



Restoring Iraq's Agricultural Sector

Creating sustainable growth by repairing equipment and training for the future

The scarcity of operational equipment is one of the major obstacles to increasing Iraq's agricultural productivity, particularly for wheat production. In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and two American providers – Case New Holland (CNH) and Massey Ferguson – USAID is training Iraqi mechanics and working to rehabilitate at least 5,000 inoperable tractors by September 2006. To date, 1,543 tractors have been repaired in workshops located around Iraq.

By restoring essential equipment and training Iraqi mechanics, the tractor repair program will help drive sustainable, economic growth of Iraq's agricultural sector. The program will help build capacity in the agricultural sector and establish a foundation further sustainable job creation. Tractor repair will allow farmers to produce 67,500 metric tons of additional wheat for the domestic market, generating over \$4.7 million in annual grain sales, and allowing up to \$5,400/tractor annually in contract services.

RESTORING KEY MACHINERY

USAID has partnered with CNH and Massey Ferguson – whose brands which make up a large share of agricultural machinery in Iraq – to establish 14 workshops countrywide. Staffed by 180 trained Iraqi mechanics and using American international distribution and supply channels, these repair facilities serve Iraq's wheat producing regions: Baghdad, Dohuk, Ninewa, Erbil, Wassit, and Sulaymaniyah governorates.

By September 2006, the program will restore at least 5,000 inoperable tractors, many of which are decades old and have received little maintenance. Tractor owners are now bringing their machines into the workshops for repairs ranging from engine and transmission overhauls to the replacement of

brakes and starter motors. Upon completion of repairs, provided at no cost to the owners, the tractors will be returned to the farmers for use.

The completed rehabilitation of these 5,000 tractors will benefit both farmers, who will earn increased revenue from greater production due to expanded and improved cultivation, as well as tractor owners, who will earn increased service revenue from contract services. The program will expand cultivated lands by approximately 45,000 hectares and allow for more intensive and timely cultivation of existing land. In all, the program will help produce 67,500 metric tons of additional wheat, generating over \$4.7 million in annual grain sales, and allowing for \$5,400/tractor annually in contract services.



Mechanics at one of 14 workshops around the country repair a tractor as part of USAID's tractor repair program. The 180 Iraqis employed at the workshops will continue to provide tractor repair services after the end of the project.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

In addition to repairing existing tractors, USAID's tractor rehabilitation program will add to the foundation for sustainable, private sector growth in agriculture by establishing a countrywide network of privately owned repair shops and trained Iraqi mechanics. The 14 CNH and Massey Ferguson workshops – including the 180 Iraqi mechanics currently



Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI)

High Value Crops

Improved Date Palm Output: Established date palm nurseries in 13 governorates that will expand Iraqi palm tree population by 410,000 new trees per year.

Provided Farm Machinery Training & Tools: Trained 28 mechanics in farm machinery repair and supplied tools to help establish private repair businesses.

Increased Olive Tree Population: 9,000 olive trees have been planted in 16 demonstration plots countrywide.

Rehabilitated Veterinary Clinics: 55 veterinary clinics have been rehabilitated, serving more than 108,000 animal breeders.

Crop Production

Seed Improvement: Distributed 169 wheat seed cleaners to nine NGOs in 18 governorates. Produced over 29,000 metric tons of grade 1, treated wheat seed for 2005-06 season, which will plant 225,000 hectares of land.

Increased Training: 175 operators trained in wheat seed cleaning and treating.

Farm Machinery Repair: To date, a total of 1,543 tractors have been repaired of a planned 5,000 nation wide.

Soil & Water Management

Strategy Development: Initiated a 10-ministry effort to develop the Iraq water and land use strategy.

Grant Provision - Irrigation: Provided small-scale grants that increased canal and water infrastructure improvements on 320,000 acres of land serving 445,000 Iraqis.



employed there – will continue to provide repair and maintenance services beyond the life of the project.

USAID partners are also training additional Iraqi mechanics to set up independent repair workshops in rural areas where services for agricultural machinery were not previously available. Nearly 30 Iraqis were trained and received essential tools in a recent program; USAID plans to train and equip up to 150 more rural mechanics over the coming months.



Nine Iraqi mechanics recently attended an advanced training course at the CNH facility in Turkey. After the five-day course in tractor maintenance and repair, the mechanics returned to their independent workshops to train other mechanics.

A separate advanced training activity is underway in cooperation with the CNH distributor in Turkey. Already, 16 mechanics have completed the course and additional trainings for up to 20 mechanics will be held over the next few months. During the five-day workshop, Iraqis from independent workshops tour production plants and attend training on engine disassembly and assembly, dynamometer testing, hydraulic systems, transmission, and Power Take Off systems. The participating Iraqi mechanics serve in supervisory positions and will be able to train at least ten additional mechanics in these skills on their return to Iraq, multiplying the benefit of the training course and increasing the quality of repair services available in Iraq.



SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture is Iraq's second largest value sector, the country's largest employer, and an effective engine for promoting stability through private sector development, poverty reduction, and food security. The revival of a dynamic, market-driven agricultural sector will strengthen private business, increase employment opportunities, and meet the food requirements of the Iraqi people.

USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) provides technical assistance and support to jump start Iraq's agriculture sector. Restoring essential equipment, including tractors and irrigation systems, is part of the larger effort to restore agricultural production and develop the private sector. Other efforts, outlined elsewhere, include training farmers and ministry officials in modern agricultural methods, the use of new equipment, and land and water management. Already, demonstrations of a cost-effective technical package on test plots have shown a 40 percent average increase in wheat yield.



A tractor owner receives his repaired tractor. For the first time in years, it is ready for use in agricultural production. USAID's tractor repair program will restore at least 5,000 inoperable tractors by September 2006.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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USAID: Support to Agricultural Development in Iraq

<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/accomplishments/agri.html>

Iraq Success Stories: Meet the Beneficiaries

http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/accomplishments/success_stories_0206.html

USAID: Our Commitment to Iraq

<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/accomplishments/>

