



A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR NORTH AFRICA AND NEAR EAST

A NEED FOR ACTION

Agricultural practices in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) face **multiple challenges** such as water scarcity, high temperatures, pests, diseases and the deterioration of the quality of irrigation due to increasing salinity. Due to **increasing climatic changes** in the NENA region, the home for agricultural biodiversity is under threat, the **conservation** of this resources is essential if we are to **develop climate-resilient crops** to ensure **food security**.

The Near East and North Africa regions are the **centre of origin** for many of the world's important food crops.



A PRACTICAL SOLUTION

Sustainable use and management of **plant genetic resources** (PGR) can alleviate the pressing problems. PGR can be used by **scientists** and **plant breeders** to develop new crop varieties that are more **resilient** to climate change.

In line with the overall Mid-Term Plan of the BSF, the **Strategic Action Plan** for the NENA region foresees three broad areas:

PLAN – Strategy development;

HANDS ON – On-the-ground action with farmers for greatest impact; and

EDUCATION – Co-development and transfer of technologies.

The Benefit-sharing Fund is designed to help farmers **stay ahead of the climate change curve**, working now to produce seeds that will be adapted to **thrive** in harsher future conditions.



The “Action Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund in the NENA region” **addresses** the issues of **water scarcity** and **drought**.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED

The Strategic Action Plan will be presented at a **Donor Conference**, to be held in the NENA region in 2016, briefing main **stakeholders** and **potential donors**. Financial resources amounting to **US \$15-20 million per year** over seven years are needed in the Benefit-sharing Fund in order to ensure the **full implementation** of the Action Plan.



THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

The fund supports *in situ* and *ex situ* **conservation** of the diversity in PGR as well as assisting farmers and breeders globally to develop new crop varieties that meet our changing **needs** and **demands**. These projects:

- 1) Accelerate on farm management & conservation in collaboration with farmers;
- 2) Increase food security, particularly for those in developing countries;
- 3) Represent innovative partnerships between research centres, farmers, civil society, and public/private sector leaders at all levels.

The BSF invests in **high impact projects** in developing countries.

EGYPT

- On farm conservation and *ex situ* preservation of **local citrus** varieties and sustainable use of PGRFA.
- Sustainable use of landraces and PGR to improve **wheat tolerance** to heat and stress.

SUDAN

- Development of a strategy for building the **resilience** of **pastoral communities** to climate change in two Sudanese ecosystems.

MOROCCO, TUNISIA & ALGERIA

- ◆ *In vitro* culture and genomics-assisted fast track improvement of local landraces of **wheat** and **barley** for enhancing **food security** and adaptation to climate change.

JORDAN & IRAN

- ▲ Use of genetic resources to establish a multi country program of **evolutionary-participatory plant breeding**.

MOROCCO

- ★ On farm conservation and mining of **local durum & bread wheat** landraces and incorporating **UG99** resistance.
- ★ On farm conservation and mining of local **faba bean** landraces for biotic and abiotic stress **tolerance**.

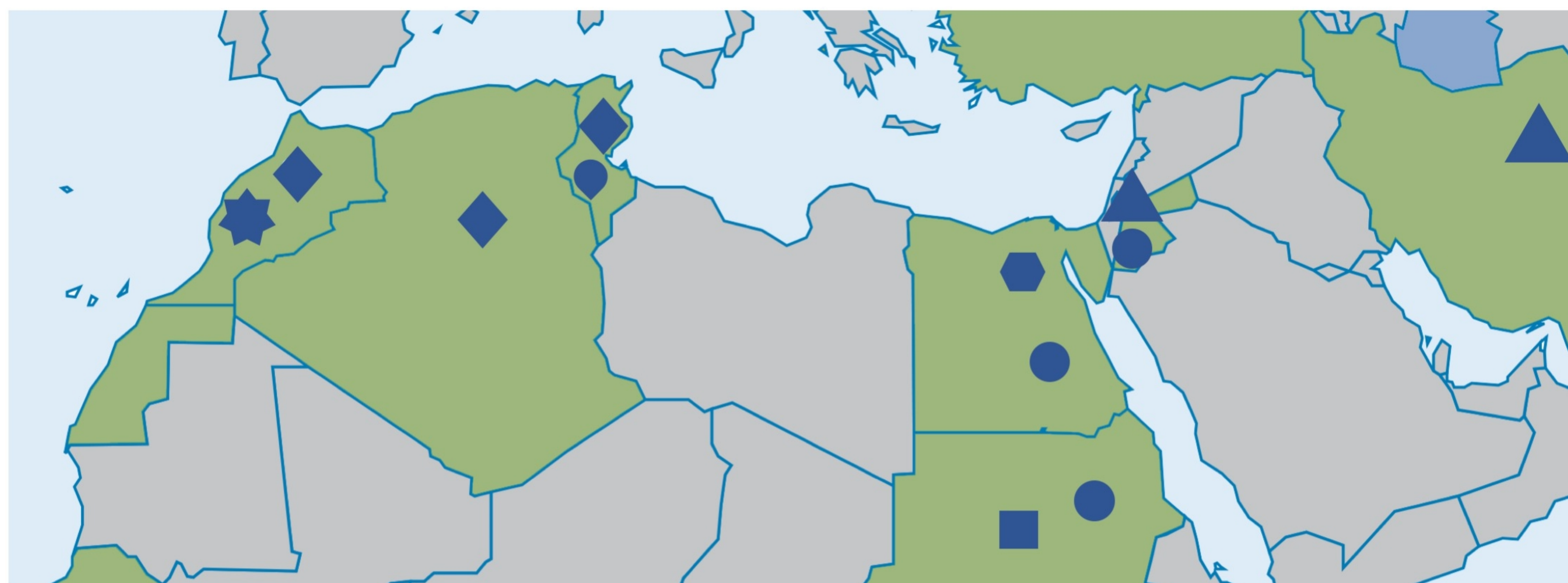
JORDAN, EGYPT & SUDAN

- An integrated approach to identify and characterise **climate resilient wheat** for the West Asia and North Africa region.

The Benefit-sharing Fund keeps **farmers ahead** of the climate change curve, **working now** to produce PGR that will be **adapted to thrive** in harsher future conditions.

TUNISIA

- Promote de la reconnaissance des systèmes ingénieux du patrimoine agricole mondial (SIPAM).
- On-farm conservation and mining of **local durum wheat** and **barley** landraces for biotic and abiotic **stress resistance**, enhance **food security** and adaptation to **climate change**.



BSF projects use genetic resources for **rehabilitation & restoration** of degraded farming systems and rangelands.