

**Memorandum of Understanding
TO STRENGTHEN THE IRAQI AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS
BETWEEN U.S. AND IRAQI UNIVERSITIES**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) intend to further solidify and broaden their strong relationship. This Memorandum of Understanding builds on their current cooperative efforts in support of Iraq's work to strengthen its food and agricultural sectors.

Over the past three years, USDA advisors have provided management and technical expertise to the Ministry of Trade and to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to enable it to help Iraq's food security and to support Iraq's effort to provide services to its agricultural producers, processors, and commercial traders. In 2005, USDA provided 30,000 MT of corn and soybean meal under the Food for Progress Program to stimulate Iraq's poultry industry. The Cochran Fellowship Program brought Iraqis to the United States for agricultural education and extension training in 2005, and more are expected to participate. In 2006, Iraqi scientists received training on diagnostic testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza. The U.S. wheat, rice, and corn industries have provided several programs for technical training, including trips to the United States and to other countries in the Middle East. USDA is providing advisors to the Iraqi MoA to build capacity in agricultural extension, strategic planning, and animal inspection.

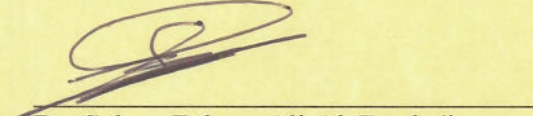
To further strengthen the Iraqi agricultural extension service and Iraqi agricultural universities, USDA and the Ministry of Agriculture / Iraq intend to foster long-term cooperation between their respective Ministries, and to explore cooperative mechanisms that could facilitate deep, long-term relationships between U.S. land grant and Iraqi agricultural colleges. When such cooperative mechanisms are identified, the United States and Ministry Of Agriculture / Iraq intend to demonstrate their strong commitment represented by this Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen Iraq's agricultural extension system and to enhance their universities' relationships by developing specific projects and areas of focus.

Potential areas of focus for agricultural extension and training include, but are not limited to:

- Rice production
- Wheat and barley production
- Poultry, sheep, and goat production and animal health
- Water resources management and irrigation technology
- Irrigated fruit and vegetable production

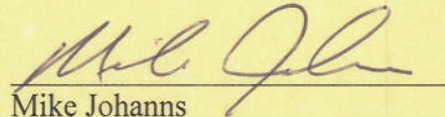
An agreement has been done to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on August, 01, 2006 in Baghdad, Iraq.

For the Iraqi side



Dr. Salam Zukam Ali Al-Zawba'i
Deputy Prime Minister

For the US side



Mike Johanns
Secretary