Iraq and Wageningen University & Research: An ambitious future of cooperation

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WUR-Strong position in the rankings

1
WUR ranking in QS World University Rankings 2016-2017
“Agriculture and Forestry”

4
WUR ranking in QS World University Rankings 2016-2017
“Environmental Sciences”

1
WUR ranking in National Taiwan University Ranking,
World Universities 2015-2016
“Agriculture”

47
WUR ranking in Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-2016

29
WUR ranking in Academic Ranking of World Universities 2015
“Life & Agriculture Sciences”

1
WUR ranking in Keuzegids in full time university education 2017

1 (12 years running)
WUR has long-term partnerships: Egypt, Pakistan, India, Ethiopia...

Results
- Technical issues solved
- Capacity Developed
- Policy formulated

Through dialogue and a never ending process:
History of WUR and Iraq cooperation

- in the 1950s & 1960s
  NL involved in drainage for salinity in Iraq
2013: visit led by Director General of Centre for Studies and Engineering Designs (CSED) at MoWR in Iraq to WUR and signing a MoU with Wageningen Environmental Research (WeNR)
Partnership between NL/WUR and Iraq

- In 2018, Iraq became as one of the countries in Dutch government focus policy implementation.

- On August 2018, the Iraqi ambassador in The Hague came to WUR and met with the Rector magnificus, head of Asia account and other scientists from WUR.
• In 2018, 3 staff members of Wageningen UR have participated in (two) missions to Iraq (KRI in June 2018; Central and South-Iraq Aug-Sep 2018)

• Also, 2 WUR staff members were visited Erbil for meetings with investors, Director-Generals of Ministries.
What has been done

• June 2019 WUR welcomed a High-level visit from Iraq included The First Lady of Iraq, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Water Resources, Dutch ambassador in BAG, Nuffic, and many representatives for public and private sectors from the NL and Iraq.

• During the Iraqi visit, MoA signed a LOI between WUR and MoA as the Iraqi government wants to improve the agriculture sector in Iraq.

• Nuffic announced starting their programs for Iraq
• A high-level delegation from the ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) in Iraq had visited Wageningen University & Research.

• The delegations consisted of prof. dr. Hamed Khalaf Ahmad, the undersecretary of MOHESR, Prof. Sabah Ahmed Ismail, President of Kirkuk University, Prof. Emad Al-Husseini, President of Baghdad University, and dept-ambassador of Iraq in the Netherlands and 2 staffs from the Iraqi embassy. The delegation met with Dr. ir Bram de Vos, the managing director of the Environmental science group in Wageningen University & Research.

• The delegations also visited Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR) and Environmental Science Group (ESG)
Current WUR projects in Iraq
OKP-IRAQ Project
2020-2021

Efficient water management (EWM) in Iraq by switching to climate smart agriculture (CSA): capacity building & Knowledge development
Introduction to the project

- The project is part of Orange Knowledge Program that is funded by the Dutch government and run by Nuffic.

- **The project lead**: Wageningen University & Research (WUR) in Netherlands and Salahaddin University in Iraq.

- **The project partners**: IHE-Delft and iCRA global in the Netherlands and, Kufa, Karbala, Basra, Mosul and Anbar universities in Iraq.
Strategy – Key Elements

• Respond to Iraq needs for capacity building and improve skills in efficient water management (EWM) and climate smart agriculture (CSA)

• Improve the teaching methodologies in the Iraqi universities for the academic/non-academic staff
Project Outputs

- **OUT1** Improved pedagogy (interactive teaching methods)
- **OUT2** Enhanced research process in the Iraqi universities (collaborative research projects)
- **OUT3** Academics and professionals capable of designing and implementing EWM & CSA training courses for local employees and farmers in Iraq
- **OUT4** Knowledge transfer facilities (KTF) for training at each University
- **OUT5** Improved organizational policies and/or strategies to improve partnerships, managerial capacity and gender diversity, etc.
Modern and climate smart farming and water management for selected supply chains in Iraq
WUR is leading many water projects worldwide

Ongoing projects

- Water Productivity Improvement in Practice (Water-PIP)
- UrbJA: Practices, policies and politics of urban irrigation in Africa and Asia
- Understanding land and water use change dynamics in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta from a socio-technical perspective
- Sociotechnical configurations for managing water reuse in urban agriculture
- Socio-hydrological simulation as a tool to analyze drought impacts due to human action
- Scenario Evaluation for Sustainable Agro-forestry Management (SESAM)
- Reconciling landscape restoration targets with local realities
- RIVERHOOD. Living rivers and new water justice movements
- RIVER COMMONS: Building research for development and education on sustainable co-governance of river commons
- Mapping smallholder irrigation in Mozambique using Remote Sensing

Finalised projects

- Smallholder irrigation practices in Mozambique
- Interactive irrigation design in Mozambique
- Groundwater Assessment for Wadi Zabid, Yemen
- Scale issues when farmers influence the water system
- Capacity Development of HEIs in Small-scale Irrigation
- Institutional capacity building for the Centre of Water Management and Climate Change (CWMCC)
- Capacity building for Integrated Water Resource Management in South Africa
- The transnationalisation of local water battles
- Drip irrigation Realities in Perspective (DRiP)
- Struggling for water security: Social mobilization for the defence of water rights in Peru and Ecuador
Conclusions

- Various tools and technologies are available

- Multiple actions at national, regional/water basin level, and farmer level are required

- Good cooperation between policy & science is essential

- Capacity development is continuous concern
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