

Thaer Yaseen

Regional Officer for Plant Protection and Production

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Since 2017, Thaer Yaseen has been working as Regional Officer for Plant Protection and Production at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Near East and North Africa Region. He is responsible for guiding FAO's response to regional and national priorities for food security, *Pest and Pesticide management*, agriculture and rural development through the identification, planning and implementation of FAO's priority activities in NENA region.

In addition to that, he leads the regional and national dialogue with high level authority and the planning for the need and implementation of NENA counties for *sustainable management and development in food safety and security focusing on plant health and plant production*.

He leads **seed management and genetic resource conservation**, as well as, the regional strategy to *control Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases*. At the same time, he works for the implementation *process of innovative monitoring, early warning, forecasting, rapid response for plant pest and disease*.

He plans the implementation process of national and regional communication and capacity development to promote sustainable and *environmentally sound management and control techniques*.

Mr. Yaseen worked for 18 years as a professor of plant pathology at CIHEAM: International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, Bari Italy, and he obtained a professor's degree at the National Research Institute in Rome - Italy. (Institute of Molecular Biology and Pathology). He has supervised more than 14 doctoral degree and more than 52 master's degrees in disease and pest control science. Professor Yaseen has published more than 124 scientific papers, including 50 papers published in internationally refereed journals, 70 research papers in conference publications, and 6 scientific books.

During this period, more than 30 research projects and 35 development projects were completed, and he still works as an official reviewer in various scientific journals: 1. NATURE, 2. Postharvest Biology and Technology, 3. Journal of Phytopathology., 4. Plant disease, 5. Mediterranean Phytopathology.

Mr. Yaseen obtained his PhD in Plant Protection from the University of Bari, Italy, Department of Plant Protection and Applied Microbiology after obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Plant Protection from the University of Damascus, Syria in 1997, and a Master's degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Damascus, Syria in 1998, and a Diploma in Plant protection from the institute CIHEAM-MAIB, Bari - Italy. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Doctoral Programs at the University of Tuscia (Viterbo, Italy) and the University of Foggia (Foggia, Italy). In 2014 he assumed responsibility as Scientific Director of the Center for Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Registration of Certified Pesticides in Integrated Management at the CIHEAM-Bari Institute.