

The VIIth International Congress on Cactus Pear and Cochineal and

The VIIth General Meeting of the FAO-ICARDA International Technical Cooperation Network on Cactus Pear and Cochineal

Agadir (Morocco), October 17-22, 2010

First Announcement



ICARDA



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المغرب الأخضر
LE MAROC VERT

Previous International Congresses on Cactus Pear and Cochineal were held in Mexico (1991), Chile (1992), South Africa (1996), Tunisia (2000), Mexico (2004) and Brazil (2007). Morocco, a country of tradition and hospitality will host the seventh International Congress on Cactus Pear and Cochineal and the VIIth General Meeting of the FAO-ICARDA International Technical Cooperation Network on Cactus Pear in Agadir, October 17-22, 2010.

The Kingdom of Morocco is located in the upper northwest corner of Africa, 15 km south of Spain through Gibraltar Strait. The kingdom's capital is Rabat. The national territory extends on an area of about 71 millions ha with a population of about 31 millions.

Cactus crop has been introduced into Morocco more than four centuries ago and is spread on about 110,000 ha over the country. Frequent droughts led farmers to plant this crop to mitigate and adapt to climate variability.

The recent Moroccan agricultural strategy entitled “the Green Morocco Plan”, lunched in 2008, is aiming to (i) develop a modern integrated and competitive agriculture and (ii) promote a social agriculture focusing on improving the welfare of small holders. Cactus is one of the promoting alternative crops, in particular for marginal lands in central and southern regions of the country. A cactus development program is fully integrated in the second pillar of the Green Morocco Plan targeting the following objectives:

- *Convert cereal crops in marginal areas to cactus plantations;*
- *Enhance cactus productivity and favor export of cactus value-added products through various investment and marketing channels.*
- *Promote cactus products as “niche” products having medicinal, cosmetic and nutritional qualities with high value addition.*

The objectives of the VIIth International Cactus Congress meet those of the FAO-ICARDA Cactus net bringing together scientists, producers, operators, users to share new research findings and know-how and to promote enterprises for the benefit of the rural poor.

The VIIth International Congress includes:

- *Nine scientific sessions introduced by key note speakers,*
- *One day field visit to show some of the Moroccan achievements in cactus development,*
- *VIIth General Meeting of the FAO-ICARDA International Technical Cooperation Network on Cactus Pear*
- *An optional 2-day Post-Congress tour to acquaint participants with cactus development program in Central Morocco and give the opportunity to discover Moroccan culture and traditions.*

SPONSORS

Venue

17-22 October 2010, Hotel Atlantic Palace, Agadir, Morocco

Organizers

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Directorate of Chain Value Development/ DDFP; Directorate of Education, Training and Research/ DEFR)
- Agricultural National Research Institute (INRA Morocco)
- Agricultural Regional Office (ORMVA) Sous Massa
- Souss Massa Regional Council
- The Moroccan Association of Cactus Development (AMADEC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- FAO-ICARDA International Technical Cooperation Network on Cactus pear and Cochineal
- International for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS)

Convener

Mr. Akka Oulahboub (aoulahboub@yahoo.fr)

Honorary President of the Congress

HE Mr Aziz Akhennouch, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Fisheries

Dr. Enrique Arias

Editorial board

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- Abderrahman Hilali
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- Mohamed Khannoufi (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Morocco)
- Karim Angay (Agency for Economic and Social Development of Southern provinces of Morocco)

Provisional Program

October 17, 2010

Arrival of participants
16.00-20.00 Registration

October 18, 2010

08.00-10.00 Registration
10.00-11.00 Opening ceremony
11.00-11.30 Coffee break
11.30-12.00 Presentation of cactus crop in Morocco

12.00-13.00 **Session 1. Genetic resources, biology and biotechnology**
13.00-14.30 Lunch
14.30-16.30 Session 1 (ctd.)
16.30-18.00 **Session 2. Agronomy and Fruit Production**

October 19, 2010

- 08.30-11.00 **Session 3. Medicinal and Cosmetic uses**
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-13.00 **Session 3. Medicinal and Cosmetic uses (ctd.)**
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-16.00 **Session 4. Post harvest and Agro-industries**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break.
- 16.30-19.00 **Session 5. Desertification control and environment conservation**

October 20, 2010

- 08.30-11.00 **Session 6. Animal Feeding**
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-13.00 **Session 7. Cochineal**
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-16.00 **Session 8. Pests and diseases**
- 16.00-18.00 **Session 9. Pitayas and pitahayas**

October 21, 2010

Field visit: Cactetum at Ait Amira (INRA), Cooperative Sahara Cactus, Cooperative Sbouya (Sidi Ifni), UNDP/South Agency Cactus Project

October 22, 2010

- 09.00-13.00 **VIIth General Meeting of the FAO-ICARDA International Technical Cooperation Network on Cactus Pear**

October 23 and 24, 2010

2-day Post-Congres Tour to Marrakech Region

