ICBA Announces Registration of Two New Quinoa Varieties for Commercialization in UAE

- New Quinoa Varieties Registered to Enhance Climate-Resilient Agriculture in the UAE.
- ICBA Advances Global Efforts in Quinoa Production Through Extensive Research and Collaboration

Dubai, UAE, 12 september, 2024 –

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture ([ICBA](#)) announced the official registration and notification of two new quinoa varieties, ICBA-Q3 and ICBA-Q5, by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE). These varieties are now available for commercialization, marking a significant milestone in ICBA's efforts to promote climate-resilient agriculture in arid and saline environments.

ICBA-Q3 and ICBA-Q5 have been developed to address the challenges of food security in arid and semi-arid regions. Both varieties exhibit high tolerance to saline conditions and demonstrate high yields, and exceptional nutritional qualities. ICBA-Q3 takes about 130 days to mature but better yielder than ICBA-Q5, which has a distinct advantage of early maturity (100-105 days) to easily fit into even a short cropping window. These traits make them ideal for cultivation in the UAE's environments, where water scarcity, soil salinity and crop growing window are common challenges.

Since 2007, in collaboration with national and international partners, ICBA has worked to develop quinoa varieties adapted to the harsh conditions of the UAE. These efforts culminated in the successful registration of ICBA-Q3 and ICBA-Q5, which were rigorously tested for their performance in various locations, including Dibba, Al Dhaid, and Dubai. Results from multi-location trials demonstrated that both varieties can produce grain yields ranging from 2.0 to 3.5 tons per hectare under favorable conditions, and up to 1.5 - 2.0 tons per hectare in saline soils.

Dr. Tarifa Al Zaabi, Director General of ICBA, highlighted the significance of this achievement, stating: "The registration of ICBA-Q3 and ICBA-Q5 marks a pivotal advancement in ICBA's efforts to develop climate-resilient crops that address the growing challenges of food security in arid and saline environments. These new quinoa varieties are the result of years of research and testing, offering farmers in the UAE and beyond an opportunity to cultivate high-yielding, nutrient-rich crops that can thrive under extreme conditions. This development is a key step towards enhancing

agricultural productivity and sustainability in arid and saline regions, where traditional crops struggle to grow."

Both ICBA-Q3 and ICBA-Q5 are high-performing quinoa varieties, particularly suited to the UAE's arid and saline environments. ICBA-Q3 is a tall variety (120-140 cm), capable of producing grain yields of up to 3.5 tons per hectare under favorable conditions. Its rich micronutrient content and gluten-free properties classify it as a superfood. In contrast, ICBA-Q5 stands out for its early maturity and medium height with potential yields ranging from 2.0 to 2.5 tons per hectare.

Both varieties have undergone extensive field evaluations in Morocco, where they were also registered for commercial cultivation, further validating their adaptability and performance.

ICBA has distributed over 2,000 quinoa seed samples to researchers in 51 countries, further advancing global efforts to scale up quinoa production. The introduction of ICBA-Q3 and ICBA-Q5 in the UAE represents a significant leap towards improving food security and supporting rural livelihoods in the region.

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About ICBA
The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is a unique applied agricultural research center in the world with a focus on arid and saline areas where an estimated 1.7 billion people live. It identifies, tests, and introduces resource-efficient, climate-smart crops and technologies that are best suited to different regions affected by salinity, water scarcity, and drought. Through its work, ICBA helps to improve food security and livelihoods for some of the poorest rural communities around the world.
www.biosaline.org