



# Special Report on ICBA's Participation in COP28

#ICBAATCOP28

# Executive Summary

From 30 November to 12 December 2023, thousands of delegates from around the world convened in Dubai, the UAE, for **COP28**. The conference served as a unique opportunity to mobilize global efforts towards **climate action and sustainability**. ICBA was proud to have participated in the conference and contributed to its program through a wide range of activities and engagements over two weeks and in the lead-up to it. **A dedicated in-house team** was formed to implement ICBA's program for COP28. The center showcased its **research and development** efforts in different regions, formed **new partnerships**, and kicked off **new initiatives**. The main highlights were the launch of the **Women Alliance for Climate Action in Agriculture**; the unveiling of a new book "**Agricultural Practices in the UAE: Heritage and Science**"; the opening of the **Millet Demo Farm** at ICBA; the organization of the **Local Conference of Youth in the UAE 2023 (LCOY UAE 2023)**; and the showcase of ICBA's scientific innovations at the **UAE Pavilion**.

This report presents an overview of these highlights and other activities and engagements that were part of ICBA's comprehensive program for COP28.

## ICBA's participation in numbers:



**28 events** jointly with more than **30 organizations**



**6 agreements of collaboration** with international, government, and private-sector entities



Over **1,500 participants**



**164 media mentions** in national and international news outlets with an estimated audience reach of **463m people**



**757 social media posts** with an estimated **649,633 impressions**



**1 new global alliance** for women in agriculture

## Launching New Initiatives

Throughout the conference and prior to it, ICBA worked with partners from around the world to mobilize efforts for **climate action, sustainable agriculture, food and water security, gender equality**, and other issues; share its extensive **scientific expertise** and promote its **evidence-based solutions**; and raise awareness around **sustainable development**. The center implemented a series of wide-ranging initiatives for this purpose.

### Women Alliance for Climate Action in Agriculture (WACAA)

On 4 December 2023, the **Women Alliance for Climate Action in Agriculture (WACAA)** was unveiled by **H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak**, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, in the presence of **H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE.

WACAA aims to bring together **women leaders, scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders** to design and promote gender-responsive policies, measures, programs, and incentives. It will also serve as a platform to advocate for **gender equality** and exchange best practices and insights on women's engagement in science, innovation, and agriculture.

WACAA's goal is to reach **1 million women globally by 2050**, from farmers to scientists to agripreneurs. Organizations interested in supporting the alliance can express their interest by signing a digital pledge at **[www.wacaa-alliance.org](http://www.wacaa-alliance.org)**.

The alliance is a result of several consultations and discussions with women stakeholders from different regions, including Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.



The official launch of WACAA took place on COP28's Gender Day at the UAE Pavilion.

## “Agricultural Practices in the UAE: Heritage & Science” Book

ICBA presented a new book “**Agricultural Practices in the UAE: Heritage & Science**” during an official ceremony at COP28. The book reviews **traditional agricultural practices** maintained by Emirati farmers, connecting them with scientific theories, research, and **modern technologies** aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and development. It was published in appreciation of the **UAE leadership's dedication** to fostering the sustainable agricultural sector and supporting scientific research and development to ensure the sustainability of food security at the national and international levels.

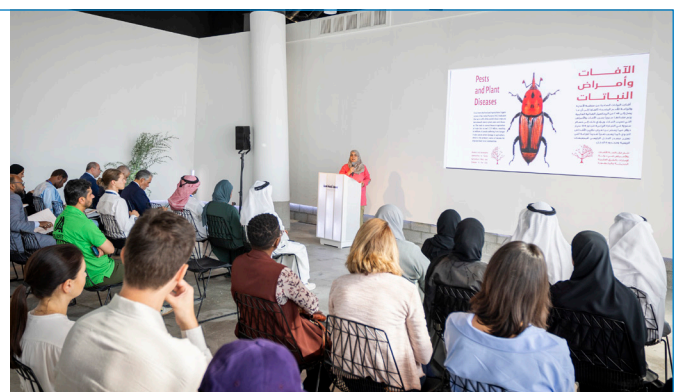


The book was preannounced at the UAE Pavilion at the International Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar.

The book was preannounced at the UAE Pavilion at the **International Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar**, during the UAE's 52nd National Day celebrations in the presence of **H.E. Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani**, Minister of Culture of Qatar; **H.E. Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi**, Minister of Culture and Youth of the UAE; and **H.E. Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi**, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE.



The official launch of the book took place at the UAE Pavilion on 10 December 2023.



## Local Conference of Youth (LCOY UAE 2023)

ICBA organized the **Local Conference of Youth in the UAE 2023** on 25-26 October 2023 jointly with **Zayed University**. Under the banner of **“Putting Youth at the Heart of Climate Action”**, the conference brought together **around 200 young people and other stakeholders** to discuss climate-related challenges during **15 sessions** featuring various experts. The two-day program also included a range of interactive workshops and activities such as Biodiversity Collage, Climate Fresk and tree planting. One of the main outcomes of the conference was the launch of **“The Statement of the Youth in the United Arab Emirates 2023”**. Representing the voices of 155 young participants, the statement echoes their advocacy of **climate action** across 11 vital themes, including youth engagement, and was published on ICBA’s website and social media accounts.



The two-day program concluded at the Dubai campus of Zayed University with an awards ceremony for the winners of a youth competition.

## Millet Demo Farm Open Day at ICBA

On the sidelines of COP28, ICBA organized an open day to present a **Millet Demo Farm** on 7-8 December 2023.

Established in collaboration with **SELCO Foundation** and aligned with the objectives of the **International Year of Millets** and COP28, the Millet Demo Farm aimed to draw attention to the importance of developing **value chains for crops** like millets and highlighted ICBA’s efforts towards this end.

The opening ceremony featured remarks by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA; **H.E. Eng. Mohammed Mousa Alameeri**, Assistant Undersecretary for the Food Diversity Sector, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE; **H.E. Dr. Abdulhakim Elwaer**, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa; and **H.E. Eng. Mohammad Jamal Alsaati**, Special Advisor to the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).



Since its launch, the Millet Demo Farm has been visited by more than 150 people, including a delegation of 25 senior leaders from the CGIAR System; senior delegations from CIMMYT, ICRISAT, the Ministry of Water Resources of Iraq; as well as several private companies and organizations, among others.

# “28 Global Leaders Advocates for Sustainable Agriculture” Campaign

On 15 August 2023, ICBA launched a social media campaign in the lead-up to COP28 titled “28 Global Leaders Advocates for Sustainable Agriculture”.

The campaign aimed to present insights by global thought leaders and advocates on sustainable agriculture, research and innovation, food security and other issues.

It was intended to raise awareness about global challenges such as climate change and solutions for them.



# Showcasing Agricultural Science and Innovation

Before and during COP28, ICBA organized and participated in various events to share its **knowhow and experience**. This helped to explore **new collaborations** and **strengthen existing partnerships**.

## “Regional Water Scarcity Initiative (WSI) Program” Launch

**Partners:** ESCWA, ICARDA, IWMI, and UNICEF



ICBA is one of several organizations that will implement the program.

ICBA participated in the launch of “Regional Water Scarcity Initiative (WSI) Program” for the Near East and North Africa region at COP28. During the event, Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, highlighted ICBA’s extensive expertise in developing and introducing **biosaline agriculture** and **drought management solutions** in the region. She also stressed the need for **water-food-energy-related solutions** and collaboration at all levels. Led by FAO and funded by the governments of Sweden and the Netherlands, the program will be implemented by a consortium of several organizations, including **ESCWA, ICARDA, IWMI, UNICEF, and ICBA**.

## Session “IsDB’s Regional Cassava Value Chain Program: An African ticket to climate-resilient food security”

**Partners:** Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)



The event featured senior leaders and experts.

Dr. Augusto Becerra Lopez-Lavalle, Chief Scientist at ICBA, moderated a side event “IsDB’s Regional Cassava Value Chain Program: An African ticket to climate-resilient food security” hosted by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) at COP28. Speaking to an audience of scientists and experts, he emphasized the high potential of **cassava** leaves as a new source of **vegetable-based protein** for food or feed. The panelists explored the impacts of climate change on **cassava value chains**, including constraints and enablers.

## Session “The Nexus of Operational Dynamics, Emerging Technologies, and Innovative Islamic Finance: Sustaining Agriculture and Food Security Interventions in IsDB MCs”

**Partners:** Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)



The event was organized on 10 December 2023 and brought together several experts and leaders.

Ms. Amal Magzoub, Head of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Section at ICBA, participated in a session “The Nexus of Operational Dynamics, Emerging Technologies, and Innovative Islamic Finance: Sustaining Agriculture and Food Security Interventions in IsDB MCs” hosted by the **Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)** at the MDB Pavilion at COP28.

During her intervention, she briefed the audience about the various **precision agriculture technologies** that ICBA employs in its R&D initiatives to optimize various aspects of farming, including crop yield, resource efficiency, and environmental impact. She also offered examples of low-cost technologies promoted by the center, such as biochar. Transforming green waste into **biochar** aligns with sustainable agricultural practices and the principles of **circular economy**, contributing to overall resource efficiency.

## Session “Climate-Smart Agriculture Solutions to Combat Salinity and Climate Change”

**Partners:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



Hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at COP28, the discussion featured several experts and leaders from different organizations.

On 3 December 2023, Dr. Charbel Tarraf, Chief Operations and Development at ICBA, took part in a panel discussion on “Climate-Smart Agriculture Solutions to Combat Salinity and Climate Change”.

Addressing the audience, he highlighted the importance of climate-proofing **agrifood systems** by harnessing the power of **science and innovation**.

He also shared examples of ICBA’s climate-smart solutions for food, nutrition and water security that have been tested and introduced in different countries.

## Final Demo Day “Climate Adaptation Accelerator - AgriFood Edition”

**Partners:** Green Group, Stratecis



The startups were shortlisted through a competitive process.

Dr. Khalil Ammar, Program Leader on Sustainable Natural Resources Management at ICBA, joined a group of experts as a jury member to choose one winner from six finalist **startups** on the Final Demo Day of “**Climate Adaptation Accelerator - AgriFood Edition**”. The event was held at the Knowledge Hub at COP28.

## Session “Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Unlocking wastewater potential for sustainable food systems”

**Partners:** World Food Programme (WFP)



The session was organized by the World Food Program (WFP) at the Iraq Pavilion during COP28.

Dr. Khalil Ammar, Program Leader on Sustainable Natural Resources Management at ICBA, joined a group of experts for a special discussion on “Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Unlocking wastewater potential for sustainable food systems”.

During the discussion, he highlighted the potential of **nature-based solutions** for **salinity management** in agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa region. He also stressed the importance of nature-based solutions, specifically biosaline agriculture approaches, for addressing critical challenges like water scarcity, climate change, and rising salinization, and provided examples of ICBA’s innovative solutions for dealing with **water scarcity** in the region.

## Side Event “Toward a Dialogue between Oceans and Climate Change”

**Partners:** Environmental Center for Arab Towns

**SIDE EVENT - MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF MOROCCO LOCAL AUTHORITIES & WATER STRESS MANAGEMENT**

10 Dec 2023 | 11:00 - 12:30 | Moroccan Pavilion

**COP28 UAE**

**VANGELIS CONSTANTIANOS**  
Executive Secretary  
& Regional Coordinator,  
Global Water Partnership

**ZIAD KHAYAT**  
Economic Affairs Officer,  
UN-ESCWA

**KHALIL AMMAR**  
Program Manager,  
International Center for  
Biosaline Agriculture

**ABDELAZIZ ZEROUALI**  
Director of Research &  
Water Planning, Ministry of  
Equipment & Water

**BOUCHRA BARRADI**  
General Manager,  
RADEEJ

**SAFAE AMARTI RIFFI**  
General Manager,  
RADEEO

**NAJIB LAHLOU**  
General Manager,  
SPC Casablanca

**OMAR HEJIRA**  
1st Vice President,  
Oriental Region

**MOUNIR LYMOURI**  
Mayor of Tangier &  
President Moroccan Mayors  
Association (AMPPC)

**ABDELOUAHED EL ANSARI**  
President, Fez-Meknes  
Region

The session was held at the Moroccan Pavilion at COP28.

Dr. Khalil Ammar, Program Leader on Sustainable Natural Resources Management at ICBA, participated in a panel discussion “Toward a Dialogue between Oceans and Climate Change”.

He presented ICBA’s latest research and work on **sustainable water management technologies** and approaches for climate adaptation.

The discussion was organized by **Morocco’s General Directorate of Local Authorities** and brought together several leaders and experts.

## “The Living Soils Workshop”

**Partners:** Expo City Dubai, The Living soils workshop - L’Atelier des sols vivants



The living soils workshop is a pedagogical tool that allows participants to acquire fundamental knowledge on soils.

On the occasion of **World Soil Day**, celebrated worldwide every year on 5 December, ICBA’s **Emirates Soil Museum** hosted “The Living Soils Workshop” at the Expo City Farm during COP28. Designed to help disseminate a common language on the functioning of soils and the issues related to its preservation, the **collaborative scientific workshop** attracted some **50 participants**, including students and adults.

## “The Climate Fresk” Workshop

**Partners:** Expo City Dubai, Climate Fresk UAE



The Climate Fresk is an engaging hands-on activity for participants of various ages to learn about the effects and causes of climate change.

During COP28, ICBA’s **Emirates Soil Museum** joined forces with the **Climate Fresk UAE** to facilitate Climate Fresk workshop sessions for participants of various age groups at the Expo City Farm. The Climate Fresk, one of the museum’s educational offerings, is a collaborative scientific workshop aimed at improving public understanding of what climate change is. Using scientific content and data from the **IPCC** reports, the workshop helps raise awareness about climate change and inspires participants to take constructive action to address the issue.



## Session “Unleashing the potential of Arab States Local Conference of Youth (LCOYs)”

**Partners:** Arab Youth Council for Climate Change (AYCCC)



The session attracted many young leaders and experts.

Ms. Nour El Jundi, Proposal Development Specialist at ICBA, participated in a Youth Ambition Majlis titled “Unleashing the potential of Arab States LCOYs” hosted at the YCC Pavilion during COP28.

As a member of the organizing committee for the **Local Conference of Youth in the UAE 2023**, she shared best practices, lessons learned, fundraising strategies, and other insights from the conference.

## Side Event “Promoting the declaration of 2028 as the Year of Saline Agriculture: Climate-resilient agriculture for sustainable production systems and healthy ecosystems in salt-affected areas”

**Partners:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)



ICBA leads the working group on “Saline Agriculture” under the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG).

Dr. Dionysia Angeliki Lyra, Halophyte Agronomist at ICBA, joined a panel of experts to discuss the potential of **saline agriculture** for food and water security at a side event hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during COP28. During her intervention, she provided examples of ICBA’s **research and development** work on saline agriculture in different countries. She also noted that it was important to equip farmers with skills, tools, and resources to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and soil and water salinization.

## Session “Plan, Plant for the Planet”

**Partners:** Ministry of Education of the UAE



The session included speakers from academia and other fields.

Ms. Ryma Affani, Curator of the Emirates Soil Museum at ICBA, took part in a panel discussion titled “Plan, Plant for the Planet” on the role of education in preserving Earth, hosted by the **Ministry of Education of the UAE** at the Green Education Hub at COP28.

She briefed the audience about ICBA’s various capacity-development and knowledge-sharing initiatives and best practices to empower **young aspiring agricultural entrepreneurs** and researchers, such as providing training programs, internships, workshops, and access to resources. She also emphasized the crucial role of collaborative efforts between international research centers, educational institutions, government bodies, and the private sector in enhancing the impact of these programs.

## Session “From the salt plain to your plate: Saline agriculture as a multi-faceted production provider to combat climate change”

Partners: Expo City Farm



The session followed an interactive format and included a Q&A with the audience.

Dr. Dionysia Angeliki Lyra, Halophyte Agronomist at ICBA, gave a talk “From the salt plain to your plate: Saline agriculture as a multi-faceted production provider to combat climate change” at the Expo City Farm during COP28.

She highlighted the importance of **saline agriculture** as a solution to the climate crisis in **salt-affected areas** and the need to develop the whole value chain for **halophytic crops** that can be grown under highly saline conditions. She also presented the successful outcomes of multi-disciplinary projects implemented in the MENA region for this purpose, the challenges faced throughout the value chain development of halophytes such as **Salicornia**, and the actions taken to overcome them.

## Side Event “Nature-Based Solutions for Resilient Food Systems in the UAE”



Held at the Humanitarian Pavilion, the discussion brought together several experts.

During COP28, ICBA co-hosted with the **Emirates Nature-WWF** a panel discussion on “Nature-Based Solutions for Resilient Food Systems in the UAE”.

Mr. Rashyd Zaaboul, Climate Change Modeler at ICBA, spoke about the center’s experience in developing and exploring options for **climate change adaptation** using the potential of **biosaline agriculture**, and specifically salt-tolerant plants such as **Salicornia**, for areas with scarce water resources. He also shared the details of a joint project with the Emirates Nature-WWF to explore **nature-based solutions for climate action** in two coastal areas in **Abu Dhabi** and **Umm Al Quwain**.

## Side Event “Food Forever Experience: Savoring diversity in our food”

ICBA co-organized a special food-themed event “Food Forever Experience: Savoring diversity in our food” with the **Crop Trust**, **Kew Gardens**, **Chefs Manifesto**, **Resilience Frontiers**, and **CGIAR** at the Food and Agriculture Pavilion at COP28.

Held on the Food, Agriculture and Water Day, the event aimed to highlight the importance of **crop diversity** and climate-smart, **underutilized crops** for food security and nutrition. Participants had the opportunity to learn about and taste dishes made from climate-smart and nutritious crops.



Dr. Augusto Becerra Lopez-Lavalle, Chief Scientist at ICBA, spoke about ICBA’s work on underutilized crops for food security and nutrition.



## Webinar “Adapting to Aridity: Global Solutions for Drought Mitigation and Resilience”



ICBA presented its extensive experience in developing solutions for drought monitoring in the Middle East and North Africa.

In the lead-up to COP28, ICBA organized a webinar titled “Adapting to Aridity: Global Solutions for Drought Mitigation and Resilience” in collaboration with **DHI**, one of the seven Danish government-approved technology institutes.

The webinar served as a platform for sharing ideas and thoughts on how to **manage, mitigate and adapt to the impact of droughts** and build back better under climate change. The discussion brought together scientists and experts from ICBA, DHI, **UNCCD**, and the **Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine**, Morocco.

## International Workshop “Environment, Social, Governance (ESG) Nexus with Agriculture under Climate Change”

As part of preparations for COP28, ICBA hosted an international workshop “Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Nexus with Agriculture under Climate Change” at its headquarters in Dubai, the UAE, on 13-14 March 2023.

Organized with support of the **British embassy in the UAE** and in collaboration with **Rothamsted Research**, the UK, the workshop brought together various stakeholders from **government, research, academia, and industry** from Australia; Canada; Egypt; India; Malaysia; Morocco; Oman; Pakistan; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka; the UAE; and the UK.

The workshop aimed to form a consensus on the need for applied and fundamental research to develop solutions for sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change and address such questions as incentives for companies to integrate environmental sustainability into corporate strategies.



Around 60 delegates from 13 countries participated in the workshop.

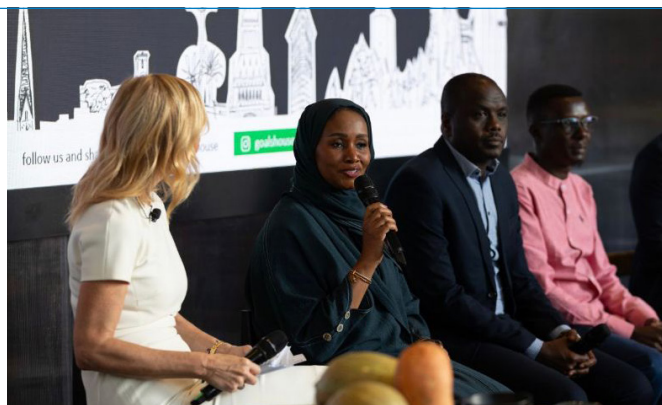
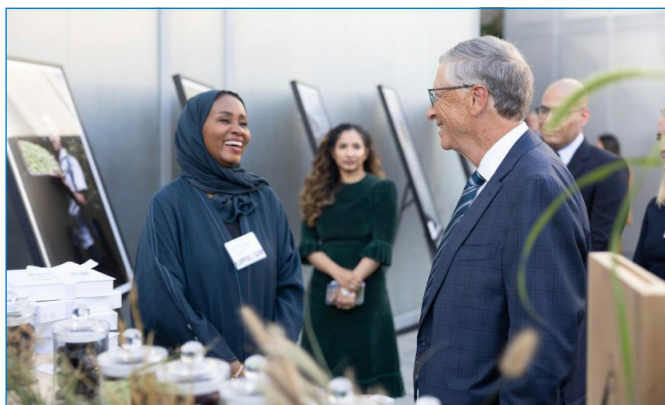
## Building Partnerships

COP28 also presented a great opportunity to form **new partnerships** as organizations from around the world convened in Expo City Dubai.

### Event “Farming for our Future: Growing Climate Resilience”

**Partners:** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Jameel Community, and Goals House

ICBA participated in a showcase of agricultural innovations during the COP28-themed event “Farming for our Future: Growing Climate Resilience” organized by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and **Community Jameel** in partnership with Goals House. During the event, **Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi**, Director General of ICBA, briefed **Mr. Bill Gates** about ICBA’s work on developing and introducing **climate-resilient and nutritious crops** and resource-efficient technologies around the world. In particular, she shared the details of the center’s **date palm research program** involving various experiments in the UAE to determine the long-term effect of saline water irrigation on date palm growth, productivity, fruit quality, and the impact of salinity on the soil.



The event was co-hosted by Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Mr. Fady Jameel, Vice Chairman of Community Jameel.

### Strengthening research and development collaboration in Uzbekistan



The meeting also discussed the potential of establishing a genebank (a DNA and RNA database) at the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea Basin in Uzbekistan.

On the sidelines of COP28, **Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi**, Director General of ICBA, met with **H.E. Aziz Abdulkhakov**, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change of Uzbekistan, to discuss ways to strengthen existing collaboration and explore new areas of common interest.

The meeting reviewed ICBA’s current projects in Uzbekistan, specifically the project targeting the **Aral Sea region**, and capacity development opportunities for the staff of the **International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea Basin** in such areas as land preservation and restoration, and scientific research.

ICBA conducted negotiations with various organizations and signed several **agreements of collaboration** as follows:

A practical arrangement agreement with the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** to collaborate on soil, water, crop and nutrient management



The agreement was signed by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, and Ms. Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General and Head of Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications at IAEA.

A memorandum of understanding with the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** to support sustainable agriculture, food security, and climate resilience in agrifood systems



The memorandum was signed by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, and Dr. Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD.

3. A memorandum of understanding with **Schneider Electric** to collaborate on sustainable agricultural development, and support youth and women engagement and capacity development in sustainability



The memorandum was signed by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, and Mr. Ahmed Khashan, President for Gulf Countries at Schneider Electric.

4. A memorandum of understanding with **CIMMYT** to advance systems-based approaches to ecological and sustainable intensification of semi-arid and dryland cereal-legume cropping systems; market identification for underutilized crops; crop productivity and breeding; and gender-transformative capacity development



The memorandum was signed by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, and Dr. Bram Govaerts, Director General of CIMMYT.

5. A memorandum of understanding with the **World Food Programme (WFP)** envisaging collaboration in a number of areas in Iraq, including institutional capacity development; soil salinity assessment, management, and mapping; assessment and mapping of food system vulnerabilities; and promotion of biosaline agriculture and crop diversification



The memorandum was signed by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, and Mr. Ally Raza Qureshi, WFP's Representative and Country Director for Iraq.

6. An agreement with the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda** to cooperate in agricultural research and development, sustainable resource management, climate change adaptation and mitigation



The agreement was signed by Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA, and Hon. Frank K. Tumwebaze, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda.

## Communicating and Raising Awareness

### News and social media

ICBA made sure to communicate all information and raise awareness about its activities and engagements for COP28 to a wide range of stakeholders via **news media, social media, and other channels.**

In the lead-up to and during COP28, the center ran various media and social media campaigns to bring into the spotlight solutions for climate action, gender equality, youth engagement, and environmental sustainability, among other things.

From August to December 2023, the center secured **164 mentions** in national and international news outlets such as **CNN International; Reuters; Yahoo! Finance; Entrepreneur Magazine; and Sky News Arabia**, among others.

### Social media stats for August–December 2023



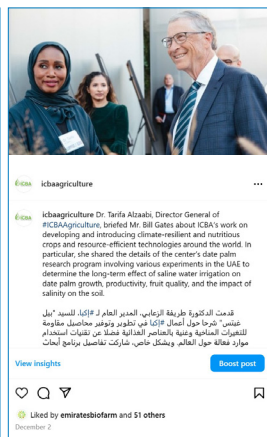
**30,536 engagements** (likes, comments, and shares)



**757 social media posts**



**649,633 impressions** (the number of times people saw ICBA's messages on social media)



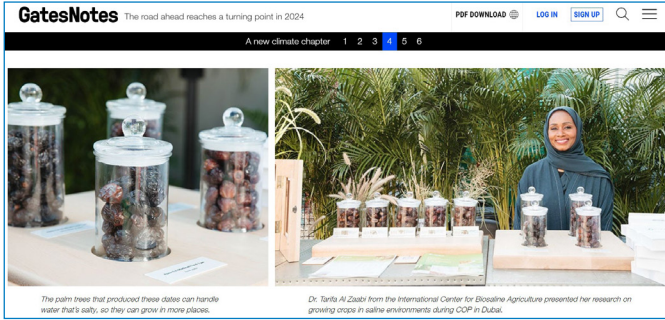
# Media mentions for August-December 2023



164 media mentions in national and international news outlets



An estimated audience reach of 463m people

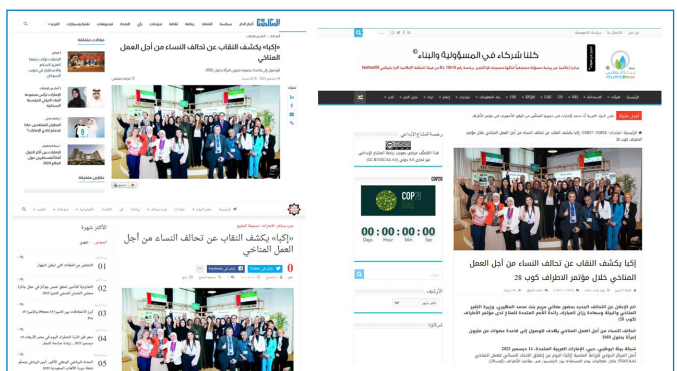
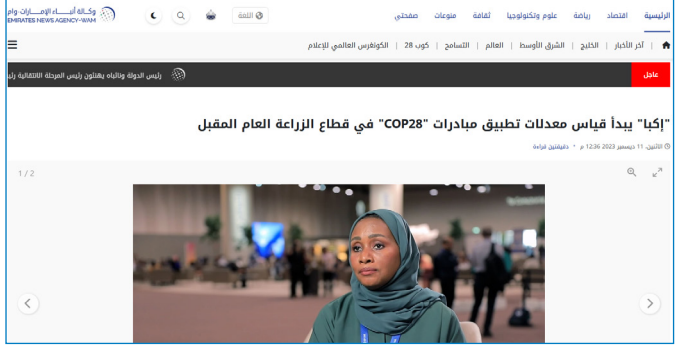


**Reviving the desert**  
A 2018 review by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification found that the global economy was set to lose \$23 trillion by 2050 because of land degradation, while taking urgent action would cost only a fraction of that — \$4.6 trillion. Land degradation or drought affect 169 countries, with Asia and Africa the hardest-hit.

Efforts to grow crops in desert environments are spreading. The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture is growing salt-tolerant superfoods in the sandy soil of Dubai, while in Tanzania, non-profits are using mounds of earth known as bunds to trap water so that it can penetrate parched ground, allowing grasses to return.

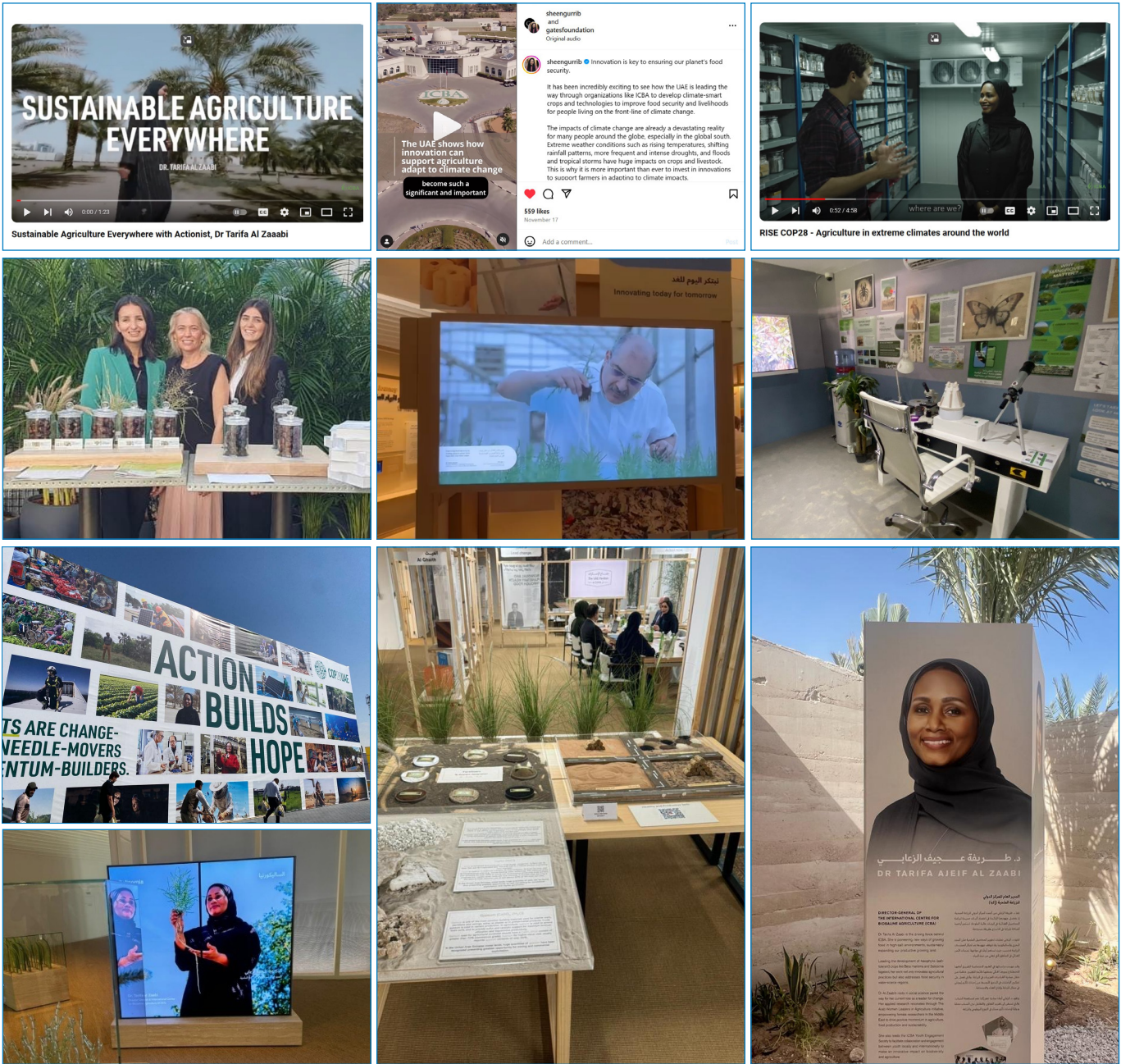


**ICBA Publishes New Book Exploring Science Behind UAE's Traditional Agricultural Practices**

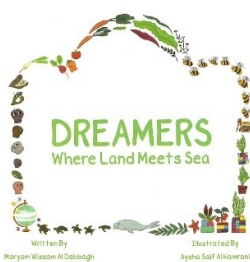


## Exhibitions, displays and outreach campaigns

ICBA also collaborated with the **UAE Pavilion, COP28, Schneider Electric, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Emirates Nature-WWF**, among others, to showcase its research and development work in the UAE and other countries and to promote its initiatives for COP28.



## Book “Dreamers Where Land Meets Sea”



The book is written for young readers aged 6 to 9, with English and Arabic available in the same publication.

The **UAE Pavilion at Expo** released a new publication titled “Dreamers: Where Land Meets Sea.” An imaginative **storybook** takes young readers on a journey through inspiring and lighthearted **stories of six real-life “Dreamers”**, innovators and academics from across the UAE dedicated to nurturing the UAE’s natural environment. The characters include Ms. Noura Al Mansoori, NYUAD; Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, ICBA; Mr. Yazan Al Kodmani, Emirates Biofarm; Mr. Ramie Murray, Dibba Bay; Mr. Manea Al Kaabi, Hatta Honey; and Ms. Arabella Willing, Emirates Nature-WWF.





## INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE *Agriculture for tomorrow*

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