

العلم، الاقتصاد، والإصلاح الزراعي
القائد

CURRICULUM VITAE SAAD EL MEDANI AHMED

GENERAL

Place & date of birth: Sudan 24/01/1947
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EDUCATION

1971 B.Sc. (Agriculture) First Class Honours, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum, SUDAN
1977 Ph.D. Agricultural Economics, Wye College (Wye of the Imperial College, London University, UK

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

2009 Free lance Senior Agricultural Policy consultant
2002-2008 FAO Representative in Libya, United Nations
1991-2002 Senior Regional Agricultural Policy Officer, FAO, United Nations
1990-1991 Senior Farming Systems Expert, FAO, United Nations
1977-1991 Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Khartoum, Sudan
1985-1988 Farm Management Training Expert in Saudi Arabia (seconded from University of Khartoum to FAO, United Nations)
1979-1980 Farming Systems Research Economist in Libya (seconded from University of Khartoum to FAO, United Nations)
1972-1977 Academic Assistant, University of Khartoum (on a study course abroad)
1971-1972 Credit Officer, Central bank of Sudan

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ASSIGNMENTS

SUMMARY

A highly qualified and experienced farm and agricultural institution development and policy support economist who studied in the University of Khartoum, Sudan and Wye of the Imperial College, London University and worked for more than 40 years in research, education, small scale farm management and farming system analysis, resource management, planning & policy support and training in the fields of farm management, rural development projects planning and analysis, agricultural policies, food security, poverty, and environmental impact assessment in several countries of the Near East region. Work at the farm level focused on diagnosis of socio-economic constraints of small-scale farming and devising plans for optimum resource use. Special emphasis has been made on small farmers' rural credit and marketing issues and the role of local based farm associations and cooperatives in improving credit worthiness of small farmers (subject of Doctorate Degree prepared at Wye of the Imperial College, London

University.). At the level of the agriculture sector, work focused more on the design of agricultural and rural rehabilitation and development programmes, formulation of food security strategies and plans, and providing policy support to governments and regional economic groupings in the Near East and Africa, including promoting institutional and human resource capacities to address small scale farmers resource use, agricultural planning and policy design issues and the relative roles of the public and private sectors in these processes.

Recent work concentrated on enhancing institutional and human resource capacities in agriculture and rural development (Egypt-2011, Sudan-2010; Yemen 2009/10) and preparing framework for strategy and master plan for food security in Oman-2009. During 2002-2008/9 appointed as FAO Representative, headed its diplomatic mission in Libya and established first FAO Representation office for the country and set-up mechanisms for efficient access to high level Libyan Administration which facilitated cooperation with FAO for enhancing Libya/FAO bilateral arrangements, promoting Libya cooperation with partner countries within the Sudano-Sahelian (CEN-SAD) Community, and enhancing Libya participation with its partner African countries within the context of the African Union (AU). Through work with FAO during 1990-2002 provided, as Senior Agricultural Planning & Policy Advisor and as Senior Farming Systems Economist, advice to member Governments and institutions in Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, on pertinent issues related to farming system analysis and development, assessing on-farm policy impacts with special emphasis on small farmers in the Near East region, agricultural planning and policy analysis, food security, structural adjustment and economic reforms, trade facilitation and Uruguay Round (WTO) Multilateral Trade (MLT) negotiations and other issues within these domains. Designed training programmes and modules and initiated translation into Arabic of major training documents and manuals on characterization and analysis of small farmers socio-economic production systems including small ruminants in the Near East region and promoted collaboration with regional and national training institutes in implementing training programmes to enhance capacity building in the Near East region. Also organized and presided a number of national and regional seminars on various development issues and made presentations on food security, agricultural trade facilitation, economic reform programmes, Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and harmonization of agricultural policies to high level forums including ministerial meetings; and provided leadership for programming and project formulation missions and specific policy and environmental studies in above mentioned countries.

Previously worked extensively for FAO as farming systems economist in Oman, farm management training expert in Saudi Arabia and Libya and provided consultancy services to other organizations including the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in many Arab countries, the World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) in Syria and joint FAO/World Bank project in South Yemen. Worked during the period 1972-1990 for the University of Khartoum as academic assistance and assistant professor in agricultural economics and taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses on microeconomics, farm management and rural finance and supervised research studies for a number of M.Sc. students and collaborated with teaching staff and international research institutes and foundations (Ford Foundation, IDRC & ILCA) in establishing farm economics unit for development projects, the design and conduct of multidisciplinary research on farming systems analysis and other development issues. Research findings, studies and outcomes of consultancy assignments were published in journals, books, reports and monographs.

Key Accomplishments

As Freelance Consultant (2009/2010)

- September-December 2012: Supported FAO Sub-regional Office for the GCC countries and Yemen (SNG) and prepared the FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) for Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates
- June/July 2012: Supported the FAO/EU project “Sudan Productive Capacity Recovery Program – SPCR” and led preparation of the Strategy and Action Plans for Agricultural Extension in the Sudan and facilitated organization of a national workshop to discuss the strategy
- May 2012: Supporting FAO Regional Office in the organization of the 31st FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. Reviewed and edited documents presented to the Conference and prepared draft report of the Conference
- September 2011: supporting FAO Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) and the Committee for Food Security (CFS) in organizing the Regional Multi-stake holders Conference on Food Security and Nutrition (Cairo, October 2011) and prepared the conference final report
- June 2011: Assisted in establishing and preparing a detailed structure for a Result-based M&E Unit within the Agricultural Research and Development Council (ARDC) of Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) in Egypt and defined its mandate;
- March/April 2011: Developed program to enhance institutional and human resource capacities in agricultural policy analysis, design and implementation/monitoring within the FAO/EU project “Sudan Productive Capacity Recovery Program – SPCR”.
- January/March 2011: Lead and provide technical support, as Senior Agricultural Policy Adviser, to FAO project to enhance Yemeni capacities in agricultural planning and policy analysis.
- July/August 2010: Participated in a FAO mission to examine and propose actions to enhance the capacities for formulation and analysis of small and medium scale agricultural investment projects in Sudan and formulated a UTF project in this regard.
- January 2010: Prepared a project under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to provide technical assistance and to promote national institutional and human resource capacities in Yemen in agricultural planning and investment and policy support.
- November-December 2009: Led a FAO multidisciplinary mission to Yemen and prepared a "Medium-term plan of action for the rehabilitation and development of the food and agricultural sector 2012-1015".
- July 2009: Led a joint United Nations (FAO and UNCTAD) mission and designed a Framework for a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) project to "Formulate a strategy and master plan for food security in the Sultanate of Oman".

As FAO Representative in Libya (2002-2009)

- Established the First FAO Representation office in Libya and led its activities and upgraded its human resources, information technology and other supportive facilities. Provided operational support for the FAO national and regional technical cooperation projects and followed-up with national authorities and arranged for transferring funds agreed upon for the operation of UTF national projects.
- Supported the government in identification of priorities for technical assistance and in activating the pipeline field programme and assisted in formulation of UTF, GCP and TCP projects to overcome constraints to agricultural and rural development and to strengthen human resource and institutional capacity building.

- Launched initiative to support review and updating national policies and strategies for food security and agricultural and rural development and prepared project proposals to formulate sustainable agricultural and rural development and food security strategy and policies, promote olives production and pesticide management and to dispose off obsolete pesticides, and initiated actions for mobilization of national and donor funding for implementation of these activities.
- Prepared “Country Policy Profile for Libya” and updated “National Agricultural Development and Food Security Strategy – Horizon 2015” and followed-up on FAO initiatives and assisted in preparing medium term programmes and bankable projects to enhance Libya investment in agriculture and food security in conformity with CAADP and Maputo AU decision to scale up investment in agriculture and food security in Africa.
- Secured positions for Libyans to participate in regional and international forums such as conferences, expert consultations and specialized commissions and to benefit from advance regional and international training, mostly with external funding.
- Assigned as FAO focal point and supported CEN-SAD Secretariat in formulating technical assistance projects and in addressing its technical forums and Ministerial meetings on food security and trade facilitation issues and policy harmonization and enhanced its communication with FAO management. Followed closely with CEN-SAD and secured approval and funding of US\$9.3 million to support the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) projects in 5 CEN-SAD member states (Sudan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger).
- Integrated FAO Representation into the UN Country Team and enhanced its involvement in mainstreaming common goals such as the MDGs into all UN practices and acted as UN Coordinator and UNDP and UNHCR Resident Representative in Libya for a number of occasions. Collaboration has also been maintained with the Regional/Sub-regional Organizations particularly CEN-SAD Secretariat, ICARDA, ACSAD and AOAD.
- Provided input to FAO review of Libyan documents and assisted in its arrangements to host extra-ordinary AU Summit meeting at Sirte in 2004 to debate Agriculture and Water as core activities for Africa economic and social development.
- Arranged for and participated as member of FAO senior delegations in meetings with national authorities to activate national, regional and African agricultural development efforts.

As FAO Senior Policy Officer for the Near East Region, Cairo (1991-2002)

- Led FAO/UNDP missions and prepared programme for the sustainable development of the food and agriculture sector (Sudan and Qatar) and project formulation mission (Syria and Iran).
- Led FAO/UNDP multidisciplinary study mission to Abu Dhabi and conducted technical analysis and provided policy guidelines for dealing with farm subsidies and sustainable use of water.
- Prepared project documents and nominated as Team Leader for programming missions (Syria and Sudan), policy analysis studies (UAE), impact assessment mission of food distribution under Security Council Resolution (SCR) 986 on agriculture and food markets (Iraq), TCP project within FAO Umbrella Training on UR and MLT Negotiations (GCC countries) and TCP to enhance capacity building in policy analysis in Syria.
- Initiated proposal for a sub-regional project for Capacity Building in Agricultural Policy Analysis for the New Independent States of Central Asia (CIS), which was then developed into a project at FAO Headquarters.

- Provided as lead technical officer, technical backstopping and appraisal of field projects (Syria, Sudan, Iran, Libya) and provided technical assistance/advice to member countries in agriculture policy analysis, planning and project appraisal.
- Prepared papers on “National Strategy for Agricultural Development –Horizon 2010, FAO, 1997 (for Sudan and United Arab Emirates) and revised sub-regional strategies on the same subject. Initiated preparation of agricultural sector briefs (Syria, Iran and Iraq) and organized expert consultations and workshops on agricultural policy, project planning and environmental impact assessment and farming systems issues and reported on those activities.
- Participated with a multidisciplinary team and prepared a manual on the analysis and formulation of small ruminants farming systems in the Near East
- Supervised preparation of a training manual on how to assess policy impacts at the farm level.
- Acted as Secretary for the Near East Economic and Social Policy Commission (ESPC) and played a leading role and made substantial contribution in initiating studies on food security and regional co-operation in the Near East and their presentation at ESPC and at the Near East Regional Conference (NERC).
- Co-ordinated the NE Regional training workshop within FAO Umbrella Project for Training on UR and Future MLT Negotiations on Agriculture.
- Undertook missions and assessed Near east countries’ training needs and capacities to design demand driven regional training strategy and training programmes in food and agriculture policy analysis, planning and management.
- Organized regional and national training on agricultural policy and on sustainability and environmental considerations in agricultural policy analysis and developed indigenous training manuals and case studies on these areas and initiated translation into Arabic of a number of FAO publications and training manuals.
- Secured extra-budgetary finance and initiated joint programmes with international and regional training institutions, IGOs and NGOs working in NE to promote technical co-operation among member countries specialized institutions for enhancing development capacities.
- Represented FAO at meetings on agricultural policy, planning and economic matters relevant to agriculture sector development in NE and acted as reports officer for ESPC and the NE Regional Conference.

As FAO Senior Farming Systems Expert, Sultanate of Oman (1990-1991)

- Developed and supervised conduct and analyses of Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) and socio-economic and farm management surveys and collaborated with multidisciplinary teams in utilizing this information for formulating land use plans for the main agricultural areas in Oman.
- Advised on concepts, criteria and methodology for incentive programme for the introduction of modern localized irrigation systems for small farmers in Batina plains and assisted the Government in the identification of small farmers to benefit from the subsidy scheme.
- Assisted in establishing a scheme for implementation of this subsidy programme and set-up systems to monitor it at farm level and trained nationals on these systems.
- Initiated a programme for training extension agents and small farmers in Batina on farm organization and management and on the efficient use of resources to enhance farm productivity and improve marketability of farm produce.

As FAO Farming Systems Consultant, South Yemen (1988-1989)

- Worked with small-scale farmers and with their cooperative organizations in Wadi Hadramout in designing optimum farm plans based on efficient resource use, especially of water and mechanization and the results of this work were used in re-appraising the third phase of the Wadi Hadramout Development project and then approved World Bank funding.
- Collated information and developed the first Farm Data Handbook in Arab Countries based on farm enterprise physical, financial and economic budgets and demonstrated through seminars the use of the hand book for farming systems analysis and development, development of extension programmes and for project planning and appraisal. The enterprise budgets designed were further improved to provide standard format for FAO to assess efficiency and comparative advantages of farming in many NE countries.
- Led international and national project staff and developed a participatory based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for Agricultural Research and Extension services in South Yemen.
- Led agricultural researchers in conducting diagnostic analysis at the national and farm-level to identify problems/constraints and hence design research trails to develop required technological interventions and developed modules and trained counterparts in the economic analysis of these experimental and on-farm trails.

As FAO Farm Management Training Expert, Saudi Arabia (1985-1988)

- Initiated training programmes in farm management and farming systems analysis and implemented them in different parts of the country for the benefit of the small scale producers, and provided advisory services to private sector on farm organization and resource use.
- Initiated a programme for farm record keeping for small farmers and trained farmers and extension workers in the keeping and analysis of these records for profitability and efficiency analysis.
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary teams and provided advisory services to Government on various agricultural planning and policy issues.
- Formulated a proposal for extending the project on cost sharing basis with UNDP and acted as team leader for the project prior to its termination.

As FAO Farming Systems Research Economist, Libya (1979-1980)

- Assisted in establishing the Farm Economics Research Unit within the Directorate of Agricultural Research, developed its research programme and initiated on farm-level research work.
- Collaborated with research scientists in the conduct of diagnostic surveys and development of appropriate technologies and their testing at the farm-level.
- Trained Government officials and supervised conduct of farm management survey and trained Libyan counterparts in their analysis. Provided advice to government on various pertinent issues covering agricultural settlement schemes, modern agricultural projects and green house cultivation and participated in formulation of the agricultural marketing section of the 5-year transformation plan, 1980-85.

As Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Khartoum (1977-1991)

- Developed, in collaboration with other teaching staff, course curricula in farm management and agricultural finance for undergraduate studies in University of Khartoum and for University of Sudan and on production economics for post-graduate students.

- Taught under-and post-graduates on different agricultural economics subjects including microeconomics, production economics and farm management, quantitative methods, agricultural development and agricultural finance.
- Developed curricula and taught primary school teachers on farm management in their preparation for rural community work, and has been responsible, for a number of years, for the preparation of the Farm Management examination within the Sudan School Certificate.
- Conducted research on various agricultural and development issues, supervised research of post graduate students, and published results.
- Provided consultation to public and private sector on agricultural economic matters.
- Closely involved as an advisor to Sudan Government, on part -time basis, in monitoring and evaluation of national projects including the Gezira and Rahad Schemes, Rainfed Mechanization Schemes and Riverian Agricultural Corporations and in the preparation and follow-up for the national agricultural development plans and identification of relevant projects.
- Provided assistance to the Gezira and Rahad Schemes and reviewed their farm management survey questionnaires and trained Government staff in the conduct of farm surveys and their tabulation.
- Collaborated with Ford Foundation in establishing a farm economics unit fo the Rahad scheme and with the Canadian IDRC in developing farming systems research in Sudan and contributed papers to international forums on the subject.
- Collaborated with Wye College and Shawman Foundation in carrying out the Systems analysis for agriculture in the Sudan and contributed a chapter on Mechanized Farming System in Sudan in the book published on this subject.
- Seconded during this period to FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD): Evaluated WFP Food for Work projects for small-scale farmers in Syria, which concentrated on enhancing small scale producers and their local based organizations (1988); Worked as consultant for AOAD in Sudan (1982, 83, 84), Algeria (1982) and Somalia (1984) to study feasibility of livestock, mixed framing, agro industries development projects and participated in regional studies on marketing fruits and vegetables in North Africa and developing plans for animal feed in the Arab World.

As Academic Assistant at the University of Khartoum, England (1972-1977)

- Prepared Ph.D. Degree in agricultural economics at Wye of the Imperial College (London University). The Ph.D. thesis on the Integration of Agricultural Credit and Marketing at the farm/household level involved quantitative economic analysis (budgeting and capital profiles, econometric analysis and mathematical modeling) and emphasized the role of local based farm associations in improving credit worthiness of small farmers and in providing grantor services.

As Credit Officer, Central Bank of Sudan, Sudan (1971-1972)

- Supervised development of a national buffer stock of sorghum and assisted in developing procedure to evaluate credit requirements of public agricultural corporations.
- Provided continued monitoring of public corporation's budgets and use of bank funding.