

# AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



## The Iraq date palm sector rehabilitation

### Context

Although Iraq was second in raw and processed date exports in 1950s, decades of sanctions and war that followed had severely detrimental effects on Iraqi date processing facilities, machinery and human resources, a matter leading to Iraq being have to ship raw dates to other countries in the region for processing. Let alone employment opportunities was lost due to this shift, since a ton of raw dates cost merely one-sixteenth of a ton of processed dates, it caused a significant loss of revenue. To note that Iraq has a comparative advantage when it comes to dates.

### Strategy

To remedy this shift, UNIDO has partnered with the Iraqi Dates Processing and Marketing Company (IDPMC), the market leader in the Iraqi date sector. The company owns and operates eight date processing plants in various governorates of Iraq. Focusing on the largest processing facility owned by the IDPMC, which is situated in Baghdad, UNIDO assisted the company through three key activities: capacity-building, rehabilitation and technology transfer.

### Current Status

- Rehabilitating and fully equipping Baghdad date processing factory
- Rehabilitating all cold storage and fumigation facilities
- Train IDPMC staff on food hygiene and food processing
- Rehabilitate and equip the company laboratory
- Fulfill all the requirements and award ISO 22000 certificate

### Impact / Outlook

Today, IDPMC has the capacity to export processed dates to the USA and Europe. The factory has a capacity of mechanically processing up to 20 tons per day. IDPMC now are working toward rehabilitating other factories to increase their capacity and decrease exporting raw date.

### At a glance

OVERALL GOALS:	Capability of entrepreneurs and staff in the date processing sector enhanced
	Selected date storage, packaging and processing facilities improved and enabled to act as models for the specific region
	Products of selected pilot enterprises meet international requirements
	New forms of cooperation along the value chain started
	Preparation for the establishment of a date marketing organization
THEMATIC AREA:	Agro-Industrial development
DONOR:	UNDG Iraq Trust Fund
PARTNERS:	Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade