

**Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management
Rome, 29-31 March, 2017**

DRAFT DECLARATION

We farmers, representatives of date palm producer associations and professional organizations from the Near East and North Africa region participating at the Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management, organized by FAO and CIHEAM at FAO Headquarters in Rome:

Would like to congratulate the FAO and CIHEAM for their excellent and unique initiative to organize this important event that gathered all stakeholders concerned in red palm weevil management from different regions.

Express our great thanks to the organizers of the event for their kind invitation to this very important event and giving us such opportunity to be exposed to such knowledge and experience from different regions and to be abreast with new technologies presented in the event.

Affirm that the date palm is a key crop sustaining the life of farmer communities in the oasis of the Near East and North Africa Region. And the loss of date palm definitely constitutes the loss of income of farmers and threaten their livelihood and future of the new generations in these areas.

Emphasize the negative impact of red palm weevil on the date production and wellbeing and income of farmers and oasis communities.

Recognize the importance of the active involvement and participation of the farmers and farmer associations in the management programs and we express our commitment to promote the participatory approach and raising the awareness among the farmer communities for successful control and containment of RPW.

Express our readiness for the cooperation and partnership to support the implementation of the recommendations and outcomes of this event.