## Development of Stress Resilient Crops Basket for Marginal Environments



Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi Acting Director General International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) 15 February 2022



# Challenges to agriculture in marginal environments



### Key challenges in marginal environments



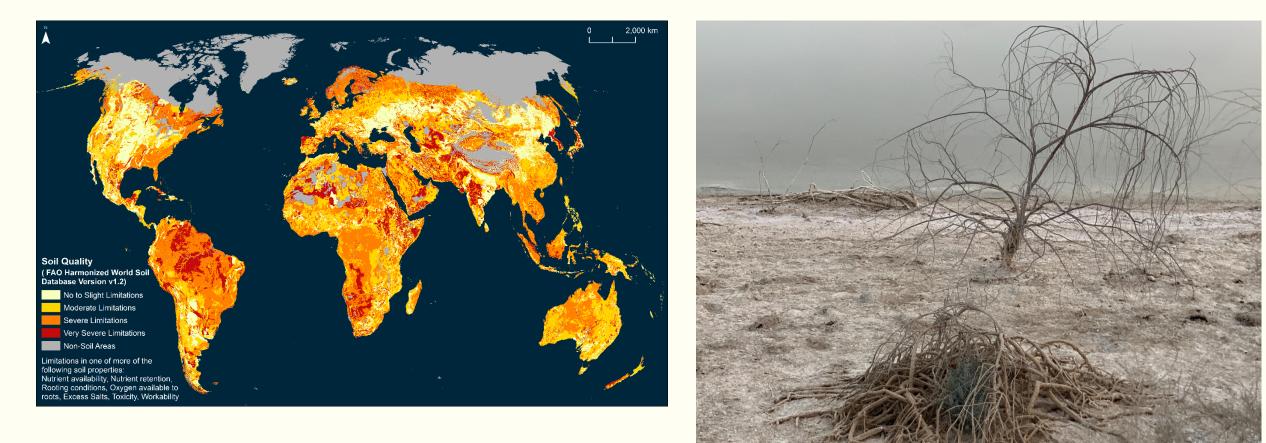
About **21% (2.74 billion ha)** of all land resources (13.5 billion ha) are marginal (water scarcity, land degradation)

Some **1.128 billion ha** are affected by salinity globally

**Climate change** will hit communities hardest in marginal regions

Most of **more than 820 million** undernourished people live in marginal areas

### Marginal lands



#### **Cost of salinization:**

About **27.3 billion USD** because of lost crop production only

Some **310 million ha** of irrigated areas in arid and semi-arid regions

# ICBA's work on plant genetic resources



### Agrobiodiversity

# **Agricultural biodiversity**

is fundamental for coping with changing climate and securing our future of food



**150** crops are cultivated on significant scale worldwide



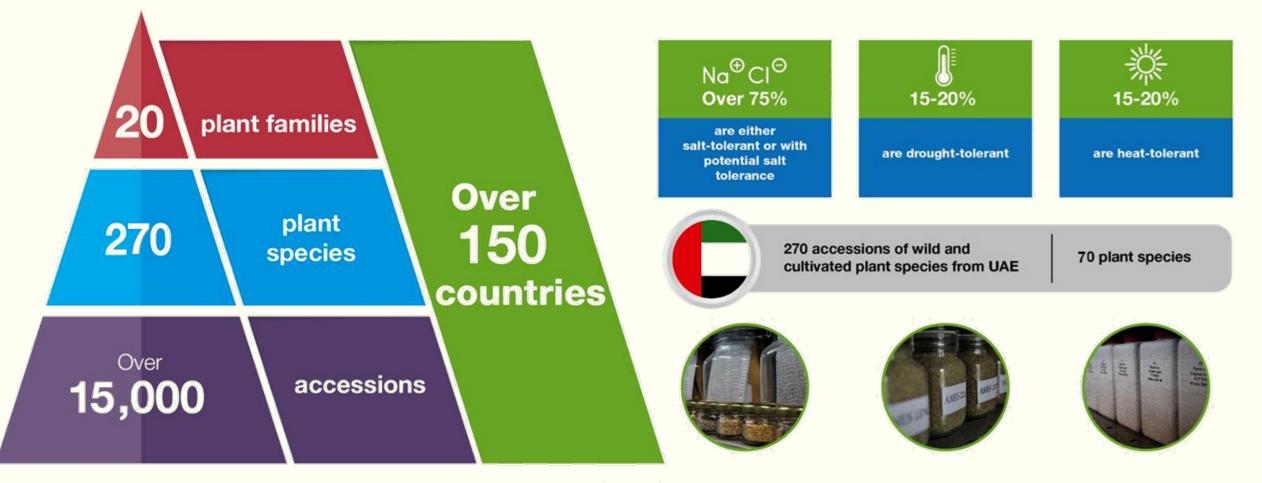


only **3 Crops** maize, wheat and rice

supply nearly **60%** of our daily protein and calories

Source: FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2019

### ICBA's genebank



Temperature: 4°C Relative humidity: 30-40%

### Quinoa and barley accessions

- ICBA stores about 4,900
   accessions of barley that represent more than 100

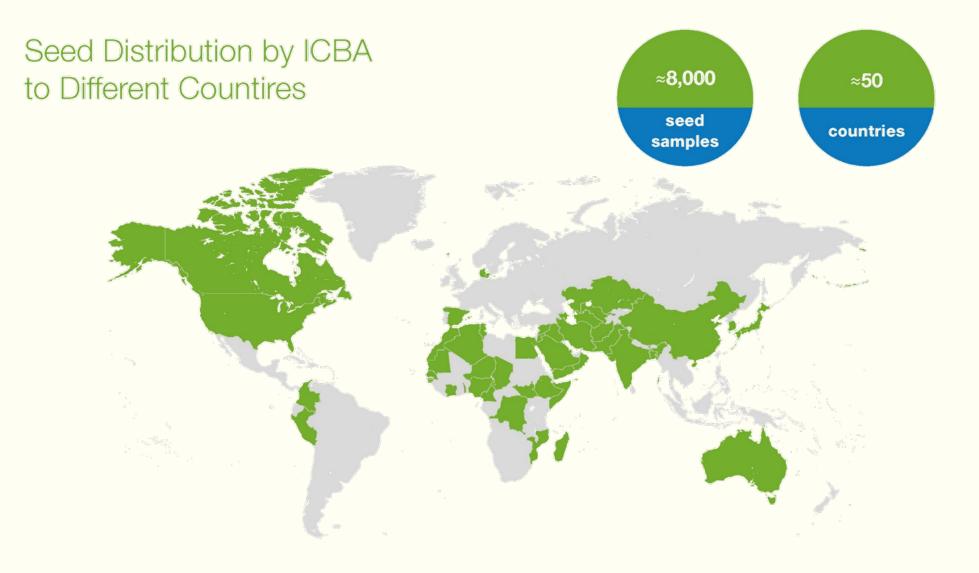
  countries of the world.
- It is one of the largest collections of barley in the world.





- ICBA has about **1,200 accessions** of quinoa that come from almost all the regions where the crop is cultivated.
- It is one of the largest collections of quinoa accessions outside South America.

### **Germplasm distribution**



## ICBA's program on crop diversification



### Genome-wide association studies in quinoa



#### 190 genotypes of quinoa

Collaboration with the Max Planck Institute, Germany, and the BGI Group

### Multi-environment trials





Laos



Mozambique



UAE



Tunisia





Uzbekistan



### ICBA's projects and programs in OIC countries

























### Diverse and nutritious resilient crops



# Value chains for resilient crops



### Fodder, dairy and quinoa value chains in Egypt













### Quinoa value chains in Morocco



### Salicornia value chain in UAE





### Climate-smart agriculture in Uzbekistan



## Desert Life Science Lab



### Desert Life Science Lab at ICBA

#### **Desert Life Science Lab:**

- Is an advanced genomic research facility established jointly with BGI, the world's largest genomic research organization
- Has some of the latest biotechnological equipment, including the nextgeneration sequencing platform (DNBSEQ-G400RS)
- Conducts whole genome resequencing, genotyping-by-sequencing, metagenomics, transcriptomics, small RNA sequencing and other types of research



# Capacity development



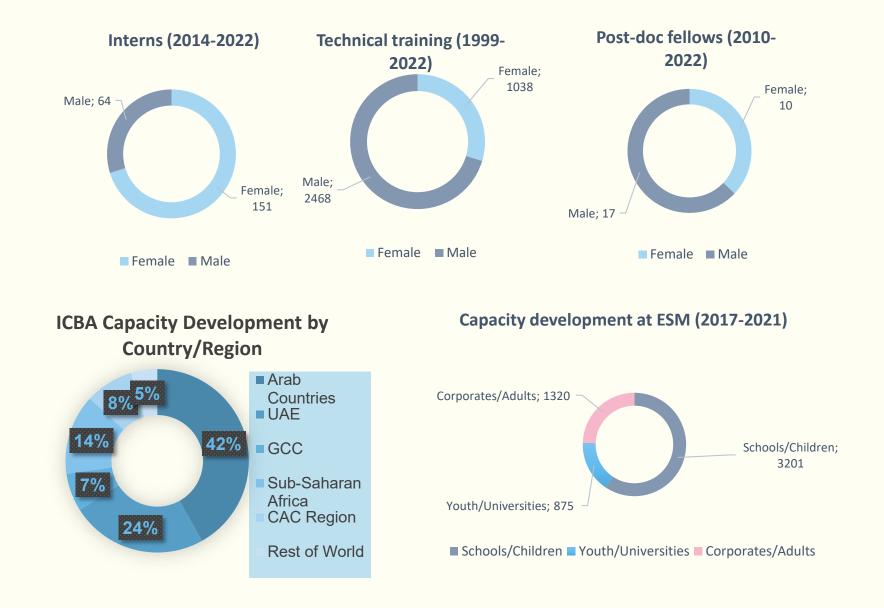
### **Capacity development statistics**

Around 9,200 participants in various capacity development programs

Beneficiaries from 93 countries



Virtual started in 2020



### Capacity development offerings

- Technical training courses
- Post-doctoral, doctoral and master's research
- Internships
- Farmers' field schools
- Knowledge hubs
- Emirates Soil Museum
- Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture
- Youth Engagement Society
- Community Initiatives and Awareness





























مند ف الإم<u>ارات النرب</u> Emirates Soil Museum



### **Certification programs**



Certified agri-entrepreneurship professional diploma in partnership with Gracia Group and Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy



### **E-learning**

Technical courses are certified according to continuing professional development requirements by the **CPD Certification Service, UK.** 



The content of the following has been certified by the CPD Certification Service as conforming to continuing professional development principles

E-learning course on "Water Resources and Irrigation Management Systems in Arid Regions" Online Training Course

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE (ICBA) (015185)

Date:

Certificate No:

January 2022

A033166

The CPD Certification Service, The Coach House, Ealing Green, London W5 5ER. Tel: 020 8840 4383 E-mail: info@cpduk.co.uk Web: www.cpduk.co.uk

# Key takeaways



### Takeaway messages

- Prioritize R&D for sustainable food systems
- Harness the untapped potential of agrobiodiversity and unconventional water and land resources for food and feed production
- Diversify food systems and diets
- Invest into youth and women empowerment initiatives



ICBA is supported by the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Development Bank.