With the support of the IALC, Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons, Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Arizona, has been collaborating with Samuel Appelbaum, the head of Israel’s Bengis Center for Desert Aquaculture to solve the world’s water and food crises by raising edible seafood in the desert and using the salty water they’re housed in to grow crops. Integrating aquaculture and agriculture systems offers a proven approach for managing two global issues simultaneously: producing food while conserving water. With continued research and outreach by Dr. Fitzsimmons and others, perhaps the world can move towards the ultimate goal of eliminating hunger.

Read more about Dr. Fitzsimmon’s study and Integrated Agriculture-Aquaculture on our website: http://ialcworld.org

The International Arid Lands Consortium was created by scientists who believe that, as the global population continues to increase, it is essential that much of the world’s arid land be transformed into habitable and productive land.

Through participation with the IALC, Sheikh Hussein Abunweir, the local Bedouin leader in the town of Qurain, Jordan, is working to create new economic opportunities for his community by integrating modern technology with the changing Bedouin culture.

Sheikh Hussein and other community members worked alongside experts from New Mexico State University and the Badia Research and Development Centre in Jordan to conduct collaborative research on rangeland rehabilitation of the rugged, remote terrain in Jordan. The results were successful and Sheikh Hussein has since begun developing new enterprise plans for harvesting kochia seed for rehabilitation projects in other parts of Jordan.

Read more about Sheikh Hussein on our website: http://ialcworld.org

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The International Arid Lands Consortium unites governmental and educational institutions around the world to develop solutions to arid lands resource problems.
Arid and semiarid zones account for 40% of the world’s land area. These underutilized but delicate lands offer both opportunities and challenges as we seek to accommodate inevitable population growth through development that both protects arid environments and benefits the people who live there.

The programs of the International Arid Lands Consortium empower scientists, educators, families, entrepreneurs, communities and governments in arid and semi-arid regions of the world to create a healthy, safe and prosperous future for all citizens.

To achieve our goal, we work closely with the U.S. State Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ACDI-VOCA, and other public and private organizations.

Earth’s population is projected to increase to more than 8 billion people by the year 2030.

The IALC: A coalition of experts.
The members of the consortium are all highly experienced institutions that have worked together for over twenty years across national and cultural borders to advance human development and promote peace in arid and semi-arid areas of the world. We’ve joined forces to concentrate on the following areas of need:

Natural Resource Management
IALC projects have investigated ways to increase production, make efficient use of resources and sustain ecosystem function and services. By coordinating efforts between multiple networks and partners, the IALC is helping to inform natural resource policy and decision-making.

Water Resource Management
Water scarcity has profound environmental and social implications. IALC research and projects have contributed to better understanding of the socio-economic, hydrological, and biological factors affecting water resources.

Food Security
By funding important research that aims to improve food production while protecting precious natural resources, providing technical assistance, and facilitating knowledge sharing, the work of the IALC is helping to advance sustainable food security.

Human Resource Development
Because human capital is perhaps the most important element of economic development, the IALC supports education, training, and technology projects that contribute to human resource development.

Business Management and Marketing
The IALC supports projects that promote growth in income and employment and are driven by efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.