheik Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs in UAE, for the support and development of date palm sector in the Arab Republic of Egypt adding that the certificate of conformity of Egyptian date in Siwa Oasis shall allow farm owners to market their products in the national and international markets in better manner and with higher prices and shall create chances of national and international competition by opening new markets to deliver the Egyptian date to international markets.
Under the directives of Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan
The UAE allocates AED 8 million to support and develop the date palm sector in the Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E. Gomaa Mubarak Al-Junaibi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative at the Arab League, announced the organization of the Third Egyptian Date Palm Festival in Siwa in Matruh Governorate during the period from 8-10 November 2017 under the patronage of H.E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, The President of Arab Republic of Egypt and the supervision of the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, following the success of the first and second Egyptian Date Palm Festival in Siwa. This came during the ceremony of announcing a number of developmental projects to develop date palm sector with value of AED 8,000,000, that will be implemented in a number of Egyptian governorates. Such ceremony was hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday August 21, 2017 in the presence of H.E. Eng. Tariq Qabeel, Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Abdel Moneim El Banna, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and H.E. Eng. Gomaa Mubarak Al Jneibi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Cairo. H.E. Dr. Abdelouhhab zaid, Secretary-General of Khalifa International Award for Date
Palm and Agricultural Innovation, H.E. Major General Mohammad Kamal Al-Dali, Governor of Giza, H.E. Major General Mohamed Zamlout, Governor of the New Valley and Mr. Imam, Secretary General of Matruh Governor.

H.E. Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, said that this support will include recruitment of a number of international experts to provide technical support and consultation and transfer the technology throughout the value added chain of the date palm sector in Egypt for interest of Center of Food Industry and Agricultural Processing Technology of the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in addition to the development of the New Valley dates complex and establishment of cold stores for dates in Bahariya oases in Giza. He also asserted the importance of this high pledge from H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs in promoting the date palm industry, agriculture, and trade to be qualified for competition in international markets, emphasizing the deep brotherly relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Republic of Egypt.
By directive of H.H Sheik Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Memorandum of Understanding is concluded between UAE and Sudan to organize the first festival of Sudanese Date 2017
The First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan receives Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation’s delegation

Lieutenant General/ Bakri Hassan Saleh, the First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan and Prime Minister received Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation’s delegation that was presided by Prof. Abdelouhhab zaid, the secretary of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation. The meeting was attended as well by Badr Al Din Al Sheikh Hassan, Federal Undersecretary of Agriculture & Forestry, representatives of the Sudanese Association of Palm Date Cultivation & Care. The attendees discussed UAE’s efforts to organize first festival of Sudanese Date from 5 to 9 December 2017 acknowledging the efforts exerted by H.H Sheik Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs in UAE for the organization of this festival and support of sectors of palm cultivation and dates production in the Republic of Sudan.

In a press release, H.E Hamad Mohamed Hamed Al Junaibi, UAE Ambassador in Al Khartoum, stated the memorandum of understanding was concluded by directives of H.H Sheik Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs in UAE to organize first festival of Sudanese Date 2017 in cooperation with of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry and the Sudanese Association of Palm Date Cultivation & Care and in coordination with UAE’s Embassy in Al Khartoum in order to develop and support sectors of palm cultivation and dates production in Sudan. He added that the memorandum of understanding concluded with our Sudanese brothers confirm the high credibility that the award achieved nationally, regionally and internationally.
Under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan

A memorandum of understanding was made between the UAE and Sudan to organize the 1st International Date Palm Festival in Sudan

The first Vice President and Prime Minister of Sudan received the delegation from the General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation

On the 9th of August 2017, Bakri Hassan Saleh, the First Vice President and Prime Minister of Sudan received the delegation of General Secretariat of the Khalifa international award for date palm and agricultural innovation headed by H.E. Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary-General of the Khalifa International Date Palm Award and
Agricultural Innovation in the presence of H.E Badr El-Din Sheikh Hassan Deputy of the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and representatives of the Society for Cultivation and Care For Date Palm Trees. He shed light on the efforts made by the UAE on organizing the First International Date Palm Festival in Sudan the period from 5-9 December 2017. He praised the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs in the organization of the festival and supporting the of palm trees agriculture and dates production in Sudan.

In his statement, H.E. Hamad Mohammed Humaid Al Junabi, UAE Ambassador to Sudan, added that the Memorandum of Understanding was executed under the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs for the sake of organizing the First International Date Palm Festival in Sudan in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, and the Society for Cultivation and Care For Date Palm Trees and in coordination with the UAE Embassy in Khartoum in order to develop the palm trees sector and the dates production in Sudan.

He added that the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding with the brotherly the Republic of the Sudan affirms the high level of credibility achieved by the Award at both national and international levels.
Honoring the winners of four competitions within the Sudanese Dates Festival 2017

The cultural community in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum celebrated the honoring of the winners of the international competitions of the first International Date Palm Festival of Sudan 2017. His Excellency Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary General of the Award, expressed his happiness for the success of the four competitions in their first session: the Date Palm through the eyes of the Sudanese photographer, the Date Palm Poetry in Sudan, the Date Palm of classical Arabic, Date Palm art in Sudan. Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid Pointed out to the great social and cultural motivation and movement created in the Sudanese society where hundreds compete to win the award, which had a great impact on the participating parties. The results were as follows:

The Date Palm through the Eyes of the Sudanese Photographer:

The photographer/ Abdul Mohaiman Sayed won first place, the photographer/ Hassan Mohammed Adam won the second place and the photographer/ Haq al-Sheikh Sheikh won the third place.
The Date Palm Poetry competition of classical Arabic poetry in Sudan:

The poet/ Mohamed Abdel-Alim Mohamed Hassan won second place, while the first and third place were blocked.

The Date Palm competition in slang Sudan:

The poet/ Mohammed Ahmed Ali Mohammed won first place, the poet/ Taj Alser Osman Mohammed al-Tayebby won the second place and the poet/ Mohammed Zain Abu al-Qasim won by the third place.

Date Palm Competition in Sudanese Art:

The plastic artist/ Maher Mohammed Ahmed won the first place, plastic artist/ Adlan Youssef won the second place and the plastic artist/ Othman Awadallah won the third place.

Awards were distributed as follows:

Winner of the first place: ten thousand Sudanese pounds, a certificate of appreciation and a commemorative shield, the winner of the second place: 5,000 Sudanese pounds, a certificate of appreciation and a commemorative shield and the winner of the third place: 3,000 Sudanese pounds, a certificate of appreciation and a commemorative shield.
On Wednesday 06 December 2017, the proceedings of the Scientific meeting, accompanying the First International Festival of the Sudanese Date Palm in 2017 hosted by the Sudan’s Capital Khartoum and organized by the General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, and the Society for Cultivation and Care For Date Palm Trees under the auspices of the General Bakri Hassan Saleh, First Vice President and Prime Minister of Sudan, were launched. Within four scientific sessions, 16 research papers were presented by a selection of the academic Sudanese international and Arab specialized experts and researchers. The symposium was opened by the statement of H.E. Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, Secretary-General of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, as he praised the scientific efforts made by all the specialized bodies in the development of palm trees and dates production sector in Sudan in cooperation with the Award General Secretariat as well as related international organizations. He, also, shed light on the efforts made by Award General Secretariat during the last ten years in the support and development of palm trees sector at the national and international levels. The research papers, presented in the scientific meeting accompanying the festival, focused on many topics touching the reality of the palm trees agriculture and the production of dates in Sudan.
The Sudanese farmers compete to provide the best dates in the first festival of Sudanese Date 2017
200 Participants from 3 Arab Countries

Under patronage of Lieutenant General/ Bakri Hassan Saleh, the First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan and Prime Minister, the Sudanese Capital witnessed the launch of first festival of Sudanese Date 2017 on Tuesday morning, 5 December 2017 at Al Sadaqa Hall – Al Khartoum. This festival has witnessed a wide Sudanese and Arab Participation that reached to 200 exhibitors representing three Arab Countries: United Arab Emirates, Arab Republic of Egypt and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia amid great public attendees from various society classes, in addition to the businessmen who specially came to see the best Sudanese dates and give opportunity to farmers and producers to enter into commercial deals with companies. Although it is the best session for the festival, it has formed a great turning point regarding the cultivation of palms and production and export of the Sudanese dates.

This festival was organized by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, the Sudanese Association of Palm Date Cultivation & Care, Date Palms Friends Society in UAE and the International Network of Date Palms.
Under the patronage of His Highness, UAE President “may Allah protect him”

Nahayan Mabarak honors winners of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation at its tenth session, and Winners of Outstanding and Innovative Farmers Award at its first session;
And Launches the sixth International Date Palm Conference

- Nahayan Mabarak: We take pride and boast of the heritage of late father, Founder of the state and builder of its renaissance.
- 11 Memorandums of Understanding between the Award and international organizations to evolve Date Palm Sector.
- High level international and diplomatic presence enhancing the UAE’s rank.
- 76 certified ambassadors attending the ceremony.

Yesterday, in an exceptional ceremony of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation at its 10th session, H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, honored the winners of the award, offered annually by The General Secretariat of the Award to institutions, authorities, international organizations, and pioneer companies according to the best practices in the field of date palm agriculture and agricultural innovation around the world. During the ceremony, H.H Sheikh Nahyan honored the winners of The Outstanding and Innovative Farmers Award at its first session, which targets date palm farmers around the UAE, organized by The General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in collaboration with Alfoah Company. In addition, H.H Sheikh Nahyan announced the launch of the sixth international date palm conference supported continually by the
UAE for twenty years, which enhanced the leadership position of the UAE in serving and developing date palm sector at the international level.

A number of ministers representing the participating States, presidents of the participating international organizations, along with managers of the competent local institutions and entities, managers of the concerned research centers, seventy six certified ambassadors and more than 500 specialists and academics in date palm attended the ceremony held under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Kalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the State “God protect him” in order to participate in the sixth international date palm conference. Furthermore, a constellation of senior figures and leaders in date palm and agricultural innovation sector, officials of local and federal government entities, along with sponsors, partners, media professionals and representatives of various media attended the ceremony.

H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the award, affirmed in his speech during the ceremony, within the context of initiatives launched by the Award in celebration of year of
Zayed, that we express our honor and pride in year of Zayed by launching book of “Zayed Ingenuity in Agriculture and Environment”, which is the first book documented the interests, efforts and achievements of the late, leader and founder in field of agriculture and environment. I’d be pleased also to announce the organization of a seminar about “Zayed and Agriculture”, in which we provide the testimony of a group of people who witnessed Zayed Al Khair and worked with him in this vital field, in addition to the launch of date palm poetry competition and date palm through the eyes of the world competition, along with issuance of a special edition of the Blessed Tree magazine.

Honoring the Winners of the International and Local Award

H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of the Board of Trustees honored the winners of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation at its tenth session, 2018. H.H gave the winners memorial shields and certificates of appreciation as follows: Dr. Morel Gross Yaltzard from Montpellier university in France, the winner of the category of outstanding studies and modern technology, Dr. Luigi Murcella from Italy, the winner of the category of pioneering and advanced innovations serving the agricultural sector, platform company from the UAE, the winner equally of the category of pioneering and advanced innovations serving the agricultural sector, Mohamed Sohail Almazroei from the UAE, the winner of the category of development and productive projects and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah from Tunis, the winner of the category of the distinguished personality in field of date palm and agricultural innovation.

Furthermore, H.H Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahayan gave the memorial shields and certificates of appreciation to the winners of the outstanding and Innovative Farmer Award at its first session as follows: Rashed Saeed Mohamed Sultan Aleriani, the winner of the first place of the category of the large farms, Saeed Hamouda Khamis Aleriani, the winner of the first place bis of the category of the large farms, Hamid Saeed Mohamed Sultan Aleriani, the winner of the
second place of the category of the large farms and Mera Khalifan Abdullah Alnaeimy, the winner of the second place bis of the category of the large farms.

Zayed Ingenuity in Agriculture and Environment

HE Dr. Hilal Humaid Saeed Al Kaabi, Secretary General of Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council and member of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, presented his book “Zayed Ingenuity in Agriculture and Environment” to H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Head of State (may Allah protect him), and H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The book issued by General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation as a part of the award initiatives for celebrating year of Zayed, 2018. In the introduction of the book, the author referred to that few men deserved to be described as “markers of history” and “builders of nations”, including the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan (may Allah bless his
(soul), the founder of the UAE and builder of its renaissance until it placed a prominent rank, not only in the Arab world, but also in the whole world. However H.H is passed away, his works and achievements in various aspects of life are remained and well-established in the UAE and witnessed by the entire world and kept in history books.

Eleven Memorandums of Understanding

H.H Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Khalifa Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, signed eleven memorandums of understanding between General Secretariat of the Award and some of national and international institutions for enhancing the principle of partnership and exchanging the experiences; in order to achieve a number of economic projects relating to development of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation within the objectives of strategic award at the Arab and International level during a ceremony honoring the winners of the Award in its tenth session, which took place on Monday corresponding to March 19, 2018 at Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office in Cairo and with Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Arab Republic of Egypt, Sudanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and Soil & Food Testing in Morocco.
First Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation And Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations And Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Second Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation And Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Cairo)

Third Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation And Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Fourth Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation And International Fund for Agricultural Development

Fifth Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation And Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority
Sixth Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation and Ministry of Trade & Industry - Egypt

Seventh Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Sudan

Eighth Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation and Ministry of Agriculture - Kingdom of Jordan

Ninth Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation and The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

Tenth Memorandum: Between Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation and Soil and Food Analysis Laboratory - Morocco

Eleventh Memorandum: Between International Center for Biosaline Agriculture and Khalifa Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
As a part of special ceremony organized by the General Secretariat of the Award

Honoring media professionals and winners of “Date Palm through the Eyes of the World” and” Date Palm Poetry” 2018

The General Secretariat of the Khalifa International Award of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation held a special ceremony to honor the winners of the Award competitions and to honor the media partners at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi on Monday 19 March 2018 in the presence of the winners of the “Date Palm through the Eyes of the World” in its second session 2018 and representatives of the media in the United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Abdelouhhab Zaid, the Secretary General of the Award, said that this ceremony is a great recognition for the media organizations and the media professionals for their hard work over the past year in their cooperation with the Award and their effective role in transparently and subjectively conveying the news and information useful for the society in all of its institutions and sections, which contributed in the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by the United Arab Emirates in various fields, especially in the field of date palms and agricultural innovation.

The Secretary General also congratulated the winners of the award competitions on their success and excellence in their work. Regarding the International
Photography Competition “Date Palm through the Eyes of the World” in its ninth session in 2018, the photographer Mohammed Al Balushi was awarded the first place prize, the photographer Anthony Osteria was awarded the second place prize and the Photographer Nidal Al Salmi won the third prize.

Regarding “Date Palm Poetry” second edition, the poet/ Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Muqbali won the first prize for a poem entitled “Al Nakheel”, the poet Abdullah Shafi Awad Al-Enezi won the second prize for a poem entitled “Ghida Al-Shajar” and Rashid bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Sunaidi won the third prize for a poem entitled “Umm al-Atta”.

Regarding “Date Palm Poetry” second edition, the poet/ Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Muqbali won the first prize for a poem entitled “Al Nakheel”, the poet Abdullah Shafi Awad Al-Enezi won the second prize for a poem entitled “Ghida Al-Shajar” and Rashid bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Sunaidi won the third prize for a poem entitled “Umm al-Atta”.

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Honored Persons
- Bachelor degree in Agricultural Sciences in 1993 from United Arab Emirates University, excellent grade.
- Master’s degree in environmental science in 1999 from United Arab Emirates University, excellent grade.
- Diploma in tissue propagation of Date Palm in 2004, Imperial College, University of London.
- Diploma in Plant Biotechnology in 2004, Imperial College, University of London.
- PhD in Plant Tissue Science and Biotechnology in 2004, Imperial College, University of London.

He has received several scientific awards including:

- Scientific Excellence Award, UAE University, United Arab Emirates, 1993, 1999.
- Vice Chairman of Emirates International Accreditation Center, Government of Dubai, January 2017 till the present date.
- Secretary General of Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council, Abu Dhabi Government, November 2017 till the present date.
Jenaan Agricultural Investment Company is a private company, established in 2005 and having its head office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It works closely with the Government of Abu Dhabi to support the food security of the UAE, which imports more than 90% of its food needs. It also invests in the agricultural value chain to contribute to the food security of the UAE. The company has a long-term contract with the Government of Abu Dhabi to provide hay and feed to farmers in Abu Dhabi. Through many partnerships in host countries, Jenaan operates its own agricultural operations through a number of companies in the framework of food investments in the United States, Spain, Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt and mainly works in the production of livestock feed along with rice, wheat and maize.
• Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia.
• Deputy Chairman of Al Rajhi Saudi Group since 1991 till the present date.
• The activities of the Group and its companies varied in many fields of industry, trade, technology, agriculture and even real estate. These companies include Shabakah Net. Co., Commercial Agencies Co., Al Majd Marble Factory, Al Rajhi Safety Tools Co. and several companies that proved their competitiveness in their fields.
• Owner of Zadina Trading Company, one of the companies of Eng. Abdul Wahhab Saleh Al Rajhi Group, having its head office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It is a leading company in marketing and exporting dates, pastries and sweets in Saudi Arabia and abroad. His aim is to improve the quality of the product to reach the taste of the customer, as he always seeks his satisfaction. We have four branches in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Qassim, Jeddah and Dammam). We have also a distribution team covering all parts of the Kingdom, along with a specialized factory to produce the finest types of dessert and sweets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Jeddah), which is unique to our taste.
Hans Hassle has more than 30 years of experience in the business sector and for 15 years served as CEO of Swedish communication agency Vision and Reality Communication AB in Stockholm. Hans was appointed by the Swedish Government to the Ethical Committee of Karolinska Medical Institute in Stockholm (Regionala Etikprövningsnämnden vid Karolinska Institutet). evolution? AB runs social business in Burma, invests knowledge capital in social enterprise, educates leaders in sustainable leadership as well as assists organisations in implementation of the Companization governance model. In 2012, Hans Hassle became an official member of the World Entrepreneurship Forum and joined the Forum’s Think Tank as one of 88 members. Hassle was in 2010 and 2011 nominated Sustainable Leader of the Year by the Swedish Association of Environmental Managers and in 2012, he was awarded CEO of the Year, Sweden by European CEO as well as put on the World Finance 100 list in 2012. Hans Hassle served as CEO of Plantagon International AB from January 2008 until May 2016. He is now Secretary General of Plantagon International Association. 2016 Hassle was appointed member of ADC Forum Advisory Council.
• Graduated from Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 1981
• Master’s and PhD degrees from Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University.
• PhD degree after preparing a study on plant growth regulators entitled “The use of natural growth regulators and their impact on plant tissue culture.”, and then he traveled to USA and completed his research and studies there.
• Member of the Coordinating and Technical Committee for Egyptian-Italian Cooperation Projects, board member of the National Water Research Center at the Ministry of Irrigation, board member of the Academy of Scientific Research and Office of the Academy of Scientific Research and director of institutional twinning project for the modernization of the Agricultural Research Center in cooperation with France, Italy and the Netherlands through the European Union.
• Occupied several positions in the Ministry of Agriculture, as he was appointed as deputy of the Agricultural Research Center for Production Affairs, then deputy of research affairs of the Center and finally head of the National Center for Agricultural Research.
Winners
For many crops, wild relatives constitute an extraordinary resource for cultivar improvement and also help to better understand the history of their domestication. However, the wild ancestor species of several perennial crops have not yet been identified. Perennial crops generally present a weak domestication syndrome allowing cultivated individuals to establish feral populations difficult to distinguish from truly wild populations, and there is frequently ongoing gene flow between wild relatives and the crop that might erode most genetic differences. Here we report the discovery of populations of the wild ancestor species of the date palm (Phoenix dactylifera L.), one of the oldest and most important cultivated fruit plants in hot and arid regions of the Old World. We discovered these wild individuals in remote and isolated mountainous locations of Oman. They are genetically more diverse than and distinct from a representative sample of Middle Eastern cultivated date palms and exhibit rounded seed shapes resembling those of a close sister species and archeological samples, but not modern cultivars. Whole-genome sequencing of several wild and cultivated individuals revealed a complex domestication history involving the contribution of at least two wild sources to African cultivated date palms. The discovery of wild date palms offers a unique chance to further elucidate the history of this iconic crop that has constituted the cornerstone of traditional oasis polyculture systems for several thousand years.
ELECTRAP at a glance

- In ELECTRAP insects are captured and disabled using pulsed emission from MASER (Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation). Inside the core Electrap device is placed the specially designed Phero-Kairo 925+, a pheromone lure (Ferrolure) and the formulation of the kairomone (ethyl acetate). The invention has been granted a patent by the UAE as well as the GCC.
- Electrap functions on the principle of MASER, where a fully inside mirrored ‘Resonance Chamber’ (core Electrap device), loaded by natural light, incessantly reflecting the light, starts a resonance process till the saturation of the light reflection inside the chamber, thereby emitting the infrared electromagnetic radio waves loaded by the lures molecules and attracting the insects.
- In Electrap the said Resonance Chamber is mounted horizontally in the trap and the semiochemicals (Pheromone and Kairomone), placed inside, can last for 4 to 6 months without renewal.
- Once RPW adults enter into the Electrap, escape of the trapped weevils is prevented due to the presence of the one-way bristles crown at the entrance.
- Subsequently the trapped weevils die due to quick dehydration.
- The dismountable bottom support allows an easy periodical removal of the dead weevils. It is pertinent to mention that the Electrap, besides being bait and water free, is also without any insecticide as often used in traditional traps to kill the trapped weevils. So it is fully fitting for the “ORGANIC” farming.
- All of it means that ELECTRAP, approved by United Nations, Abu Dhabi Baladyia, KSA Ministry of Agriculture and many others, is the most effective and less expensive solution against RPW!
Cognitive Palm Tree is an innovative autonomous technique that utilizes cutting edge technologies to detect the existence of Red Palm Tree Weevil (RPW) in low cost way.

Using Low Power Internet of Things (LPWA IOT) sensor empowered by Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, we have built new technique of detecting RPW.

We are relying on acoustic detection as well as acceleration/vibration analysis, both ways are used simultaneously in low cost manner, to maximize the device efficiency.

We transfer the data collected from each palm tree to internet based server that collect numerous data samples from all palm trees from different farms.

We developed Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning model that is deployed on IBM WATSON Machine Learning and data science environment “over internet server”, that continuously analyze acoustic and vibration samples collected directly from palm tree via cheap LPWA IOT acoustic and vibration sensing device connected to internet via NBIOT/LTEM chipset.

Using this technique, we can provide farmers and government a geographic map that indicate RPW activity with exact infested palm trees locations. This help farmer to identify existence of Red Palm Tree Weevil in early stage.
• Success of Liwa Dates Factory consisted a foundation stone and a pillar of processing industry in the region in general, being the first factory offering direct services to dates producers in the country and has prompted many citizens to imitate the idea and construct more than one similar factory, a fact that makes us more than overjoyed.

• The services Liwa Factory has provided to farmers was a leverage to the other services offered by the rest of dates factories at state level and has led to introducing farmer services in the same mechanism we have applied with a great effect on the date producers of citizen farmers.

• We are out of competition framework as we hold a national strategic vision and goal which we endeavor to achieve beyond the framework of traditional business. All the other date factories at state level, however, are companions and friends of ours, sharing us the same goal and even giving us a greater incentive to provide more attention and giving to be the model of innovation and excellence we are now. Because the ultimate beneficiary is certainly the farmer as there is a room for everyone in the date palm sector, even to a much larger extent than what it is so far.

• Liwa Dates Factory has allowed Emirati national youth a great opportunity to get closely acquainted with dates industry and the opportunity of sustainable training for skill development, exchange of experiences and for providing them with technical and logistic assistance for encouraging them to establish similar projects, particularly all over the Western Region, Abu Dhabi, national territory.

• Citizens of the Western Region have come to know our services and Liwa Factory is a landmark which they are proud of in Liwa and the region.

• We are proud of the good impression Liwa Dates Factory has created among the people of the Western Region in particular. It has become a landmark in the present and future public life of the region and pride source for them. The Factory, being a development project, constitutes an economic value and a distinct social imprint contributing to the economic development process in the region and sustainable development of the country in general.
I am the Son of a farmer “date Grower” in the south of Tunisia and I have my own plantation of date palm “Deglet Nour”, I was Agronomist Engineer specialised on date palm and did my PhD also on date Palm. I spent my whole life working on date palm first as Director of the first Date Palm Research Centre in the South of Tunisia then since 2003, I started working, through FAO, in the service of date palm growers all over the world. With the confirmed experience that I have acquired during the 30 years of my professional career and the various assignments and increasing responsibilities I have been discharging during these years and with my linguistic abilities, I can confirm that I have consequently developed through these years a solid relevant experience and helped many date growers in many countries.

Through the various duties I have been carrying out during my active life, I have dealt with overall responsibilities for monitoring and reporting on activities related to date palm agricultural development, worked closely with national authorities and collaborated with national, regional as well as international development and funding institutions. I have also played critical roles in development endeavours in the countries where I worked. I provided when and where I was given the possibility, leadership on food and agriculture policy. I assisted, and sometimes lead, in formulation of programs and projects and in the identification of priorities for future assistance. I also lead implementation of projects and field activities as well as actively participated in program development efforts in my home country as well as in other countries like Namibia, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Saudi Arabia, Egypt & Eritrea with FAO.
Winners of The Most Distinguished and Innovative Farmer Award
Rashid Saeed Al Aryani has adopted the approach of Sheikh Zayed in agriculture and achieved unprecedented achievements in the field of Date palm cultivation and date production; as a result, his farm located at Al-Wagen, Al-Ain has become the destination and the role model of farms owners at the state level.

He founded the farm in 1994. The farm’s area is 500 x 700 feet and includes 767 palm trees of the finest commercial dates such as (Khalas, fard, Bomaan, Al-Madinah, Nabatat Saif, Jabri and a number of stallions). The farm is characterized by many elements, most importantly the compliance with all standards and requirements of clean agriculture in accordance with the requirements of the Farmers Service Center and the standards of Al Foah company for dates marketing. The discipline became one of the most important elements used by the entire team work in the farm and distinguished it from other farms. The farm is served by an agricultural engineer and a team of five skilled workers. The farm is divided into a number of sectors with a daily follow-up system to identify which tree has an injury or technical problem. This discipline saves time and effort, reduces losses and gives better results.
Saeed Al Aryani founded his farm in 1995 in Al-Wagen, Al-Ain, the UAE, with an area of 600 x 600 square feet. It includes 852 palm trees of the finest types such as (Khalas, Barhi, Bomaan, Khenaizi, Fard, Lulu, Shishi, Sultana, Saqai and a number of stallions for vaccination). Saeed Al-Ariani has applied the GAP system (Global Gap) to ensure the safety and security of food and workers on a sustainable basis for agricultural practices. It is a globally certified certificate, granted to farmers who apply these modern and sound standards.

The farm is also characterized by a technical team of workers reached ten skilled workers trained on cleanliness and respect for the order. The farm includes a desalination plant of ground water, rooms and stores dedicated to the development of spray tools and other tools for classifying and drying dates with a capacity of 10 tons, and storage for dates before being supplied to Al Foah company. The production capacity of the farm this year reaches 100 tons of the finest types of dates. Without the great love that binds Saeed Al-Ariani with date palms, this success has never been achieved.
The farmer Hamid Al Aryani founded his farm in Al-Wagen with an area of 600 x 600 feet, which includes the finest date palm types such as (Khalas, Barhi, Fard, Bomaan, Khenaizi and Lulu ....). The production capacity of the farm is 70 tons per year. He adopts the recent irrigation theory to rationalize water consumption. He also has an integrated technical system in the farm in terms of agricultural services such as drip irrigation and the use of manure made from palm fronds, by cutting the agricultural residues and fermentation them into an technical hall dedicated for that to become organic fertilizer, in addition to cow manure, as it is cold and valid for agricultural use. The pesticides are used only in extreme emergency. The farm is free of diseases and insects, as the farm workers wear the uniform allocated for this purpose in accordance with the requirements of health, safety and environmental protection approved by the Farmers Services Center. Furthermore, the desalination system is applied to provide fresh water to the blessed tree because the proceeds of dates irrigated with fresh water are better than the ones irrigated with salt water.
Mirah Khalfan Abdullah Al Nuaimi is a resident of the western region (Liwa). She has a farm with area of 200 x 200 m, including 800 palm trees of the most important dates palm species such as (Khalas, Majdul, Shishi, Nbatat Saif, Khnezi) and annual productive capacity of 20 tons of dates. The farm also has submersibles to withdraw water used in drip irrigation from underground. In addition, the organic fertilizers she prepared are used to treat infected trees and the results are impressive.

She has a mature and distinguished agricultural experience in date palm cultivation and organic date production. She obtained the (Global GAP) certificate from the International Organization for Clean Agriculture, which guarantees the best agricultural practices. She also applies all health, safety and environmental protection measures, as well as, she has a special room for isolating pesticides, room for classifying dates, room for drying dates by the sun, and finally a room for storing the dates before being supplied to Al Foah company according to their approved requirements for dates. The farm adopted all the technical requirements established by the jury of the Most Distinguished and Innovative Farmer Award, in terms of hygiene and the application of safety and environmental protection measures.
Third Winner - Competition Date Palm through the eyes of the world - Ninth Session - Sultan Alzaidi
Chapter Four

The 6th International Date Palm Conference
The United Arab Emirates Creates a Platform for International Work to Explore the Future of Food Security

Inviting the presidents of international organizations to active partnership with the United Arab Emirates to promote future food security

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Launches an International Fund to Fight the Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus (Red Palm Weevil)

The International Organizations Appreciate the efforts of the United Arab Emirates to Support and Develop the Date Palm Sector in the World

Her Excellency Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Al Muhairi, Minister for Future Food Security in the United Arab Emirates, praised the 6th International Conference of Date Palm as it is considered an ideal platform for exploration of the future of the important date palm sector within the frame of innovation and creativity, and the methods to be applied for improving and enhancing the sector, and widening the area of international cooperation of the sector. Her Excellency stated that in the main session of the Conference organized by the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation which was held at 15:00 yesterday Monday at the Emirates Palace.

Her Excellency added that the United Arab Emirates is food secured. Yet, the future food security requires a comprehensive approach to flexible strategies based on future technologies for food production, and development of techniques and genetic sources that are compatible with the conditions of the United Arab Emirates in untraditional locations, as well as forming alliances of food security between the United Arab Emirates and other world countries.
Therefore, we have to adapt the future strategies with research and development so that such strategies can be effective and sustainable through promotion and enhancement of international partnerships with concerned organizations.

Her Excellency Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Al Muhairi, Minister of State for Future Food Security in the United Arab Emirates also invited through the platform of the 6th International Conference of Date Palm all chairmen of the international organizations participating in the Conference to effective partnership with the United Arab Emirates so that to support the future food security at the regional and international levels as we have a role in minds and values communication as well as a distinctive infrastructure and an environment that incubate new biotechnologies center as a platform that supports creativity and innovation in the field of food production.

**Sustainable Development Project in Matrouh Governorate:**

His Excellency Major General Alaa Abu Zeid, Governor of Matrouh in the Arab Republic of Egypt expressed his proudness for participating in the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation which yielded within four years a big number of development projects for supporting and developing the date palm sector in not only Siwa oases, but in all the Arab Republic of Egypt. Behind this achievement was the generosity and support of His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. This was made during the main session of the 6th International Conference of Date Palm held yesterday,
Monday the 19th of March 2018 at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. He added: This comes within the steadfast relationships among the United Arab Emirates (represented by the Award), Matrouh Governorate, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, and Siwa Community Development and Environment Protection Association.

His Excellency Major General Alaa Abu Zeid added that the number of date factories in Siwa increased from 9 to 13 within three years with total financial investments of approximately 20 million Egyptian pounds. The date preservation refrigerators in Siwa increased from 15 to 25 within three years. There are also rapid increase in this field and an increased of the stored quantities of dates from 8000 tons to 16000 tons, that is, 100% increase. Additionally, the prices of dates in Siwa increased from 3-4 pounds per kilogram in 2015 to the currently prevailing price of 12-13 pounds. This makes an unprecedented jump of the date prices that led to enhancement of economic status of farmers and improvement of their incomes. It also led to higher production level of dates in Siwa where the Siwa type of dates rose from 16,000 to 20,000 tons, and the Azzawi type from 8,000 to 12,000 tons along with wide expansion of date palm cultivation during this period, especially with the execution of the development of the value added chain for dates project with investment of 400,000 pounds from FAO to develop the dates sector in Egypt including Siwa oasis in cooperation with Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, Ministry of Industry, and Ministry of Agriculture. This led to the increase of production value and the marketing and economical value. It is the first time a factory of date molasses is established, and it focuses on the Azzawi dates type as well as other date types that have less marketing value. This called for interest in such types of date and, consequently, contributed to benefiting from them and raising their marketing value.

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

In the main session of the 6th International Conference of Date Palm the FAO held a special session where Dr. Thaer Yassin talked about the FAO’s experience in the application of the international cooperation model to combat Red palm weevil. His speech was related to the discussions made in a high-level meeting about the Red palm weevil combat management held in Rome between 29-31 March 2017. In the meeting, the up-to-date techniques achieved by FAO to control Red palm weevil was demonstrated by Dr. Michel Fayri. Dr. Moses Fajardo talked about the Canary Isles experience in eradicating the Red palm weevil. Dr. Romino Valero talked about the Mauritania experience in eradicating the Red palm weevil.
Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (League of Arab States):

In the Main Session of the 6th International Conference of Date Palm the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development proposed the development of the value-added chain for dates project in the Arab states in cooperation with FAO and Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation. It was presented by Dr. Josemo Santos Rocha. This project aims to make a value-added chain map for dates.

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture - Dubai (ICBA):

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture - Dubai demonstrated for the first time the water map of date palm tree, or what is called the water footprint of palm tree, with determination of the water real requirements needed by the date palm trees in the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Steve Green made the demonstration emphasizing that the work carried out by the researchers of ICBA in this respect was a study of the real water needs over the whole year, and that the date palm tree does not need such much water in the year. This makes its water footprint higher and of great effect on the underground water stock.

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA):

Dr. Kamal Shideed, Assistant Director of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), demonstrated the strategic plan of ICARDA in the coming ten years (2017-2026).
6th International Date Palm Conference attracts Elite World Scientists

181 Participants from 40 Countries around the World

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid: IDPC drew scientific and diplomatic attention at the highest international level
Dr. Ghaleb Al Hadrami: IDPC researches focus on the future of date palm industry around the world

The 6th International Date Palm Conference attracted elite scientists, specialists and researchers of palm cultivation and dates production. This IDPC was organized by Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE (may Allah protect him) during 19-21 March 2018. The 6th International Date Palm Conference recorded the highest percentage of participation compared to the previous IDPCs.

Prof. Abdelouahhab Zaid, KIADPAI General Secretary and chairman of organizing committee for the 6th International Date Palm Conference stated that IDPC Scientific committee indicated that committee members
studied the researchers received by IDPC Secretariat to choose the best researchers under the approved technical requirements of participating in the international conferences. 181 researchers among 300 participants were approved including 102 scientific papers and 79 scientific posters from 40 countries in addition to 120 researchers were registered as participants only. The participations focused on main five axes during five scientific sessions as follows:

During the first session titled Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology / Tissue Culture, 23 scientific papers and 10 posters were submitted. During the second session titled Red palm weevil, 14 scientific papers and 11 posters were submitted. During the third session titled Date palm pests and diseases, 14 scientific papers and 14 posters were submitted. During the fourth session titled Date palm Technical Practices, 25 scientific papers and 26 posters were submitted. During the fifth session titled General topics on date palms, 26 scientific papers and 18 posters were submitted.

As to the importance of IDPC and its added value, Dr. Ghaleb Al Hadrami, Chairman of IDPC is one of important academic conferences on date palm around the world. IDPC is held once each four years to give the opportunity for scientific researches and achieving the scientific results. IDPC drew scientific and diplomatic attention at the highest level and IDPC gives great opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions among scientists specialized in date palm and senior executives of date palm industry around the world.
At the end of the 6th International Date Palm Conference, which was hosted by the capital Abu Dhabi during the period from 19 to 21 March 2018 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, the participating scientists and researchers applauded the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by the United Arab Emirates under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, as an extension of the shrewd approach laid down by His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the UAE, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. They also praised the remarkable progress in the field of agricultural production, particularly date palms, which is of a great interest at all levels of official and popular in the United Arab Emirates. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the UAE for their warm reception and hospitality.

The Scientific Committee issued a number of recommendations at the end of the 6th International Date Palm Conference:

1. Launching national project to combat red palm weevil in the UAE, along with supporting the efforts of the International Fund to Fight Red Palm Weevil under the umbrella of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
2. Establishment of a regional project to transfer the qualitative expertise in the field of palm growing and date production from the UAE to the countries of the world.