



المركز الدولي للزراعة الملحية  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR  
BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE

## **Resilience: ICBA Translates Climate-Smart Crops into Sustainable Food Solutions**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 19 May 2026** – As part of the National Agricultural Initiative for the Adoption of Climate-Smart Crops in the UAE, launched by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), ICBA introduced Resilience, an initial millet-based prototype designed to demonstrate how resilient crops can support food innovation, community relevance, and greater self-sufficiency.

Showcased during the Emirates Agriculture Conference and Exhibition 2026, Resilience reflected a clear applied vision: crops that are able to withstand salinity, heat, and water scarcity can move beyond the field and into food applications that support diversification, resource efficiency, local production capacity, and greater self-sufficiency.

Developed using millet, Resilience featured three products: milk, muffins, and cookies. Presented as accessible examples of climate-smart food innovation, the products helped translate the value of resilient crops into a tangible experience for the wider community. The encouraging response they received at the exhibition underscored the relevance of food solutions that are sustainable, locally grounded, and rooted in scientific research.

“Resilience reflects ICBA’s commitment to connecting agricultural research with practical solutions that respond to both environmental challenges and community needs,” said Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General of ICBA. “By demonstrating how climate-smart crops can be developed into familiar and nutritious food applications, we are helping strengthen the link between science, food innovation, and the UAE’s efforts to advance more resilient and self-sufficient food systems.”

Millet holds particular relevance within this context. They are climate-smart crops capable of growing in arid and saline environments and contributing to efforts to address salinity, heat, and water scarcity. Millet is also valued for its nutritional profile: it is naturally gluten-free and contains dietary fiber, plant-based protein, minerals, and other beneficial nutrients, making it a meaningful ingredient in the development of healthier and locally adapted food solutions.



Through Resilience, ICBA highlighted how research on resilient crops can be carried forward into applied food innovation. The prototype illustrates the potential of connecting crop science with product development, public awareness, and future value-chain opportunities, while supporting broader ambitions for sustainable food systems and self-sufficiency.

The Resilience visual identity reinforces this message. Inspired by the ICBA drop, it symbolizes the relationship between water and soil as essential foundations of resilient agricultural systems. It captures the central idea behind the prototype: that sustainable food solutions begin with crops adapted to challenging environments and with research that turns this potential into practical pathways for society.

Built on more than 25 years of ICBA's research in arid and saline environments, Resilience represents an early but meaningful step in bringing climate-smart crop innovation closer to people and demonstrating its relevance to the future of food security in the UAE and beyond.

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