Regional Workshop on

Plant Health of Cereal and Food Legume Crops for Food Security in the Arab Region

Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

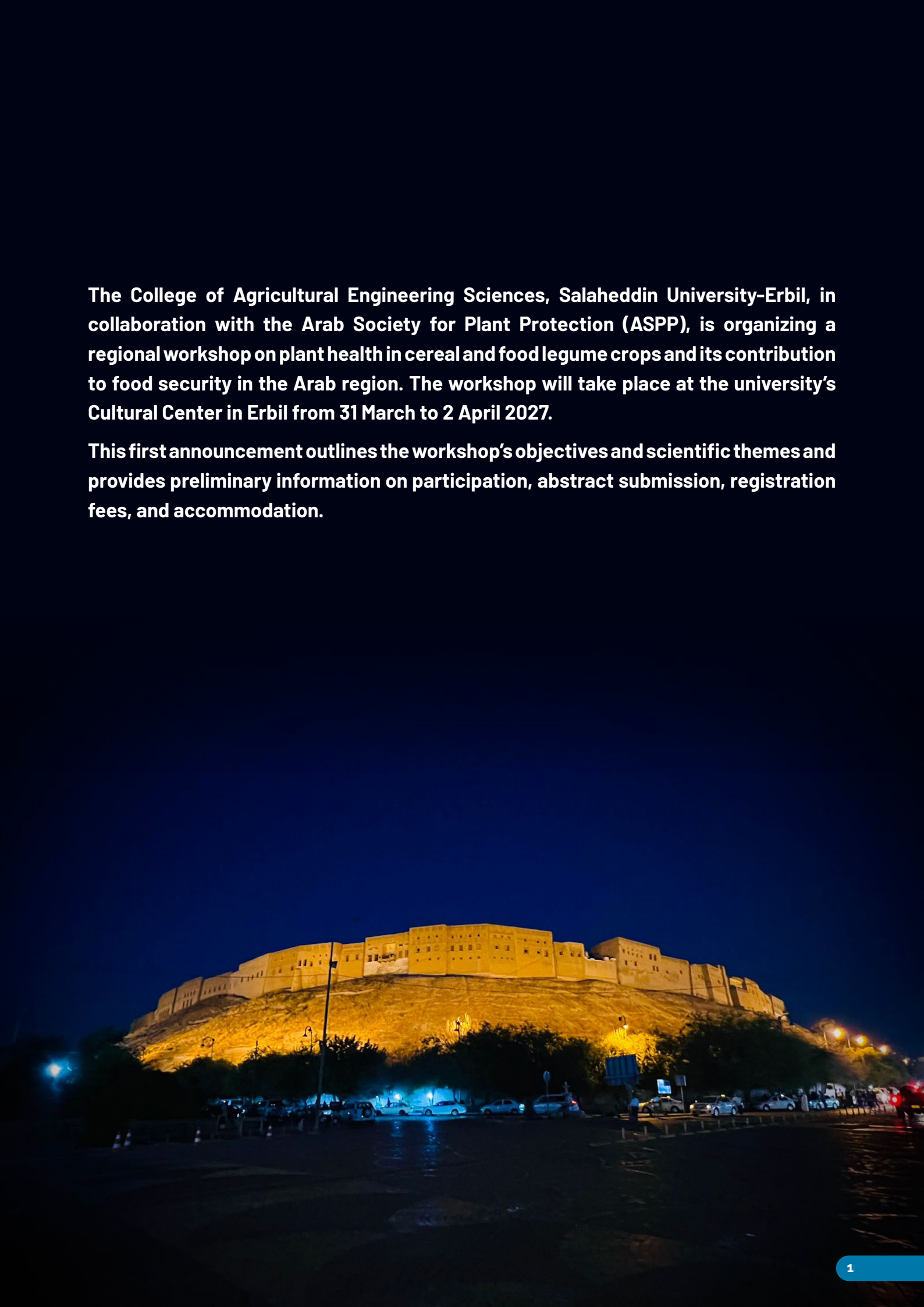
March 31 – April 2, 2027



First Announcement

The College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddin University-Erbil, in collaboration with the Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP), is organizing a regional workshop on plant health in cereal and food legume crops and its contribution to food security in the Arab region. The workshop will take place at the university's Cultural Center in Erbil from 31 March to 2 April 2027.

This first announcement outlines the workshop's objectives and scientific themes and provides preliminary information on participation, abstract submission, registration fees, and accommodation.



Workshop Importance

Partnerships between academic institutions and regional or international scientific societies to organize workshops and scientific conferences serve as a springboard for embodying the spirit of scientific cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and expertise. Protecting cereal and food legume crops from pests and reducing losses before and after harvest can contribute to more reliable food supplies and improved farm productivity. This workshop will bring together researchers, extension specialists, and plant health professionals to discuss priority challenges in the Arab region, assess management options, and identify opportunities for regional cooperation. Emphasis will be placed on practical recommendations suited to the region's farming systems and on translating research findings into improved crop protection practices. The workshop's focus is consistent with the theme of the 14th Arab Congress of Plant Protection, 'Plant Health for Sustainable Food Security.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Raising awareness among agricultural sector professionals regarding the significance of the major pests and diseases affecting cereal and food legume crops.
- Exploring technologies and strategies aimed at mitigating the risks posed by invasive plant pests and their implications for food security.
- Discussing the modern approaches for pest surveillance, early detection, pest identification, and risk assessment.
- Familiarizing participants (researchers, graduate students, and agricultural sector professionals) with the role of seed in the transmission and spread of cereal and legume pests.
- Establishing effective collaboration between academic institutions, scientific societies, and regional and global organizations concerned with plant health issues.
- Produce scientific and practical recommendations to strengthen plant health systems and enhance protection of cereal and legume crops in support of food security in the Arab region.

Workshop Themes

- Significance of the major cereal and food legumes diseases and pests and their impact on food security in the Arab region.
- Integrated pest management of cereal and food legume crops for safe food production in the Arab region.
- Sustainable management of storage losses, crop quality, and marketability of cereal and legume crops.
- Climate change and emerging plant health risks in cereal and food legume production.
- Sustainable management of soil-borne diseases and pests of cereal and food legume crops.
- Biotechnology and new innovations in pest management: applications in biological control, bio-products, nanotechnology and other innovative approaches for the management of pests attacking cereal and food legume crops.

Field Trip and Sightseeing Program

A program has been prepared on Friday, April 2nd to visit wheat, legumes and potato fields belonging to K.H. company in the Rovia/Aqra, Duhok province, in addition to a sightseeing tour to local attractions.

Workshop Languages

Arabic and English

Abstract Submission

Participants are kindly requested to submit an abstract (Arabic and English) in a Word document of no more than 300 words to the Workshop Coordinator:

Dr Emad Mahmood Al-Maaroof

Email: ealmaaroof@yahoo.com; emad.ghaleb@uoalkitab.edu.iq

Deadline: January 15th, 2027

Registration Fees

60 USD per participant (excluding hotel accommodation).

Registration fee covers all workshop materials (program and Abstract book, etc.) refreshments during coffee breaks and lunches, as well as a free three-year membership in the Arab Society for Plant Protection. Registration fees will be paid in person on the first day of the workshop.

Hotel booking

The Organizing Committee will provide interested participants with hotel names, addresses, and rates at the earliest possible opportunity. Please note that the room rates are expected to be in the range of USD 50-70 per night.

Workshop Committees

Honorary Committee

- *Kamran Younis Mohammed Amin*, President of the Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Sharif Mawloud Sharif*, Vice President of the Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Joshan Majeed Ahmed*, Dean of the College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Ahmad Katbeh,* President of the Arab Society for Plant Protection, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan
- *Emad Mahmood Al-Maaroof*, Workshop Coordinator, Al Kitab University, Kirkuk, Iraq

Organizing Committee

- *Ahmad Katbeh,* President of the Arab Society for Plant Protection, School of Agriculture, University of Jordan (Chairperson)
- *Pishtwan Abdullah,* Head of Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Khaled Makkouk,* Editor-in-Chief, Arab Journal of Plant Protection, Beirut, Lebanon
- *Ibrahim Al-Jboory*, Vice-President of the Arab Society for Plant Protection, Baghdad, Iraq
- *Emad Mahmood Al-Maaroof,* Workshop Coordinator, Al Kitab University, Kirkuk, Iraq
- *Ramadan Yousif Mohamed,* University Coordinator, Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddin University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Feyroz Ramadan Hassan,* Head of Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, University of Duhok, Duhok, Iraq
- *Rukhosh Jawhar Rasheed,* Head of Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, University of Sulaimani, Sulaimani, Iraq
- *Srwa Masud Khalil,* Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Gona Sirwan Sharif,* Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Gazang Tahir Omer*, Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq

Fund-raising Committee

- *Ayoub Younis Anwar* (Chairperson)
- *Khaled Makkouk*
- *Emad Mahmood Al-Maaroof*
- *Nawal Rafaat Saeed*
- *Muhammed Jamal Jameel*

Administrative and Technical Committee

Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, University of Salahaddin, Erbil, Iraq

- *Hazim Saeed Ahmed*
- *Karzan Kadhim Mahmud*
- *Srwa Karim Hamad*
- *Dleen Naji Abdulrahman*
- *Dilzar Hamad Maulood*

Secretary-Treasurer, Arab Society for Plant Protection, Beirut, Lebanon

- *Zinette Mousa Al-Zaidi*

Scientific Committee

- *Khaled Makkouk*, Editor-in-Chief, Arab Journal of Plant Protection, Beirut, Lebanon (Chairperson)
- *Emad Mahmood Al-Maaroof*, Workshop Coordinator, Al Kitab University, Kirkuk, Iraq
- *Ramadan Yousif Mohamed*, University Coordinator, Plant Protection Department, Salaheddin University, Erbil, Iraq
- *Safaa Kumari*, Plant Virologist, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Terbol Station, Lebanon
- *Nabeel Abdulkadir Maulud*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Houda Boureghda*, ASPP Executive Committee member, ENSA, Algeria
- *Mohammed Amer Fayyadh,* Shatt Al-Arab University College, Basrah, Iraq
- *Raed Abduljabbar Haleem,* Plant Protection Department, University of Duhok, Duhok, Ira
- *Hassan Dahi,* ASPP Executive Committee member, ARC, Egypt
- *Khalid Mahmood Ahmad*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil-Iraq
- *Abdulrahman Saad Aldawood,* ASPP Executive Committee member , Saudi Arabia
- *Qasim Abdullh Omer*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Muhammed Zaidan Khalaf Al-Juboori,* University of Kut, Wasit, Iraq
- *Nawzad Bawakir Kadir*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Sahand Kamal Khdhir*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Tavga Sulaiman Reshid*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Rozhgar Kamal Muhammed,* Head of Scientific Affairs and Post graduate studies, Erbil, Iraq
- *Ali Mala Khedhir,* Field Crops and Medicinal Plants Department, Erbil- Iraq

IT and Publication Committee

- *Pshtiwan Abdullah Jalil*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq (Chairperson)
- *Ibrahim Al-Jboory*, Vice-President of the Arab Society for Plant Protection, Iraq
- *Safaa Kumari*, Plant Virologist, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Terbol Station, Lebanon
- *Srwa Anwar Qadir*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Khalid Qadir Khidhir*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Majeed Hassan Mustafa*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Omer Othman Hassan*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Hero Muhyaddin Muhammed*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Azad Hassan Salih*, Plant Protection Department, Erbil, Iraq
- *Nask Sherzad Saleh*, Plant Protection Dept., Erbil, Iraq
- *Abdelrahman Moukahel*, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Terbol Station, Lebanon
- *Raman Nawzad Rajab*, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Erbil, Iraq

Local Arrangements Committee

Plant Protection Department, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salaheddine University, Erbil, Iraq

- *Hozan Qadir Hamamurad, (Chairperson)*
- *Dlpak Pirkhidir Yaba*
- *Azhein Muhammed Hassan*
- *Noor Nadhir Polis*
- *Brwa Azad Aziz*
- *Muhammed Zrar Bakir*
- *Waran Nuraddin Abdullah*
- *Yaseen Hamad Awla*
- *Muhammed Yousif Muhammed Salih*
- *Sara Tariq Abdulrahman*
- *Fadhila Idris Abdulqahar*
- *Bilal Salih Jalal*

Public Relations Committee

- *Ramahan Yousif Muhammed (Chairperson)*
- *Ibrahim Al-Jboory, ASPP Vice-President*
- *Eqbal Murad Thahir*
- *Ashna Othman Muhammed*
- *Frishta Farhan Abdulrahman*
- *Zuha Talib Muhammed*
- *Muthana Jamal Jawad*
- *Azheen Muhamed Pirbal*

ASPP Executive Committee for 2026-2028

- *Ahmad Katbeh*, President, Jordan
- *Ibrahim Al-Jboory*, Vice-President, Iraq
- *Zinette Mousa Al-Zaidi*, Secretary-Treasurer, Lebanon
- *Safaa Kumari*, Past ASPP President, Syria
- *Emad Al-Maaroof*, Chairman of Translation Committee, Iraq
- *Houda Boureghda*, Chairman of Publication Committee, Algeria
- *Hassan Dahi*, Chairman of Membership Committee, Egypt
- *Abdulrahman Saad Aldawood*, Chairman of Awards Committee, Saudi Arabia
- *Khaled Makkouk*, Editor-in-Chief, Arab Journal of Plant Protection, Lebanon

Regional Workshop on

Plant Health of Cereal and Food Legume Crops and Food Security in the Arab Region

Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

March 31 – April 2, 2027

Registration form and abstract of presentation (English)

The deadline for registration and abstract submission is January 15th, 2027

First name		**Family name**	
Country		**Address**	
Email		**Mobile**	
Participation	☐ **Presenting a research paper**		☐ **Attendance only**
Type of presentation	☐ **Oral**		☐ **Poster**

ABSTRACT

- Should include
- Title
- Author name and full address
- Underline name of the presenting author
- Email address of the presenting author
- Abstract should not exceed 300 words in Arabic and English languages

Registration form and Abstract should be sent to the Workshop Coordinator before **January 15th, 2027**:

Dr. Emad Mahmood Al-Maaroof

Email:ealmaaroof@yahoo.com; emad.ghaleb@uoalkitab.edu.iq