

Celebrating



**2016**  
INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF PULSES



First Announcement

# 2016 International Conference on **PULSES**

FOR HEALTH, NUTRITION AND  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE  
IN DRYLANDS

Marrakesh, Morocco, 18-20 April, 2016

ORGANIZED BY

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)  
and Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Morocco



IN COLLABORATION WITH

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), OCP Foundation  
and CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Grain Legumes

## Pulses in Drylands

Chickpea, faba bean, lentil, common bean, field pea, mung bean, black gram, pigeon pea, cow pea, and grasspea are the major pulse crops produced globally. They specially play an important role in food and nutritional security and sustainable agricultural production systems in the drylands which cover over 40% of the world's land area and are home to approximately 2.5 billion people. These crops are the mainstay of agriculture and diets in these regions, constituting a major source of protein for billions. With an ever-growing health conscious population, the demand for pulses is increasing and so is the opportunity.



*ICARDA research station at Marchouch, Morocco*

## Pulses: Good for the Planet, Good for the People

Given the [World Economic Forum's recent assessment](#) on water scarcity posing a significant risk to sustainable development goals, pulses may offer a part of the solution – pulses are efficient users of water and nutrients, offering more crop per drop in terms of protein and micro-nutrients. With prevailing child malnutrition at 27% in Africa and as much as 37% in India, the high-protein, micronutrient-rich caloric values of pulses offer the opportunity for eradicating malnutrition in challenging soil and climatic environments.

According to [UNCCD](#), today 52% of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by degradation of soil, a non-renewable resource. The worsening land degradation scenario is challenging sustainable food production, particularly in drylands where natural resources are scarce. Pulses have the ability to replenish soil nutrients through nitrogen fixation, making them valuable to improve production systems through crop rotation.

## About the Conference

The International Conference on Pulses for Health, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Drylands is being held on the occasion of the 2016 International Year of Pulses to provide a platform to various stakeholders, including scientists, policy-makers, extension workers, traders and entrepreneurs, to discuss the various contributions of pulses to food and nutritional security and ecosystem health. Challenges ahead to driving greater production and benefits for all will be addressed with a focus on Central and West Asia, and North Africa. A roadmap will be developed for increasing productivity and profitability of pulses through diversification and intensification of cereal/livestock-based cropping systems.

The Conference, to be held April 18-20, 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco, is being organized by ICARDA and INRA (Morocco) in partnership with FAO, IFAD, OCP Foundation and CRP Grain Legumes. Conference advisory partners include (alphabetically):

- Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Ethiopia
- General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policy (GDAR), Turkey
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), India
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France
- Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (CSIC), Cordoba, Spain
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- University of California, Davis (UC Davis), USA
- The University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth, Australia

## Conference Themes

1. Global pulses scenarios – production, consumption and trade
2. Innovative techniques for pulses improvement and adaptation
3. Diversification & sustainable intensification of agri-food systems through pulses
4. Seed systems, input markets and mechanization
5. Nutrition, fortification, health and food security
6. Social, economic and policy issues – increasing adoption and impacts assessment
7. Country successes, lessons learnt and challenges (knowledge-sharing event)

## Preliminary Conference Program

- Six technical sessions with keynote addresses by distinguished scientists
- A poster exhibition around major themes
- A knowledge-sharing event on country experiences for mutual learning
- A field visit to research experiments on pulse crops at the Marchouch Research Station and farmers' fields

## Call for Papers

Participants of the Conference are invited to contribute abstracts of papers for oral or poster presentation on pulses on areas that pertain to themes 1 to 6. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and must be submitted online.

## Important Deadlines

- Submission of Abstract: Jan 20, 2015
- Notification of Acceptance: Feb 10, 2016
- Submission of Full Paper: March 30, 2016



## Date and Venue

**18-20 April, 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco**

Marrakesh is a major city of Morocco, one of the most diverse countries in Africa, rich in culture and nature. The weather in Marrakesh is pleasant with temperatures averaging around 18°C in the daytime during April.

ICARDA has established its Global Research Platform for Intensification and Diversification of Cereal-Based Production Systems in Morocco and the office for its North Africa Regional Program in Rabat, both graciously hosted by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA).

# Conference Organizing Committees

## International

- Dr. Mahmoud Solh (ICARDA), Chair
- Prof. Mohamed Badraoui (INRA), Morocco
- Dr. David Bergvinson (ICRISAT), India
- Mr. Dost Muhammad, Regional Plant Production Officer, FAO/RNE
- Mr. Nawfel Roudies (Program Director, OCP-Foundation), Morocco
- Dr. Masum Burak (GDAR), Turkey
- Dr. B.B. Singh (ICAR), India
- Dr. Asnake Fikre (EIAR), Ethiopia
- Dr. Fred Muehlbauer (USDA/ARS), USA
- Dr. Doug Cook (UC-Davis), USA
- Prof. Kadambot Siddique (University of Western Australia), Australia
- Prof. Diego Rubiales (CSIC), Spain
- Dr. Marie H el ene Jeuffroy (INRA), France
- Dr. Michael Baum (ICARDA), Morocco
- Dr. Shoba Sivasankar (ICRISAT)
- Dr. Ennaany Driss, Mohamed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco

## Local

- Dr. Rachid Dahan INRA, Chair
- Dr. Shiv Kumar Agarwal, ICARDA
- Dr. Mohamed El Mourid, ICARDA
- Dr. Rachid Mrabet, INRA
- Dr. Mohamed El Asri, INRA
- Prof. Ahmed Bamouh, IAV- Hassan II
- Mr. Rouini Imadeddine, OCP Foundation
- Ms. Hassina Moukharig, OCP Foundation
- Dr. Ashutosh Sarker, ICARDA
- Dr. Sripada Udupa, ICARDA
- Dr. Seid Kemal, ICARDA
- Dr. Ahmed Amri, ICARDA
- Dr. Moustafa El-Bouhssini, ICARDA

### Registration fee: 250 USD (for students: 200 USD)

(to cover lunches, Conference dinner, coffee breaks)

A conference website will be launched soon, providing event updates and allowing online registration, abstract/paper submission and fee payment (for latest information, visit [www.icarda.org](http://www.icarda.org)).

### For more information, contact:

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