

Agenda

Middle East Horticultural Summit

26th March 2013

Horticulture in the Middle East: Challenges and Directions for Future Research

08:30 – 09:30 **Delegate Registration**

09:30 – 09:45 **Opening & Welcome Remarks**

Dr. Ghaleb Ali Al Hadrami, Dean – College of Food & Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University (Al Ain, UAE)

09:45 – 10:00 **Keynote Address: Introducing the International Society for Horticultural Science and the 29th International Horticulture Congress (Brisbane, Queensland, Australia)**

Dr. David Aldous, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Queensland (Australia) & Chair, Commission, Education, Research Training and Consultancy, ISHS

SESSION 1: Horticulture of the Future: How Will it Look, and What Can Research Contribute to it?

10:00 – 10:15 **A Profile of World Horticulture: Harvesting the Sun**

Dr. Errol Hewitt, Emeritus Professor, Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, Massey University (New Zealand) & Secretary, ISHS Board Member for Innovation-Industry-Insight

10:15 – 10:45 **The Role of Research in Enhancing Food Security and Improving Livelihoods in Dry Areas**

Dr. Faisal Awawdeh, Regional Coordinator Arabian Peninsula Regional Program, ICARDA (Dubai, UAE)

10:45 – 11:15 **Improving the Performance of Horticulture Crops in the Middle East through Research**

Dr. Abdulaziz R. Al-Harbi, Professor – Plant Production Department, King Saud University (Riyadh, KSA)

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee Break for Delegates**

11:30 – 12:00 **Research into Quality Assurance and Postharvest Horticulture**

Dr. Errol Hewitt, Emeritus Professor, Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, Massey University (New Zealand) & Secretary, ISHS Board Member for Innovation-Industry-Insight

12:00 – 12:30 **Biotechnology research opportunities for arid land horticulture**

Dr. Ajay Kumar Garg Associate Professor, Department of Aridland Agriculture, College of Food and Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE.

12:30 – 13:15 **Lunch Break & Networking Opportunities**

SESSION 2: Protected & Organic Horticulture in the Middle East

13:15 – 13:45 **Best Horticulture Practice for Greenhouse Production in the Middle East**

Dr. Hanafi Abdelhaq, Emeritus Professor, Institute Agronomique et Veterinaire Hassan II (IAV Hassn II), Complexe Horrticole, Agadir, Morocco, and FAO Senior Officer, FAO Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

13:45 – 14:15 **Strategies of the Ministry of Environment & Water to Develop Organic Plant**

Production & Certification in the UAE

Dr. Mohammad M. Al-Oun, Organic Farming Expert, Ministry of Environment & Water (UAE)

14:15 – 14:45 Photovoltaic Shadehouses for the Gulf Region

Dr. Heiner Lieth, Professor – Plant Science Department, University of California (Davis, USA)

14:45 – 15:15 Aquaponics for Arid Lands

Dr. Ibrahim H. Belal and Dr. Jean-Yves Mével Associate Professors, Department of Aridland Agriculture, College of Food and Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break for Delegates

SESSION 3: Management of Soils & Urban Landscapes of Arid Lands

15:30 – 16:00 Research Opportunities into Horticulture & Green Open Space Management

Dr. David Aldous, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Queensland (Australia) & Chair, Commission, Education, Research Training & Consultancy, ISHS

16:00 – 16:30 Neglected & Under-utilised Species (NUS) for Food and Income Security in Marginal Environments

Dr. Nanduri K. Rao Scientist on Plant Genetic Resources, Institute for Biosaline Agriculture, ICBA, Dubai, UAE

16:30 – 16:50 Tolerance mechanisms of halophytic turfgrasses

Dr. Kenneth B. Marcum Assistant Professor, Department of Aridland Agriculture, College of Food and Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE

16:50 – 17:10 Identification of salinity tolerant turfgrass species with optimum turf quality for urban landscaping in the United Arab Emirates

Dr. Shyam S. Kurup Associate Professor, Department of Aridland Agriculture, College of Food and Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE

17:10 – 17:40 Panel Discussion
