

FAO Showcases Bahrain’s Farming Success

Experiences highlight innovation, sustainability and collective action

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has selected two agricultural success stories from Bahrain for its regional publication, Co-operators’ Voices – A Collective Journey Across Agrifood Systems in the Near East and North Africa.

The publication, issued to mark FAO’s 80th anniversary, features more than 70 inspiring stories from over 14 countries across the Near East and North Africa. The two Bahraini stories have also been published on the organisation’s website.

Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak said the selection reflects the achievements of Bahrain’s agricultural sector and the continued support provided to Bahraini farmers.

He highlighted the role of Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and Chairperson of the Advisory Council of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development, in supporting farmers and advancing agricultural development.

The minister said the inter-



“The selection reflects the continued achievements of Bahrain’s agricultural sector and the expertise of Bahraini farmers.”

Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak,
Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture



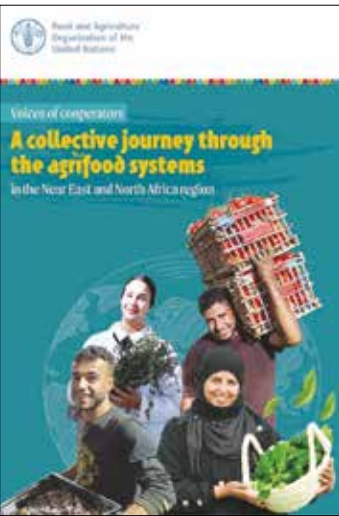
“The inclusion of the two stories represents international recognition of Bahrain’s agricultural experiences.”

Shaikha Maram Bint Isa Al Khalifa,
Secretary-General of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development



“The selection highlights the innovative and sustainable practices adopted by Bahraini farmers.”

Engineer Asim Abdul Latif Abdullah,
Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Wealth



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Hassan Mansoor of Bilad Al Qadeem. It documents his efforts to transform salt-affected agricultural land into a productive and sustainable farm using modern irrigation techniques and organic fertilisers.

The farm also involves his family, with his son contributing to smart irrigation systems and his daughter handling accounting and digital marketing. It has also become a space for educating students and sharing agricultural knowledge.

The second story, United Farmers: A Farmer’s Journey Towards Collective Strength in Bahrain, follows farmer Mohammed Mohsen of Buri and

other Bahraini farmers working with the Bahrain Farmers Association.

The experience focuses on collective purchasing of seeds and fertilisers to reduce production costs, alongside sharing expertise in crop varieties, pest control, disease resistance and greenhouse design.

It also highlights the use of smart farming, hydroponics and shading technologies, as well as farmers’ role in supplying fresh produce to local markets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The selection highlights Bahrain’s agricultural experience in sustainability, innovation, cooperation and food security.

MP Proposes Bahrain Perfume Factory and Institute

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Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to build a national perfume factory and a specialist perfumery institute in Bahrain has been submitted to Parliament, with the aim of turning local scents, plants and heritage into a new export trade.

MP Basema Mubarak has called on the government to study the two projects with private-sector, education and investment partners.

The factory would produce perfumes with a Bahraini identity, drawing on ingredients such as jasmine, Damask rose, mashmoom, local flower oils and palm pollen oil.

Alongside it, an accredited institute would teach perfume-making, formulation and production, offering professional certificates and training for Bahrainis and students from elsewhere in the Gulf.

The proposal says the scheme could create jobs in manufacturing, perfume composition, marketing, research, product development and brand management, while opening another field for small and medium-sized businesses.

It also calls for parts of Bahrain’s culture and history to be turned into perfume ranges inspired by pearls, the sea, diving, the Pearling Path, palm trees, mashmoom, jasmine and Damask rose.

Ms Mubarak cited Oman’s



Basema Mubarak, MP

Amouage as an example of how a Gulf perfume house rooted in local culture can build an international name.

The longer-term plan goes beyond a factory. It envisages a national luxury perfume house, a research centre for aromatic oils and plants, a start-up incubator and a permanent showroom for Bahraini fragrance products.

Those elements could later grow into a ‘Bahrain City for Perfumes and Fragrances’, bringing manufacturing, training, research, start-ups and retail together.

The proposal argues that perfume-making could add a new source of non-oil income, draw local and overseas investment, raise exports and create skilled jobs.

It was submitted under Article 68 of the Constitution and Article 128 of Parliament’s internal rules, with a request for it to be sent to the relevant committee for study before returning to MPs.

Calories on the menu: MP backs study into restaurant labelling

Al Salloom urges gradual rollout with unified standards for small restaurants

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Hasan Barakat

Restaurants in Bahrain could eventually be required to provide calorie information for meals, under a system currently being studied following a directive from His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

Ahmed Al Salloom, Chairman of the Council of Representatives’ Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, welcomed the directive, describing it as an important step towards promoting nutritional awareness and helping consumers make informed choices based on their health needs.

He said studying the regulatory, supervisory and legal aspects of the proposed system would help establish a practical framework



“The directive gives fresh momentum to a comprehensive calorie disclosure system.”

AHMED AL SALLOOM

that ensures the accuracy of nutritional information and compliance by food establishments.

Al Salloom said calorie disclosure could benefit people with diabetes, obesity and other chronic conditions, as well as those who



follow specific diets or exercise regularly. He added that greater transparency could encourage healthier eating habits and support national prevention efforts.

The initiative could also encourage restaurants to review their ingredients, portion sizes and menus, while developing healthier options. According to Al Salloom, this could strengthen consumer confidence and create a competitive advantage for establishments that demonstrate transparency and quality.

Al Salloom said he had previously submitted a proposal requiring restaurants to disclose the calorie content of each meal, based on consumers’ right to know the nutritional value of the food they purchase.

He suggested that accredited specialist companies could calculate calorie values and verify their accuracy, while relevant government authorities would oversee regulation and compliance.

The latest directive, he said, could provide fresh momentum for developing the proposal into a comprehensive system based on scientific standards and practical oversight.

Modern technology could also play a role, with digital menus, QR codes and food delivery applications offering consumers clear and accessible nutritional information before they place an order.

Youth urged to navigate digital media wisely

BIPD Chairman highlights risks of rumours and misleading content

Dr. Ali bin Mohamed Al Romaihi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), took part in a session on leadership and awareness in the digital media age at Youth City 2030.

The session was organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs in cooperation with its strategic partner, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), in conjunction with International Youth Day.

Dr. Al Romaihi stressed the importance of raising youth awareness and strengthening their ability to distinguish reliable information from misleading content, noting that this is essential to protecting national identity and reinforcing a sense of belonging amid the grow-



“The challenge today is not the volume of information available, but the ability to approach it with awareness, responsibility and critical thinking.”

- DR. ALI BIN MOHAMED AL ROMAIHI

ing influence of digital and social media.

He said the digital age presents challenges beyond the sheer volume of information available, including rumours, misleading news,



fake accounts, influence campaigns and algorithmic manipulation.

He emphasised that informed and responsible young people can play an important role in protecting society, strengthening social cohesion and enhancing confidence in national institutions.

Dr. Al Romaihi also highlighted the need for young people to develop skills to verify and analyse information and understand the objectives and messages behind content circulated on social media platforms, which have become an

integral part of their daily lives.

He underlined the importance of strengthening awareness, protecting national identity and maintaining public confidence in state institutions, while distinguishing between political awareness based on rationality and national responsibility and politicisation driven by emotion and selectivity.

The session focused on awareness and national identity as key elements in strengthening the relationship between citizens and state institutions.