



The Week at ICARDA

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

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2006 Presentation Day: A Landmark of Transition

The 2006 Presentation Day of ICARDA, held on 7 May, not only marked a transition in the leadership of ICARDA (see *The Week at ICARDA*, Issue No. 920), but also a transition in the leadership of the Board of Trustees of the Center. It was also an occasion to pay tribute to the late Dr Robert Havener and for several other landmark events.

At a dinner reception for the Presentation Day guests on 6 May, ICARDA launched the "Robert Havener Memorial Lecture" series. Dr Ismail Serageldin, Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, and former Chair of the CGIAR, delivered the first lecture entitled "From Glorious Past to Brilliant Future: Ten Commandments for Global



In his farewell address, Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy presented the highlights of achievements made by ICARDA during the past decade and wished the Center and its staff every success in the future.

Agriculture." The lecture was much appreciated by the audience.

On 7 May, speaking to the Presentation Day guests, Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson, Board Chair, informed them that she was handing over the office of Board Chair to Dr Guido Gryseels. "Guido has a wealth of knowledge of the CGIAR System—his wide leadership experience in non-profit research and development sectors makes him an ideal candidate to serve in this position," she said. "He has the ability to look at agriculture in dry areas from both a global and community perspective—which is exactly in keeping with ICARDA's strategy."



Dr Ismail Serageldin delivering the first Robert Havener Memorial Lecture.



Dr Mahmoud Solh, incoming Director General, in his address to the guests highlighted the areas that would receive his priority attention.

Dr Gryseels joined as a member of ICARDA Board of Trustees in 2003. Until he took over as Board Chair, he had been serving as a member of the Executive, Nomination and Program Committees of the Board.

Thanking the Board of Trustees and management of ICARDA for their trust in him, Dr Gryseels said he was committed to ICARDA's noble mission of alleviating poverty and hunger in dry areas of the developing world, and that he looked forward to further contributing to this mission by working with ICARDA and its partners.

Dr Catley-Carlson and Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy (outgoing Director General) also paid tribute to the following Board Members, who were completing their tenure on the Board, for their significant contributions to the growth and development of ICARDA: Dr Gareyth Wyn Jones



While handing over the office of ICARDA Board Chair to Dr Guido Gryseels (right), Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson also handed over the bell she had inherited from her predecessor Board Chair. "Without this bell you are not a complete Board Chair," she remarked. Dr Catley-Carlson served on the ICARDA Board from April 2001 to May 2006. Dr Gryseels joined the ICARDA Board in 2003. He is Director General of the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium.

(U.K.), outgoing Chair, Program Committee and Member, Executive Committee; Dr Seyfu Ketema (Ethiopia), outgoing Vice-Chair, Program Committee and Member, Nomination Committee; Dr Abbas Keshavarz (Iran), outgoing Chair, Nomination Committee and Member, Executive and Program Committees; and Dr Mohamed Bassam Al-Sibai (Syria), outgoing Member, Audit, Program and Executive Committees. Dr Catley-Carlson and Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy welcomed two new members to the Board: Dr Henri Carsalade (France), Member, Program Committee; and Prof. (Ms) Aigul Abugalieva (Kazakhstan), in absentia, Member, Program Committee.

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Reception in Honor of Presentation Day Guests in Royal Hall of the Aleppo Citadel



Reception



Mrs Elizabeth Havener thanking Dr Ismail Serageldin for delivering the first lecture in memory of her husband, the late Dr Robert Havener. Others in the picture are (right to left): Dr Thomas Lumpkin, DG, World Vegetable Center; Dr Masa Iwanaga, DG, CIMMYT; Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson, outgoing Board Chair of ICARDA; and Mr Teyler Sprague, grandson of the Haveners.



Left to right: Dr Mahmoud Solh, incoming Director General, Dr Ismail Serageldin, Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina; and Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, outgoing Director Genral.



Left to right: Dr Mohan Saxena, Dr Mahmoud Solh, Dr Ersin Istanbullouglu, Ex-Board member, Dr Kjersti Larsen, Board member, Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, and Dr Mouin Hamze, Ex-Board member.



Left to right: Dr Mahmoud Solh, Mrs Shadia Solh; Dr Aliaa El-Beltagy; Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy.



Dr Henry Carsalade (left), new Board member from France and his wife Mrs Michelle Lamouroux with Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, outgoing DG.



Left to right: Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, Dr Teresa Fogelberg, Board member, and Dr Ronnie Coffman, Ex-Board member.



Dr Mahmoud Solh, incoming Director General, being interviewed by Syrian television.

Board of Trustees of ICARDA (as of 7 May 2006)



Front row (left to right): Prof. Dr Shinobu Inanaga (Japan), Member, Executive and Program Committees; Dr Kjersti Larsen (Norway), Member, Nomination and Program Committees; Dr Michel A Afram (Lebanon), Member, Audit and Program Committees; Dr Guido Gryseels (Belgium), Chair, Board of Trustees and Executive Committee; Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy (Egypt), outgoing Director General; Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson (Canada), outgoing Board Chair; Dr Mahmoud Solh (Lebanon), Director General, Ex-Officio Member of the Board; Dr Abdelmajid Slama (Tunisia), Member, Audit and Program Committees. Second row (left to right): Dr Henri Carsalade (France), Member, Program Committee; Dr Majd Jamal (Syria), Vice-Chair, Program Committee; Dr Mohamed Bassam Al-Sibai (Syria), outgoing Member, Audit, Program and Executive Committees; Dr Abbas Keshavarz (Iran), outgoing Chair, Nomination Committee and Member, Executive and Program Committees; Dr Teresa Fogelberg (The Netherlands), Chair, Audit Committee, and Member, Executive and Program Committees; Dr David Sammons (USA), Chair, Program Committee and Member, Audit Committee. Third row (left to right): Dr Mohamed Zehni (Libya), Vice-Chair of the Board and Executive Committee and Member, Nomination Committee; Dr Talal Bakafalouni (Syria), Member, Program Committee; Dr Gareth Wyn Jones (U.K.), outgoing Chair, Program Committee and Member, Executive Committee; Dr Seyfu Ketema (Ethiopia), outgoing Vice-Chair, Program Committee and Member, Nomination Committee. Not seen in the picture is Prof. (Ms) Aigul Abugalieva (Kazakhstan), who became a Board and Program Committee Member, effective 7 May, but could not come to Aleppo to attend the Board meeting.

Presentation Day: A Landmark of Transition

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Prof. El-Beltagy then paid tribute to Dr Catley-Carlson (outgoing Board Chair) for her able leadership of the Board of Trustees of ICARDA. "Maggie is a wonderful diplomat, has enormous capacity to absorb knowledge and transmit it, and has held several positions of responsibility including her current position as Chair, Global Water Partnership," he said. He thanked her for the care of the Center and its staff, and for her active role in fund raising.

Dr Mohamed Zehni, Vice-Chair of the Board said, "Maggie is endowed with great experience, knowledge, and wisdom. Her human qualities of friendship and her love for the region and its people are all unparalleled."

Dr Catley-Carlson thanked everyone for their support to her. She thanked all those who have been supporting ICARDA, noting that more than 10% of ICARDA's revenue now comes from donors within the region.



After paying tribute to Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson, outgoing Board Chair, for her contributions to ICARDA, Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy presented her and her husband, Mr Stanley Carlson, with a portrait of Dr Catley-Carlson made with seeds of ICARDA crops.



Dr Mohamed Zehni, Vice-Chair of the Board, paying tribute to Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson, outgoing Board Chair.



Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson and Prof. Dr El-Beltagy paid tribute and presented mementos to four outgoing Board members to recognize their significant contributions to the growth and development of ICARDA. Left to right: Dr Mohamed Bassam Al-Sibai, Dr Gareth Wyn Jones, Dr Abbas Keshavarz, and Dr Seyfu Ketema.

Farewell to Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy



H.E. Dr Adel Safar (center), Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria, and Dr Majd Jamal, Director General, GCSAR, Syria, presented a special plaque to Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy to thank him for his contributions.



Souvenirs from Sudan presented to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy by H.E. Dr Abdelrahman Saeed, Minister of Science and Technology, Sudan, to thank him for his contributions.



In recognition of his contributions, the University of Khartoum conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy on Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy. Dr Mohamed Nour, former Director General of ICARDA, on behalf of the University, handed over the degree to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy.



H.E. Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Afghanistan, presented a certificate of recognition to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy, on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan.

Address by Dr Aliaa El-Beltagy



Dr Aliaa El-Beltagy, wife of Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, spoke to the guests on Presentation Day. She said, "I share with him (Prof. Adel El-Beltagy) the life and struggle, the pain and the joy. It's a moving moment and I can say that I am happy to be standing here before you after a long time. We as a family respect him very much... We were happy with what he was doing, and when I see what the Center has achieved, I feel that I am celebrating with everybody here, not the success of my husband but of a man who gives his whole self, he feels like his real self is the whole world and his real self is to be connected to the course that he handled. I am celebrating not that he is leaving but the beginning of the flourishing of ICARDA. Life begins with love over and over again. We have to work very hard to rise to the moon, seize the wind and move the world."

Farewell to Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy



H.E. Mr Sultan Al-Dosari, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Qatar, presenting a souvenir to Prof. El-Beltagy to recognize his contributions.



H.E. Mr Khalfan El-Naibi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sultanate of Oman, paying tribute to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy for his contributions.



Dr Raj Paroda, Regional Coordinator, CAC, paid tribute to Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy on behalf of the CAC NARS.



Col. Iqbal Badar Khan, DG, ABAD, Pakistan presenting a souvenir to Prof. Adel El-Beltagy for his efforts to promote agricultural research and development in Pakistan.



Dr Abdelaziz Mougou, IRESA President, Tunisia, paying tribute to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy for his contributions.



Dr Mohamed Roozitalab, GFAR Chair, paying tribute to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy and welcoming him as the new Chair of GFAR.



On behalf of the senior staff of ICARDA, Dr William Erskine, ADG (Research), paid tribute to, and thanked Prof. Dr El-Beltagy for his contributions.



On behalf of the regional staff of ICARDA, Mr Atif Haddad, Chair of the Regional Staff Committee, paid tribute to, and thanked Prof. Dr El-Beltagy for his contributions.

Welcome, Dr Mahmoud Solh...



H.E. Mr Sultan Al-Dosari, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Qatar, welcoming Dr Mahmoud Solh as the new Director General of ICARDA.



H.E. Dr Abdelrahman Saeed, Minister of Science and Technology, Sudan, welcomed Dr Mahmoud Solh with gifts from Sudan.



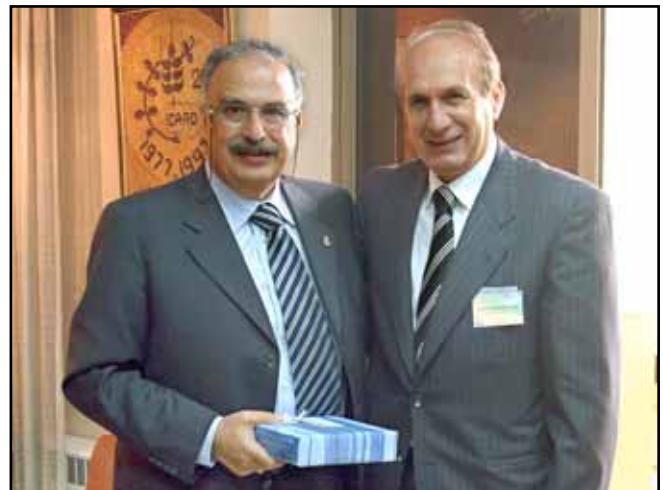
Mr Abdullah Salem Al Sulaiteen, President, Al Sulaiteen Agricultural and Industrial Complex, Qatar, welcoming Dr Mahmoud Solh as the new DG of ICARDA.



Dr Mohamed Zehni, Vice-Chair of the Board, welcomed Dr Mahmoud Solh with a special souvenir.



Col. Iqbal Badar Khan, DG, ABAD, Pakistan welcomed Dr Mahmoud Solh with an ABAD plaque.



Dr Ersin Istanbuloglu, Ex-Board member, welcomed Dr Mahmoud Solh with gifts from Turkey.

Staff of the Year

Each year ICARDA gives "Staff of the Year" awards to staff members in both research and administration categories, as well as for the "Outstanding Scientific Article of the Year" and the "Outstanding Research Team." The awardees, announced on the Presentation Day 2006 by ICARDA Director General, Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, were chosen by the Center's Executive Committee based on criteria that assessed nominees' productivity, skills, commitment, and contributions in support of the Center's mission, with emphasis on strengthening and expanding the Center's links with its national agricultural research system partners and contributing to food security and poverty alleviation. The awards were presented to the winners by Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson and Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy.



Dr Mohamed El Mourid, Regional Coordinator, North Africa Regional Program, was awarded "Staff of the Year" in the P-level research staff category.



Dr Mustafa El Bohssini, Entomologist, received the award for "Outstanding Scientific Article of the Year" on behalf of his co-authors of an article published in *Mycological Research*, 109(3): 294-306. Co-authors of the article: Aquino de Muro, M.; Elliott, S.; Moore, D.; Parker, B.L.; Skinner, M.; Reid, W.; El Bouhssini, M.



Mr Fadel Afandi received the "Staff of the Year" award in RA-level (research) staff category.



Mr Hani Nakkoul received the "Staff of the Year" award in the GS-NPO (research) category.



Mr Ziad Sayyadi (GS-NPO category) received the "Outstanding Research Team" award on behalf of the IPM Sunn Pest team. Team members: M. El Bohssini (team leader), A. Joubi, F. Rihaoui, Z. Sayyadi, J. Valkoun, Dr M. Nachit, M. Mosaad, O. Abdallah, F. El-Haramein, A. Aw-Hassan, A. Mazid. Key partners from outside ICARDA: Dr B. Parker and Dr M. Skinner from the University of Vermont (USA); Dr A. Maafi from the Plant, Pest and Diseases Research Institute, Iran; Dr R. Canhilal from the Plant Protection Research Institute, Turkey; and Mr M. Abdul Hay from Aleppo Research Center, Syria.



Mr Mohamed Kojah won the "Staff of the Year" award in the GS-NPO (administration) category.

A Special Gesture



Dr Alfred Bronnimann, former Board Chair of ICARDA, paid tribute to Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy and thanked him for his significant contributions. He presented gifts to Prof. Dr El-Beltagy, which he had brought from his home country, Switzerland.



Dr Bronnimann congratulated Dr Mahmoud Solh with gifts from Switzerland on his appointment as the new Director General of ICARDA, and wished him success.

Four Generations of Board Chairs



Dr Andreas Papasolomontos, second left (1980-1985); Dr Alfred Bronnimann, right (1994-1999); Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson, second right (2001-2006); and Dr Guido Gryseels, left (May 2006-).

Four Generations of Directors General



Dr Mohamed A. Nour, second left (1981-1987); Dr Nasrat Fadda, second right (1988-1995); Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, left (1995-2006); and Dr Mahmoud Solh, right (May 2006-).

Farewell to Longtime Staff Members



Dr Salvatore Ceccarelli, Senior Barley Breeder (1984-2006)



Dr Antony van Gastel, Seed Production Specialist, then Head of Seed Unit (1985-1996, 2002-2006)

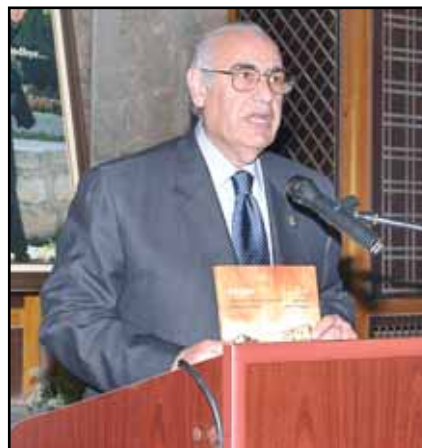


Mr Anwar Agha, Executive Manager, ICARDA Beirut Office (1978-2006)

A Token of Gratitude to the People of Aleppo

At the dinner reception on 6 May, Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy released a book "Aleppo: A Splendor of Art and a Chronicle of Cultural Heritage"—specially produced by ICARDA as a token of its gratitude to the people of Aleppo and Syria.

"Aleppo has been home to ICARDA since 1977, and a second home to its internationally hired staff, currently representing 50 nationalities.



Some of them have been living in Aleppo for over two decades. All expatriate staff members have integrated with the Aleppo community so closely that they take equal pride and joy in sharing the ongoing celebrations on the occasion of Aleppo having been recognized as the Capital of Islamic Heritage and Culture," he said. "This humble token from ICARDA is to thank the people of Aleppo, who opened their arms and hearts to host ICARDA with generous hospitality, and to the Government of Syria for its continued support to the Center," he added.

The book provides a vivid story of a rich history and culture of the City through pictures of the numerous quarters, mosques, churches, houses and other pieces of stone architecture. The architects and stonemasons have not only expressed dexterity and professionalism, but also their ability to relate to different civilizations and cultures.

Single copies of the book may be requested from the Head of Communication Services, ICARDA, P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria.



Mrs Elizabeth Havener, wife of the late Dr Robert Havener, assisted by Dr Margaret Catley-Carlson, unveiled the foundation stone of the N. Borlaug - R. Havener Wheat Improvement Center at ICARDA on 7 May.

The Borlaug-Havener Center for Wheat Improvement in CWANA will not only commemorate the contributions of these two great scien-



tists, but also serve as a major platform for the much needed capacity building for advanced research in wheat improvement for higher productivity and yield stability in harsh environments of the region. The objective of these efforts will be to contribute to food security and improved livelihood of farming communities and consumers in CWANA.



Adel El-Beltagy Biotechnology Wing

In honor of Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy and to acknowledge his outstanding support to strengthening biotechnology facilities and research at ICARDA, the biotechnology laboratories area was named "Adel El-Beltagy Biotechnology Wing." During Prof. Dr El-Beltagy's tenure as the Director General, the biotechnology research at ICARDA went through a major evolution. The laboratory space increased substantially; four growth-rooms were established, and staff numbers rose from 6 to 15. Biotechnology research now includes genetic resources characterization as well as genetic transformation.

Using these new facilities, microsatellite markers are being developed for lentil and faba bean; QTLs have been identified in barley and durum wheat for adaptation to dryland conditions; numerous marker systems (microsatellite, AFLPs etc.) are being used to characterize the genetic diversity of genetic resources at ICARDA in cereal, legume and forage crops, date palm, pistachio, olive and others; and microarray experiments are being carried out to identify genes that are being induced by drought in barley, durum wheat and chickpea.

Visit of the Presentation Day Guests to ICARDA Laboratories and Farm Trials



Biotechnology Laboratory



Virology Laboratory



Discussion on poverty and livelihood research



The Seed Center



The Gene Bank



Diversity in ICARDA's mandate crops



Small ruminants milking parlour



Dairy Products Laboratory

Visit of the Presentation Day Guests to ICARDA Laboratories and Farm Trials



Agribusiness by-products for making feed blocks



Food legume improvement



Water harvesting demonstration



Cereal crop improvement demonstration



Durum wheat improvement field trials



Cereal pathology nursery



Lentil wilt screening nursery