Sustainable Agriculture Development in Drylands

Dr. Abdulrahman Alhabeeb
Dr. Mohammad Almutari

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Drylands—zones with an aridity index of less than 0.65

Drylands Map

Relative growth population up to 2025 in Drylands

UNEP-WCMC, 2007

UN, 2009
Global figures for subtypes of drylands

- **Hyper-arid**
  - Share of global area: 6.6%
  - Share of global population: 1.7%

- **Arid**
  - Share of global area: 10.6%
  - Share of global population: 4.1%

- **Semi-arid**
  - Share of global area: 35.5%
  - Share of global population: 14.4%

- **Dry sub-humid**
  - Share of global area: 15.2%
  - Share of global population: 15.3%
Sub-Themes

01 Soil Fertility Management
02 Modern Smart Irrigation Technologies
03 Improved Dryland Crop Varieties
04 Promoting Animal and Plant Health
The capacity to receive, store, and transmit energy to support plant growth. These processes require healthy soils – living, self-organizing systems with physical, chemical, and biological components all functioning and in balance.
Global distribution of soil inorganic C content

Global distribution of soil organic C content

Global distribution of soil total P content

Global distribution of soil total N content
2. Modern Smart Irrigation Technologies in Drylands

Global Map with different levels of Water Stresses

17 countries -- home to nearly a quarter of the world’s population -- face extremely high levels of water stress*

*Irrigated agriculture, industries, municipalities withdraw more than 80% of their available supply on average each year

Annual freshwater withdrawals, agriculture (% of total freshwater withdrawal)

FAO, AQUASTAT data.
Share of water in different sectors

- World contains an estimated 1400 million cubic km of water. But only 0.003% of this vast amount, about 45000 cubic km, are “freshwater resources” that could be used for drinking, hygiene, agriculture and industry.

- In purely physical terms, only 8% of the world’s freshwater running in the rivers and infiltrating into the aquifers are withdrawn for agriculture, cities and industries.

- It is estimated that about 50% of what could be called “reasonably accessible” water resources are already mobilized for human use.

- Irrigation represents less than 20% of cultivated land but contributes 40% to overall food production.
Irrigation efficiency

93 developing countries
- 1998: 38%
- 2030: 42%

East Asia
- 1998: 33%
- 2030: 34%

South Asia
- 1998: 44%
- 2030: 49%

Near East/North Africa
- 1998: 40%
- 2030: 53%

Latin America
- 1998: 25%
- 2030: 25%

Sub-Saharan Africa
- 1998: 33%
- 2030: 37%

Source: FAO
3. Improved Dryland Crop Varieties

- The 30 percent of plants under cultivation are endemic to drylands.

- Threats to Dryland Ecosystems and Species Diversity
  - Overexploitation.
  - Climate change and pollution
  - Fragmentation, degradation or outright loss of habitats

- The prospects for improving crop production under dryland conditions mainly lies in the development of improved crop varieties with following characteristics:

1. Efficient utilization of abiotic factors to maximize stable economic yield & total production
2. High early seedling vigour
3. Wide crop adaptability
4. Deep rooted branched root system
5. Photo- and thermo-insensitive
6. Diseases and pests resistant
Drylands are home to 33% of global human population and 50% of livestock production. Plant and animal health is crucial for the production of food for human consumption.

Global food security is also threatened by reduced productivity in drylands due to pests and diseases.

Their prevalence impart huge economic losses, which risk global food security at all levels including household, national and global.

FAO estimates that about one sixth of global agriculture production is lost annually due to destructive pests and disease.

Due to significant contribution in global food security, there is a pressing need to develop appropriate, affordable, and environmentally friendly management technologies for drylands.
Plant Pests and diseases

- **Transboundary plant pests and diseases**

1. Affect food crops, causing significant losses to farmers and threatening food security.

2. The most destructive transboundary plant pests and diseases.

- Locusts
- Armyworm
- Red Palm Weevil
- Fruit Flies
- Banana Disease
- Cassava Disease
- Wheat Rust

The chart shows the impact of these pests and diseases in different regions:

- **Oceania**: 10.3 weeds, 10.7 pathogens, 15.2 arthropod pests (36.2%)
- **USSR**: 8.3 weeds, 9.8 pathogens, 12.9 arthropod pests (28.2%)
- **Europe**: 9.2 weeds, 10.2 pathogens, 15.1 arthropod pests (40.9%)
- **Asia**: 9.8 weeds, 10.2 pathogens, 18.7 arthropod pests (47.1%)
- **Latin America**: 9.6 weeds, 11.4 pathogens, 13.4 arthropod pests (41.3%)
- **N. America**: 9.8 weeds, 10.2 pathogens, 15.6 arthropod pests (31.2%)
- **Africa**: 9.6 weeds, 10.2 pathogens, 16.7 arthropod pests (48.9%)
Livestock production comprises about 43% of the global value of agricultural output. The incursion of an animal disease can devastate production, livelihoods and international trade overnight.

The most destructive transboundary Animal diseases are:

1. Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)
2. Anthrax
3. Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)
4. Avian Flu
5. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

Overall, arid zones that are largely characterized as drylands contribute to 50 percent of the livestock production.
Outcomes

☑ Improve knowledge and information sharing for enhancing agricultural production in drylands

☑ Facilitate activities for enhancing collaboration among interested G20 members and IOs for Sustainable Agriculture Development in Drylands

Objectives

☑ Prospects for improving crop production through improved crop varieties in drylands.

☑ The novel practices and techniques for sustainable soil fertility management in drylands

☑ The advanced food production and protection technologies suitable for drylands

☑ Innovative water efficient technologies for drylands

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will organize an EXPERTS MEETING in collaboration with interested G20 members, and relevant International Organizations later in the year to discuss developing appropriate measures to enhance productivity and sustainability in drylands.
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