**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

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**Project highlights**
SAAVI's activity highlights since our last issue include:

- SAAVI has so far facilitated **22 successful business transactions** between the Agribusiness alliances and companies such as Holland Bazar, Carrefour Iraq and smaller retailer buying groups in Mosul.

SAAVI-facilitated transactions represent 30 million IQD and close to 40 tons of fresh Iraqi products. For each commercial transaction, the farmers' prices increased by more than 100% in average.

- A total of **1,480 farmers have been trained** in good agricultural practices and in total 13 model farms and demonstration plots in Basra and Ninewa were upgraded with greenhouses, agricultural inputs and tools. Essentially impacting over **10,000 individuals**.

- Following the approval of **9 Local Agribusiness Development and Investment (LABDI) plans** developed by SAAVI agribusiness alliances, SAAVI kick-started the disbursement of climate-smart equipment and materials, such as sprinklers, - magnetic water filters, poultry heating systems, among others.

- Agencies, such as ICRC, IOM, FAO and Eco-consult have already committed funds in support of LABDI (about 800K USD) creating a **multiplier effect** towards private sector development and contributing to sustainable job creation.

- The **SAAVI National Alliance Meetings** brought together representatives from the SAAVI Agribusiness alliances, master trainers from the Directorate of Agriculture, chambers of commerce, among others. Farmers seized the opportunity to exchange their valuable experiences as alliance members. The positive results served as powerful incentives among themselves to persevere and remain committed to this innovative market-led approach.

- **Trained Quality Champions** are supporting agribusiness alliances to introduce quality and food safety systems.

- Under the leadership of MoA, SAAVI is providing technical support towards the **finalization of Iraq's Potato Sector Strategy**.

- SAAVI has provided continuous technical support to MoA to support **coordination and implementation management of the strategies**. Technical capacity building on implementation management support was delivered to the designated **Secretariat of the National Core Team**.

- Through the SAAVI Tadreeb platform, SAAVI has trained in total **2,588 youth** in Basra, Baghdad and Ninewa on agri-prenuership in partnership with key support organizations.

- Out of that total, **1,471 graduates** were supported to develop and submit their business plans. Selected business plans were chosen for funding.

- Launch of the **second Youth Entrepreneurship Barometer** (available below).

- Advisory and technical support on transposition of Iraq's tariff structure

- Awareness raising workshop on **WTO Accession to the Iraqi Parliament**

- Working closely with projects under the **European Union funded Agrifood Business Development Programme (AfBDP)** which are being led by FAO, GIZ, ILO, IOM, UNESCO and Cowater.

- This work was delivered in close partnership with the **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**

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Team Europe For Iraq
Iraqi parliamentarians catch-up with the WTO accession process

(Baghdad/Geneva) - 57 Iraqi parliamentarians recently attended a briefing session that focused on various aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession process and related key agreements.

Read the full story
Resilient Iraqi farmer on his way to make it big

Ahmed Yonis Saleh is a commercial potato farmer from Iraq. He has clear goals for his business and he is working hard to achieve them.

Zahra’s agri-business dream to revive Basra’s greenery

Meet Zahraa Abdulsattar, a remarkable 31-year-old native of Basra. Ms. Zahraa recently received training through the SAAVI Tadreeb, a key component of the EU-funded SAAVI project in its efforts to support young agripreneurs.

Spotlight on the Iraq National Trade Forum
Case study: Opening new horizons for small firms in Iraq

As Iraq works to emerge from years of conflict and recover from an economic crisis, the country's agriculture and agrifood sectors, under the right conditions, have the potential to contribute to much-needed economic growth and diversification, job creation and enhanced sustainability and resilience.

This was the message from public and private-sector leaders at the opening of the first Iraq National Trade Forum on 28 November 2022.

See below the highlights and key takeaways from the first edition of the INTF.
What is the state of youth entrepreneurship in Iraq?
Our latest Youth Barometer by EU funded SAAVI developed in partnership with NRC engaged 504 youth across 5 governorates to trace challenges and identify opportunities.
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