QATAR:

COUNTRY REPORT TO THE FAO INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

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Note by FAO

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Introduction to the State of Qatar and Its Agricultural Sector

Size: It covers an area of about 11,400 square kilometers.

Location: Latitude: 24°27' and 26°10' North. Longitude: 50°45' and 51°40' East.

Physiographic features: Most of Qatar's surface is flat, hills and sand dunes are present on both South East and West of Qatar.

Climatic features: It is a typical arid desert climate with long hot and dry summer, winter is mild with some rain.

Population: It was estimated to be around 532,719 in the year of 1992.

Farming system and crop: Date palm, alfalfa and some vegetables are grown successfully in Qatar, but it never covers the full requirement of the local market, therefore, the imported products from other countries are the only way to cover the shortage.

Forest: Not available, but some native plants and shrubs are spread over the desert.

The total number of registered farm was 1,089 in the year of 1992 with a total area of 25,580 hectares of which only 15,350 ha is suitable for cropping.

Area of the farms varies from less than one hectare to over a hundred of hectares, and most of the productive farms are rented from the Qatari owners to foreigners.

Seeds and most of other planting inputs are imported from all over the world. Local companies are acting as agent for the international firms.

Forage production, "mainly alfalfa" is increasing due to the better marketing and higher prices.

Indigenous Plant Genetic Resources

Even there is no forests in Qatar, some native plant materials are of traditional importance and they are adapted to the local conditions (see attached list.).

National Conservation Activities

Some areas in the country "both onshore and offshore" are announced as a natural protected area in which the natural life is maintained, for example Khor Al Udaid in South East of Qatar.

Yet, there is no other activities to store genetic materials for the wild varieties. Some studies were carried out in the past on the classification of natural flora in Qatar, e.g.:

- Ecology & Flora of Qatar, K.H. Batanouny, Center of Scientific & Applied Research, University of Qatar.
- Wild Plants of Qatar, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture.

Annual reports are also published covering the cultivated field crops experiments and multiplication. Generation Process are also conducted to increase the area covered with some type of plants e.g. mangroves.

Plant Breeding Programmes

It concentrates on adapting of imported germplasm to increase production, mainly conducted and funding the government. The produced seeds are made available to all farmers.

Lines of authority dealing with genetic resources and/or related activities

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Agriculture\Department of Agricultural
and Water Research
P.O. Box 1967, Doha, Qatar
Tel: 433400 Fax: 410526 Cable: HYDROAG

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
P.O. Box 3233
Doha, Qatar
Tel: 863451 Fax: 861552

N.B. Other information either not available or not applicable.

Native plants

Latin	Vernacular
Acacia ehrenbergiana	Salam
A.Tortilis	Samr
Aeluropus Lagopoides	Ikrish
Aerva Javonica	Tirf(Tuwaim)
Aizoon canariense	Gafnah
Alhagi mauronum	Aaqool
Ammi majus	Khillah
Anabasis Setifera	Himd-Shaa'ran
Anastaticahierochuntica	Kaff Maryam
Artemisia inculta	Shih
Arthrocnumem glaucum	Shnan
Asphodelus fistulosus	Barwaq-Barwag
Astragalus corrugatus	Halaq
A.eremophilus	Halaq
Atriplex leucoclada	Raghl
Avicennia Marine	Girm
Beta vulgaris	Silq
Blepharis ciliavis	Shook el Dhab
Capparis Spinosa	Shafallah
Cassia italica	Ishriq
Cencnrus Cillaris	Sabat
Centaurea Sinaica	Murrar
Chloris Virgata	Khazamzam
Chrysopogon Aucheri	Haltaa
Cistanche Phelypaea	Dhonoon
Citrullus colocynthis	Shary
Convolvulus arvensis	Olleiq
Cornulaca moonacantha	Thallag
Cressa Cretica	Nediwah
Cucumis Prophetarum	Shary-Hadaj
Cymbopogon Parkeri	Skhabar
Cynodon dactylon	Nejil-Najm-Thayiel
Cynomorium coccineum	Tarthouth
Cyperus conglomeratus	Rash

Latin	Vernacular
Dactyloctenium aegyptium	Najm
Dipcadi erythreum	Misselmo
Eleusine compressa	Sonneim
Emex spinosus	Hinzab
Erodeum laciniatum	Himbaz
Fagonia spp	Shaga
Filago desertourm	Qutteinah
Francoeuria Crispa	Githgath Yithyath
Frankenia pulverulenta	Molleith
Gastroctyle hispida	Rims
Glossonema edule	Itr(Garawah)
Halopeplis Perfoliata	Khorreiz
Hammada elegans	Rimth
Helianthemum lippii	Ragroug
Hippocrepis bicontorta	Ummal Qurain
Lasiurus hirsutus	Da'ah
Launaea capitata	Huwwah
L.nudicaulis	Huwwah
Leptadenia pyrotechnica	Markh
Limonium axillare	Qataf
Lycium shawii	Awsaj
Malva parviflora	Kobbeizah
Medicago laciniata	Nafal
M.Sativa	Jatt
Neurada Procumbens	Seidan
Panicum turgidum	Thumam
Pennisetum divisum	Thaymoum
Polypogon monspliensis	Dheil El Qott
Portulaca oleracea	Barbir
Rhanterium epapposum	Arfaj
Rumex vesicarius	Hommeid
Salvia aegyptiaca	Noaeim
Savignya parviflora	Girgis
Seidlitzia rosmarinum	Shnan
Setaria verticellata	Losseiq

Latin	Vernacular
Solanum nigrum	Enab ed Deeb
Stipa capensis	Samaah
Suaeda Vermiculata	Suwweid
Tamarix spp.	Tarfah-Athl
Teucrium pollum	Jaad, Yaa'd
Typha domingensis	Burdi
Ziziphus nummularia	Sidr
Z.Mauritianus	Knar
Zygophyllum quatarense	Harm