**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). SAVVI 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 SAVVI's website to find out more about our programme.

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**Iraq National Trade Forum**
The rescheduled dates for the Second Iraq National Trade Forum, set to take place on February 19th and 20th, 2024, at Babylon Hotel Rotana in Baghdad.

The event is jointly organized by the Government of Iraq and ITC, with the generous support of the European Union. The forum will combine high-level panels with practical workshops and business-to-business meetings and feature an exhibition of agri-business SMEs under the theme “By Iraqi Hands”, with representation from all Iraqi governorates.

من المقرر إعادة جدولة مندلي التجارة الوطني العراقي الثاني يومي 19 و 20 شباط 2024 في فندق بابل روتانا في بغداد.

يتم تنظيم هذا الحدث بشكل مشترك من قبل حكومة العراق ومركز التجارة الدولية، ويدعم سفاح من الاتحاد الأوروبي. سيجمع المنتدى بين نقاشات رفيعة المستوى وورش عمل عملية واجتماعات بين رجال الأعمال، وسيتضمن معرضًا للشركات الصغيرة والمتوسطة في مجال الأعمال الزراعية تحت شعار "بأيدي عراقية"، بمشاركة ممثلين من جميع المحافظات العراقية.

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10 micro-project initiatives were implemented following the disbursement of block grants to SAAVI agribusiness alliances. These initiatives ranged from irrigation system installation, biosecurity, water de-salination equipment, high quality seeds for commercial production. Preliminary analysis revealed 25% reduction in production costs, over 70% reduction in poultry mortality and over 85% projected increase in horticultural production in the next season due to the improved quality of seeds, water quality for irrigation and training.

تم تنفيذ 10 مبادرات لمشاريع صغيرة بعد صرف المنح الجماعية لتحالفات الأعمال الزراعية SAAVI، وتراوحت هذه المبادرات بين تثبيت نظام الري، والأمان الحيوي، ومعدات تحلية المياه، والبذور عالية الجودة للإنتاج الزراعي. وكشف التحليل الأولي عن انخفاض بنسبة 25% في تكاليف الإنتاج، وانخفاض بنسبة تزيد عن 70% في وفيات الدواجن، وزراعة متوقعة في إنتاج الباستنة بنسبة تزيد عن 85% في الموسم المقترح بسبب تحسن جودة البذور وتنوع المياه المخصصة للري والتدريب.

Technical training of farmers
SAAVI has cumulatively trained 1,568 farmers since the beginning of the project. Farmers reported increased yields, reduction in post-harvest losses, improved product quality, reduction in poultry mortality rate due to adoption of modern farming techniques because of the training.

Field experimental trial of two industrial potato varieties: ITC in partnership with PepsiCO/GICO established a 4 donum experimental trial of two varieties of industrial potatoes in Al Cuba to test their adaptability to the local agro-ecological conditions.
Potato sector strategy document finalized and endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Secretariat of the National Core Team received training on strategy implementation management.

SAAVI Tadreeb training

874 youths graduated from SAAVI Tadreeb, reaching 4000 of youths in total. The training, spanning ten days per cohort, comprised in-person and E-learning sessions covering agribusiness and entrepreneurship across 10 modules.

Access to finance: Business plans developed by young entrepreneurs were reviewed and the first instalment of grants was released in Baghdad and Basra.
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): The Iraq National Education Strategy Implementation Plan (INES) is finalized and ready to be launched.

WTO accession

SAAVI successfully supported the identification of bound tariff rates to contribute to the development of the initial offer on goods. In addition, support was also provided to the technical committee on Construction, Telecom, Distribution and Environment sectors to identify commitments relevant for the initial offer on services.
ITC’s technical advisory services to the Federal Customs of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government have developed a consolidated tariff structure following World Customs Organization (WCO) guidelines. Expected to be approved in early 2024, this unified structure, based on the Harmonized System Code, is crucial for the WTO accession process.

As part of SAAVI’s capacity-building agenda on aspects related to WTO accession, an awareness-raising session was undertaken for over 50 parliamentarians in collaboration with the Parliament Development Institute (PDI). Parliamentarians play a critical role in the domestic reforms included in the accession process, and hence continuous capacity-building will be undertaken.

Following the recent accelerated progress made for Iraq’s Accession process, a joint mission with the WTO and ITC will be undertaken in the first quarter of 2024. The mission is expected to further garner the national political support to Iraq’s accession process and will also include the Chair of Iraq’s Working Party Meeting H.E Ambassador Saqer Abdullah Almoqbel.
Launch of the Iraq's Potato Sector Strategy
Baghdad, February 2024

Launch of the TVET strategy
Baghdad, February 2024

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