



Growing Algeria's Agriculture Sector and Improving Food Security

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), at U.S. Embassies world-wide, leads the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to help countries improve their agricultural systems and build their trade capacity. One of the ways the Foreign Agricultural Service does this in Algeria is through scientific exchange programs such as the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program, also known as the "Borlaug Fellowship Program."

This week Borlaug Africa Program Manager Karen Uetrecht is in Algeria to interview Algerian agricultural scientists and researchers who qualified for the Borlaug Program. Most Algerian candidates come from research institutes and are involved with a variety of research such as biotechnology, plant and animal health, genetics, water management and pest management. According to Ms. Uetrecht, the Borlaug Fellowship Program is a great opportunity for both the U.S. and Algeria. Algerian scientists get to work alongside American scientists in the U.S. to learn new methods and to see how Americans approach different agricultural problems. The Algerian scientists then bring these ideas back home to apply to the Algerian context. Later, the American scientists will come to Algeria to work with Algerian scientists on their research and to conduct training seminars. *"The Borlaug is a way to share tools in the scientific community so that different countries can conduct their own research and solve their own problems,"* said Ms. Uetrecht, *"This is an on-going and collaborative relationship to build and develop capacity in Algeria's agricultural sector. The goal is to improve Algerian agriculture and food security."*

When asked what the Algerian candidates are like, Ms. Uetrecht replied, *"Outstanding! They have represented Algeria well. And we always look forward to having more Algerian scientists participate."* The first group of Algerian scientists participated in the Borlaug Fellowship Program in 2006, researching issues like irrigation and drought mitigation as well as looking at ways to improve livestock genetics. This is just some of the research conducted.

The Borlaug Fellowship Program was established in 2004 in honor of Nobel Laureate Norman E. Borlaug to promote food security and economic growth by providing research and training opportunities to agricultural researchers and policymakers. USDA partners with U.S. land grant universities, international research centers, and other institutions to provide up to 12 weeks of U.S.-based training each year. Fellows may also attend the annual World Food Prize Symposium, held in October in Des Moines, Iowa. Since its inception in 2004, the program has provided research opportunities for more than 500 fellows from 64 countries worldwide.

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