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**IALC Brings Together Key Academic Leaders From the Middle East  
at Conference and Workshop**  
*Key Scientists Available for Interviews*

**October 15, 2002 – Tucson, AZ** – Key International Arid Lands Consortium-member participants from Jordan, Israel, Egypt and American universities will join scientists and experts in Tucson on October 21-25 for the Conference and Workshop titled - *Assessing Capabilities of Soil and Water Resources in Drylands: the Role of Information Retrieval and Dissemination Technologies*.

Key scientists from around the world will be on hand to discuss soil and water resources in dry lands as well as their research.

The focus of the conference will be the importance, role, and capabilities of soil and water resources in the planning and management of dryland regions, and electronic access to soil and water data: demonstrations of interactivity and usability.

The focus of the international workshop will be the use of electronic resources available through World Wide Web sites, interactive decision-making tools, new internet technologies, and other electronic means to assist in the planning and management of soil and water resources for developmental activities.

The IALC Conference and Workshop will provide a forum for investigators from around the world to share their work on water and other arid land issues, including sustainable development. A field trip to the USDA site at Walnut Gulch Watershed to is part of the conference.

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The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the problems and solutions unique to arid and semiarid regions. IALC promotes cooperative research and practical application of new knowledge to develop sustainable ecological practices. The member institutions share a mission to enable people of arid lands to improve the quality of life for future generations. IALC members include the University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.