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This project is funded by the European Union



SAAVI at a glance

Strengthening the Agriculture and Agri-food Value Chain and Improving Trade Policy in Iraq (SAAVI) is a EUR 22.5 million project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC). SAAVI contributes to **inclusive economic growth and job creation**, particularly for the youth, by improving Iraq's **agriculture competitiveness** and supporting trade development in the country.

Explore SAAVI's website to find out more about our programme.

[Visit our website](#)

Project highlights



Some of our **key highlights** since our last issue (July 2021) include:

- **First SAAVI Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held in Baghdad** on September 2021. SAAVI's work plan for 2022 was presented and endorsed by PSC members.
- **Sector core team meeting and national consultation** held in Baghdad to discuss the current situation and the future opportunities in developing the tomato and poultry value chains. Key stakeholders revised, refined and validated sectors' plans of action.
- **Consultation with youth and trainers** to test SAAVI's solutions and offerings for young entrepreneurs.
- **3 workshops on WTO accession** organized to provide initial capacity-building for public and private sector stakeholders.
- **Meetings and knowledge-sharing** with local and regional value chain experts, food processing experts and other relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors, as well as, development partners.



- **Partnerships** with government counterparts and international organizations, such as NRC, CORDAID, id:rc and SREO.
- Working closely with projects under the **EU Special Measure for Iraq**, which are being led by FAO, GIZ, ILO, IOM and UNESCO.

This last quarter marked the **ending of SAAVI's Inception Phase**, which served to:

- Conduct **quantitative and qualitative analysis**, strategy design and activity implementation across all expected results. All activities plan for the inception phase have been completed.
- Identify relevant partners and conduct institutional due diligence
- **Gain knowledge on Iraq's competitive advantages, market requirements, investment opportunities** and more to inform SAAVI's activities and Iraq's National Sector Strategies on Poultry and Tomatoes
- **Validate the potential and necessity to support producers and the emergence of MSMEs to develop the rural economy, create jobs and reduce poverty.** Unmet domestic demand offers potential for development, especially for the agricultural sector and rural areas. At the same time, it can be observed that supply is not sufficiently increasing to match the demand and that rural MSMEs are not growing according to their full potential.
- In summary, develop a **highly localized approach for the project's activities**, tailored to the country's different realities.



Milestone achieved for developing Iraq's poultry and tomato sector strategies

Under the auspice of the Ministry of Agriculture, ITC is facilitating the elaboration of the poultry and tomato sector strategies within the framework of SAAVI. A national consultation gathering key sector stakeholders was held on 13 September 2021 in Baghdad.

[Find out more](#)

SAAVI's first Project Steering Committee meeting held in Baghdad

Representatives of the government, private sector and UN agencies have participated in the first steering committee meeting of SAAVI, chaired by the Ministry of Planning and co-chaired by the European Union Delegation in Iraq.

[Find out more](#)

SAAVI's work in underway in Iraq! Take a quick look at the key achievements of the project:



Perspectives



Women, peace and prosperity in Iraq

by Zahraa Witwit, SAAVI Agriculture Value Chain Expert / Deputy Project Coordinator

Through conflict and political instability, economic stagnation and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the protracted crisis in Iraq has raised many questions about the future. Within this context, women often face further constraints to improving their lives.

[Read more](#)

Stories from the field

Interview with Hafal, poultry farmer from Duhok

Hafal works as a veterinarian for Duhok's governorate and is a poultry farmer himself. He is passionate of his profession as he loves to serve poultry farmers. He has two kids and encourages them to work in the poultry and agriculture field. Hafal is one of the **over 300 farmers/MSMEs** consulted through focus group discussions during SAAVI's inception phase.



- What are key challenges in the poultry sector?

Poultry farmers are in dire need of support, as they face fierce competition from neighboring country producers. The sector is also being impacted by climate change. High temperatures and global warming are already

affecting the agriculture sector and reducing the productivity in poultry production.

- What are key opportunities for women in the sector?

The agriculture field presents opportunities for women, as their role in the sector is very important. They have the capacity and the capability to work in agriculture field.

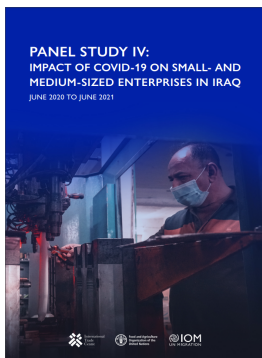
- What is your opinion about the local market demand for poultry products?

We sell our products directly to the market, and also to slaughterhouses. The local products are much better than the imported as they are fresh and of high quality. The demand for local products is progressively incrementing. It is important to foster the purchase of local products to strengthen the economy in the country.

- What did you think of today's discussion?

It was very good, and we all appreciate it. Many topics were raised during the session that are very relevant to the poultry sector.

Resources



Economic recovery is slow for SMEs in Iraq during the second year of COVID-19

A four round of a panel study of over 700 Iraqi SMEs by IOM, FAO and ITC found that recovery from the economic slowdown produced by the COVID-19 virus has been sluggish in the surveyed SMEs. Roughly 25 per cent of the businesses was 'very concerned' about recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

[Read more](#)



Taking stock of climate change and environment risks in Iraq (Arabic)

ITC's report on the potential risks and impact of climate change and environmental hazards on agriculture and agri-food business in Iraq is now available in Arabic.

دراسة التغيرات المناخية والمخاطر البيئية في العراق

تقرير مركز التجارة الدولية عن المخاطر المحتملة وتأثير تغير المناخ والمخاطر البيئية على الزراعة والأعمال الغذائية الزراعية في العراق. التقرير متوفر الآن باللغة العربية

[Read more](#)



What agri-food products have high potential in Iraq? (Arabic)

ITC conducted an assessment to identify agriculture and agri-food products with supply and market potential in Iraq. The report is now available in Arabic.

ما هي المنتجات الزراعية الغذائية ذات الإمكانات العالية في العراق؟

أجرى مركز التجارة الدولية تقييماً لتحديد المنتجات الزراعية والغذائية ذات العرض وإمكانات السوق في العراق. التقرير متاح الآن باللغة العربية

[Read more](#)

News and upcoming events



Workshop on Trade in Services

(Baghdad, November 2021)



Youth agripreneurship event and buyer-farmer meeting

(Erbil, December 2021)



SAAVI - official launch event

(Baghdad, December 2021)

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