

# MORE FOOD WITH LESS WATER, PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND FOOD SECURITY"

3 April 2018

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

(Didon 1) Ramada Plaza Tunis

Achieving food security in the member countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) requires increasing agricultural productivity through resilient, water-efficient agricultural practices. This side event will discuss innovative solutions that may potentially be replicated and scaled up by the IDB or individual member states. The event will use, as a case study, the Sustainable Rice Platform, a multi-stakeholder initiative supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), to increase water productivity in smallholder rice production in Asia. The replication of the Asia experience will focus on sub-Saharan Africa, where rice consumption is rapidly growing while production in many countries falls far short of demand. The event is co-organized with ICBA and hosted by the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Water under the FIOP Directorate.

## Key issues to be addressed:

- 1- What practical innovations can be brought to the use of small holder farmers to increase rice productivity and improve farmers' livelihoods while increasing water-use efficiency?
- 2- What are the appropriate partnership mechanisms that could be deployed to facilitate the transfer of sustainable rice production knowledge and approaches from Asia to other regions, especially Sub-Saharan Africa?
- 3- What are the practical strategies to strengthen human and institutional capacities, including policy reforms, required to adapt and scale up the innovations to country- and region-specific needs?
- 4- What is the role of partners (ICBA, IDB etc.) in facilitating the transfer of water-efficient technology or know-how to achieve food security in member countries?



**Amadou Thierno Diallo** is the Director of the Economic and Social Infrastructure Department, IDB. He leads the Bank's engagement in the areas of economic and social infrastructure both in urban and rural settings to support its 57 member countries development efforts.



**Simon Zbinden** is the Co-Head of the Global Programme Food Security at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. He has worked widely on ecosystems services and contributes to international policy processes around agriculture, food security and nutrition.



**William Ellis** is the Coordinator of the Sustainable Rice Platform, UN Environment Asia and Pacific Office. He coordinates over 80 institutional members, convened by UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute.



**Ismahane Elouafi** is the Director General of the International Center for Bio-Saline Agriculture (ICBA), Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Before Joining ICBA, she was Director of Research Management and Partnerships Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.



**Abderraouf Laajimi** is the Director General of the Financing, Investments and Professional Organizations (FIOP), in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia. Prior to that, he was the Director General of the National Observatory of Agriculture (ONAGRI).

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[Luc Beerens](#) is the Global Sustainable Sourcing Director of Mars Food, the Netherlands. He plays a leading role in the global sustainability initiatives of Mars Food. He sits on the advisory board of the Sustainable Rice Platform, a multi-stakeholder platform, established in December 2011.



[Yacouba Doumbia](#) is the Project Coordinator of the Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program (SAPEP), an IDB financed project in Mali. Dr. Doumbia worked for a long time on irrigated rice as an agronomist where he developed extension materials on fertilization, water management and quality rice production.



[Bashir Jama Adan](#) is a IDB Senior Expert on Food Security and Sustainable Development. He is responsible for leading the bank's efforts towards developing good global practices on food and nutritional security and build strategic partnerships for impact.



[Abdulhakim Elwaer](#) is the Spokesperson of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and the Advisor to the President on Global Advocacy. He also served as the Director of the Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Department.