

IRAQI DATE PALM STILL GOING STRONG ON THE INTERNET

<http://www.iraqi-datepalms.net>

The palm tree is tantamount to the identity of Iraq and a symbol of this country's ancient civilization and present steadfastness. It is reported that the date palm had originated in Iraq millennia BC. It is mentioned in Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian records, as well as in Holy Codes and biographies. In the Holy Quran, it is mentioned 21 times while in the Hadith (the Prophet Mohamed's Tradition) it is frequently referred to. The Prophet himself urged Muslims to look after the palm tree because it is a lifeline providing not only food but also medicine, clothing, shelter and building materials.

In view of such advantages, and because of the lack of documented literature regarding the Iraqi palm tree (in spite of its richness), Dr. Ibrahim Gadou' Al-Jabbouri, Director of the Iraqi Date Palm Network, has established a distinguished and comprehensive web site dedicated for it. The site includes articles and information related to the history of the date palm industry in Iraq, including pioneer palm tree enthusiasts such as the late Abdul Jabbar Bakr, and Dr. Ali Abdulhussein.

Jabbouri has indeed delved deep in books, archives and electronic sites for material connected with the Iraqi date palm, and set forth the material he managed to collect on the site: <http://www.iraqi-datepalms.net>

Included in the site are biographies of scientists and researchers who have contributed to the historical growth and development of the Iraqi date palm industry so that the younger generations may follow their example as Iraq strives to restore its old status as a major date producing and exporting country.

The site is particularly intended for date palm growers and researchers to help revive interest in the blessed tree that has seriously suffered from the scar of war and hard times.

On December 1, 2008, the Iraqi Date Palm Network marked its first anniversary. It is credited for having brought together scientists and researchers, growers and processors as well as lovers of the tree that has been honored by God Almighty in his Holy Quran.

