PRODUCTION AND MARKET POTENTIAL OF TROPICAL FRUITS IN THE GCC COUNTRIES

Hassan M. Ali-Dinar, FAO, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Bander Al-Odiani; Ministry of Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ali A. Al-Jaleel; Ministry of Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

OVERVIEW

- Involved GCC Countries
- Production, Areas and Tree Population
- Trade and Food Commodities
- GCC Sector Support and Activities
- Major Constraints
- The Way Forward

Involved GCC Countries

Production, Areas and Tree Population

Mango			
	Area (Ha)	Production (MT)	Tree Population (No.)
SAUDI ARABIA	5,130	30,000	-
OMAN	1,072	10,199	-
UAE	972	4,200	120,000
Papaya			
SAUDI ARABIA	-	6,314	210,470
OMAN	104	1,760	-
Banana			
Oman	4,374	56,794	

Trade and Food Commodities

- Imports accounts for 80%-90% OF GCC countries food consumption
- Demand for food is projected to grow by 50% over the next 20 years
- Food imports in 2010 were worth approximately USD 25.8 billion and expected to rise up to USD 53.1 by 2020
- In GCC countries domestic production of fruits generally accounts for only 25.5% of total domestic demands

- **Saudi Arabia currently meets 46.8% of its overall domestic demand for fruits. All other GCC countries depend on imports for approximately 80% of their domestic demand for fruits.**

Fruit Imports

Saudi Arabia (2011-2012):

- Mango (3.9%) of sharing global imports

- Mango (62,279 MT) (Yemen: 59.29%, Pakistan: 20.28%, India: 9.61%, Egypt: 4.21%, and Kenya: 3.94%)

- Banana (306,173 MT)

UAE (2011-2012):

- Mango (5.2%) of sharing global imports

GCC Fruit Sector Support and Activities

SAUDI ARABIA

Horticulture Project (2011-2016):

- **Budget USD 4.5 Mill.**
- **Development of infrastructure**
- **Capacity building**
- **Improvement of genetic resources**


Saudi Arabia
International Boundary
Road
Minor Road
River
National Capital
Major City
0 100 200 KM
0 100 200 Miles
Amman
Jerusalem
Beersheba
JORDAN
IRAQ
Al Rutbah
An Najaf
An Nasiriyah
Basra
Abadan
Dezful
IRAN
Masjed Soleyman
Ahvaz
Kuwait
Bandar-e Bushehr
Persian Gulf
Bandar-e 'Abbas
Tabuk
Hafar al Batin
Ha'il
Buraydah
Unayzah
Ad Dammam
Az Zahran
Manama
BAHRAIN
QATAR
Doha
Umm Sa'id
Al Mubarraz
Al Hufuf
Riyadh
Al Kharj
Ra's al Khaymah
Dubayy
Abu Dhabi
Al 'Ayn
Dank
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
EGYPT
Yanbu' al Bahr
Medina
Rabigh
Jeddah
Mecca
At Ta'if
Al Bahah
Port Sudan
SUDAN
Red Sea
Abha
Khamis Mushayt
Najran
Jaza'ir Farasan
Jizan
ERITREA
Dahlak Archipelago
Kassala
YEMEN
OMAN
Arabian Sea



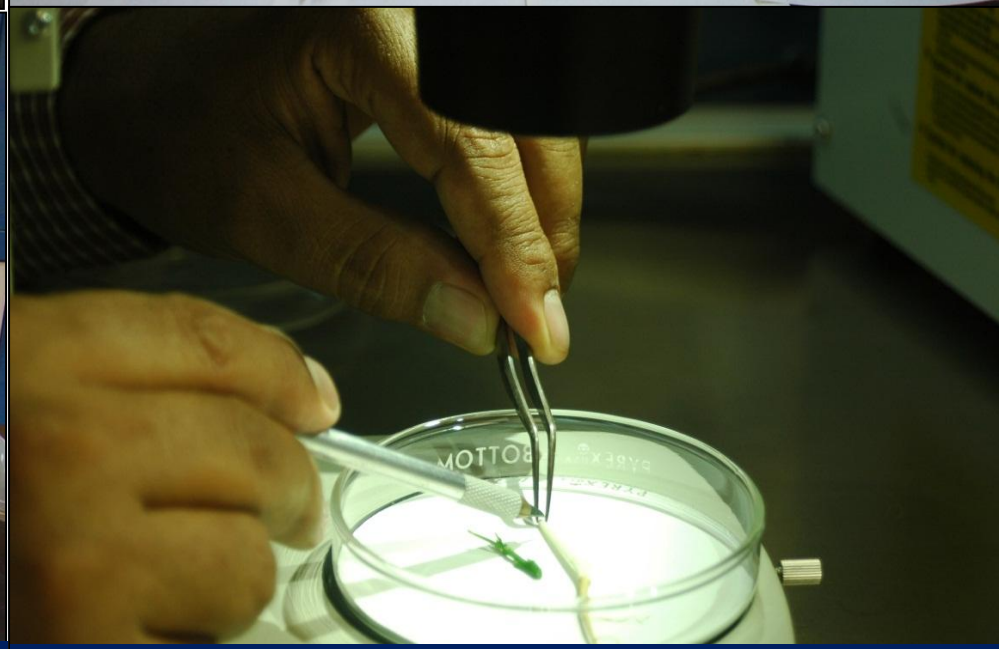


Infrastructure:

Soil and water control

Environmental Stress and Physiology

Production and Quality control



Protection and micropropagation

Capacity building







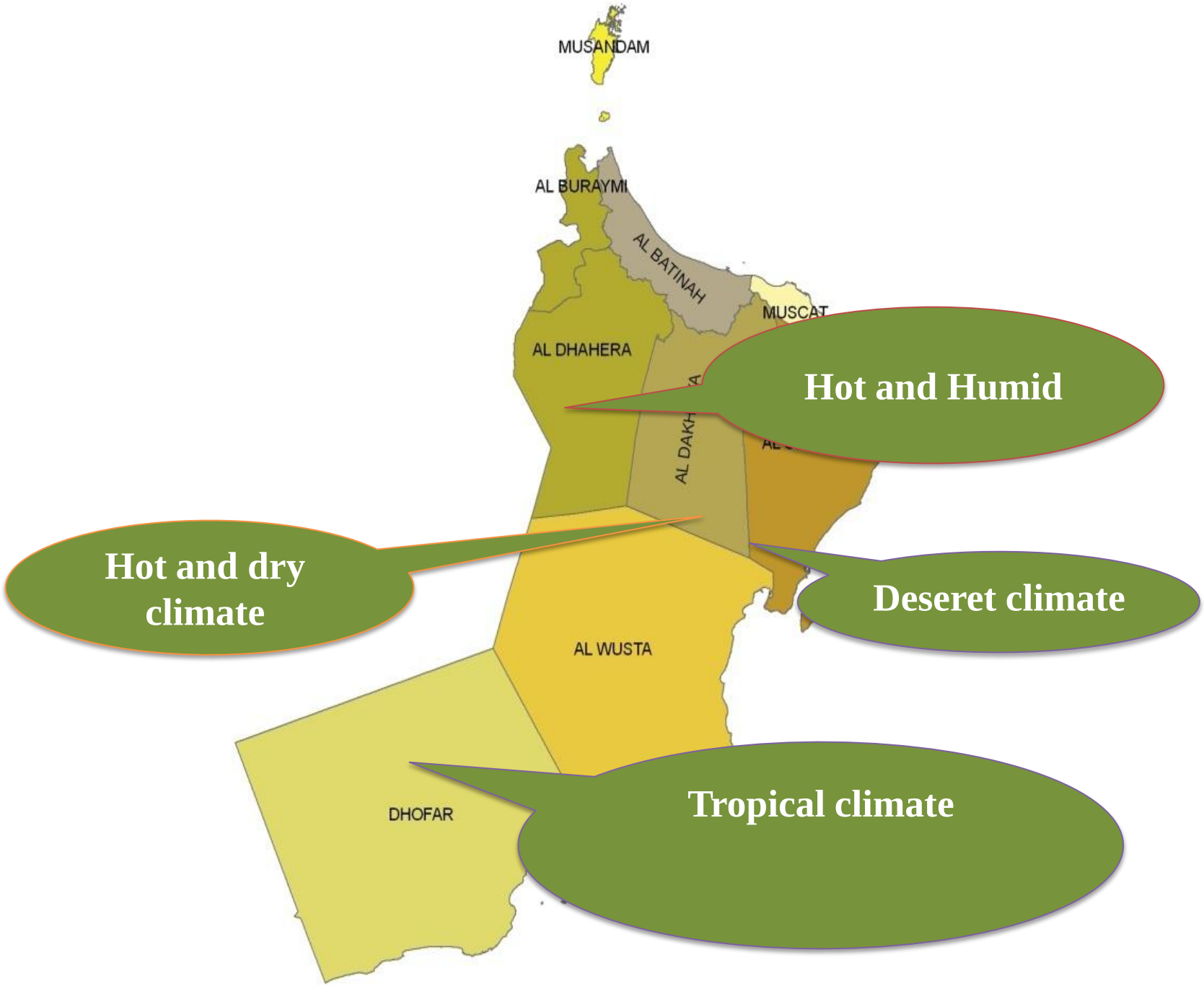


Improvement of genetic resources:

Mango Gene Bank includes 52 mango cultivars introduced worldwide

Sultanate of Oman

- Survey and evaluation of local mango cultivars
- Introduction and evaluation of mango cultivars
- Establishment of genetic resources
- Develop an international encyclopaedia for mango


MUSANDAM
AL BURAYMI
AL BATINAH
MUSCAT
AL DHAHERA
AL DAKH
Hot and Humid
Hot and dry climate
Deseret climate
AL WUSTA
DHOFAR
Tropical climate

Evaluation of more than 32 mango selections

Al-Khadra

Al-Halqoom

Zingbari Red

AlBatikha

Eshbia

Alkhobe

Al-kelia

Om Al-Roob

More than 50 mango cultivars introduced from Australia, Brazil and India

langra

Alfonso

Banglora

Neelum

Develop an international encyclopaedia for mango:

- Description of mango varieties worldwide
- Distribution of mango varieties worldwide
- Document the mango based industry worldwide
- Document the historical and cultural importance of mango worldwide
- Document the genetic diversity of mango worldwide
- Encyclopaedia editions:
  - 1st edt. Mango production in Sultanate of Oman
  - 2nd edt. Cultivation and utilization of mango
  - 3rd edt. Pests and diseases of mango
  - 4th edt. Production of mango in the world
  - 5th edt. Mango varieties in the world

Data collection

Description


NOTICE
MP

Major Constraints/ Challenges

- Restricted water resources
- Increasing soil salinity
- Lack of proper rootstocks to reduce salinity hazards
- Limited knowledge of appropriate harvest and post-harvest techniques
- Pests and diseases (Fruit fly and mango die back)
- Limited research on good agricultural practices
- Lack of sufficient qualified national staff

The Way Forward

- Regional cooperation to address jointly the common problems
- Liaise with regional and international organizations and countries with similar concerns and utilize their experience and knowledge
- Explore potential fruit crops that tolerate the existing environmental conditions
- Continue developing the capacities of the nationals
- More emphasis on scientific research regarding drought conditions, salinity and good irrigation practices


THANK YOU