

Curriculum Vitae

Abdullah Farhan Altaher

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Education/Academic Degrees:

No.	Degree	Year	Uni. / Inst.	Marks	Remarks
1	PhD. (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology)	2006	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (India)	7.3/10	Minors in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry
2	MSc. (Genetics)	2002	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (India)	3.39/4	Minor in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
3	High Diploma	1998	Aleppo Uni. (Syria)	75.83%	Plant Protection
4	BSc.	1996	Aleppo Uni. (Syria)	74.28%	Agriculture Engineering
5	Secondary School	1991	Directorate of Education (Syria)		Scientific Division

PhD. Thesis Title: Wheat transformation for tolerance to dehydration stress.

MSc. Thesis Title: Analysis of genetic diversity and DNA fingerprinting of some elite lines and varieties of cotton.

Work Experience

- **Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Canada** Jan 2012 – Dec 2012
Islamic Development Bank Post Doctoral Scholar; Conducted research on cloning and characterization of key genes in the starch biosynthesis pathway in wheat to increase amylose content of seeds for health and wellness applications.
- **Cornell University, USA** Feb 2011-Dec 2011
Fulbright Post Doctorate Scholar worked on co-expression of three bacterial genes involved in production of biodegradable plastics polyhydroxyalkanoates in chloroplast of microalgae host.
- **General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), Syria** Apr 2007- Feb 2011. Agricultural research scientist, worked as a member of a molecular biology team involved

in molecular characterization and genetic diversity studies of different plant, animal and microbe species using molecular markers including SSR, ISSR, IRAP and RAPD.

Research Experience

- DNA fingerprinting of plants, animals and microbes using molecular biology techniques such as RAPD, SSR, ISSR and IRAP markers.
- Bacteria (*E. coli*) culturing, preparation of transformation construct (plasmid vectors) and Bacterial transformation.
- Wheat tissue culture and transformation for dehydration stress tolerance.
- Molecular characterization of transgenic plants using PCR, RT-PCR, Southern hybridization, ELISA and real time PCR.
- Biochemical investigations on wheat seed storage proteins using SDS-PAGE, A-PAGE.
- GMOs detection in food materials using molecular biology techniques.
- Isolation and cloning of a novel gene involved in starch biosynthesis in wheat.

Teaching Experience

- Lecturer for two courses in Molecular Biology and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at the college of Pharmacy - University of Kalamoon, Syria – three academic years 2007-2010.
- Co-supervisor for graduate (1 PhD & 2 MSc.) and undergraduate students working in the field of Molecular Biology 2007-2010.

Academic Awards

- Post doctorate scholarship from the Islamic Development Bank at University of Saskatchewan for the period of January 2012 to December 2012.
- Fulbright fellowship from the US. Department of State, visiting researcher at Cornell University for the period of February 2011 to December 2011.

- General Cultural Scholarship Scheme for Postgraduate Degrees (MSc. and PhD.) from Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), India at Indian Agricultural Research Institute for the period of September 2000 to May 2006.

Volunteer Experience

- Saskatoon Open Door Society, SK., interpreter for English-Arabic Languages, April 2012 – December 2012.
- The General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research, Syria, guiding agriculture students (graduates and undergraduates) in writing research proposals and applications for graduate fellowships. April 2007-January 2011.

Training

- Training course on "Genetic Transformation and DNA Markers for Crop Improvement" held at **ICARDA** Headquarters, Aleppo, Syria, 2-13 / 3 / 2008.
- Training course on real time PCR for the period 6th – 14th of October 2007 at Plant Science Department of the Center of Crop Genetic Improvement at Rothamsted Research – Harpenden – **United Kingdom**.

Publications:

- Seba Sarhan, Roula Bayrely and **Abdullah Altaher** (2010). Molecular Characterization of Some Apricot Cultivars and Genotypes in Syria Using IRAP Technique Jordan Journal of Agricultural Sciences, 6 (4): 675-691.
- Seba Sarhan, Roula Bayrely and **Abdullah Altaher** (2011). Molecular Characterization of Some Apricot Cultivars and Genotypes in Syria Using SSR Technique. journal of agricultural sciences, Damascus University, Syria (article accepted).
- Nour Alasaad, Ghassan El-Khayat, Anas Khanshour, **Abdullah Altaher** and Ahmad Abdul Kader (2011). GMOs Detection in Some Food Products in Syrian Market Using Molecular Biology Techniques. journal of agricultural sciences, Damascus University, Syria (article accepted).
- Emad AlTinawi, Walid ElEk, Salam Lawand, and **Abdullah Altaher** (2010). The Effects of Allelic Variation for Glutenin HMW-GS on Dough Quality in

Some Bread Wheat Cultivars. J. of Food and Dairy Sciences, Mansoura University, Egypt. 1(9).

- **A.F.Altaher** , R.P.Singh, M.K. Rana (2005). Morphological Characters and RAPD Markers for Diversity Estimation in Upland Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L). Annals of agricultural Research. 26(2): 310-312.
- **A.F.Altaher** and R.P.Singh (2003). Yield Components Analysis in Upland Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). Journal of Indian society for cotton improvement. December: 151-157.
- **A.F.Altaher** and R.P.Singh (2003). Genetic Diversity Studies in Upland Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L) Using Two Methods of Clustering. Journal of Indian society for cotton improvement. December: 158-163.

Papers presented in conferences:

- **Abdullah Altaher** and Emad Al-tinawi “Biochemical Characterization of some Durum Wheat genotypes Using Electrophoresis of Seed Storage proteins” (26-27 August 2008) The Sixth Scientific Conference of General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research, Damascus, Syria,
- **Abdullah Altaher** “Genetic Transformation of Wheat for Drought Tolerance” (13-15 October, 2008) First International Conference of Agricultural Science, faculty of Agriculture, Aleppo University, Syria.
- Anas Khanshour, Abed El-muhseen Meraai, Suheel Makhoul, **Abdullah Altaher**, Ahmad Abdul-Kader “Molecular Characterization of some Local Inbred Lines of Pumpkin *Cucurbit maxima* to Use it in Breeding Programs” (13-15 October, 2008) First International Conference of Agricultural Science, faculty of agriculture, Aleppo University, Syria.

Professional activities (workshops, seminars and consultations)

- Participated in the Policy Seminar on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Global Challenges and Future Direction, held in Bari, **Italy**, 15-18/12/2009.

- Participated in “Regional workshop On Strengthening Capacities towards Establishment of a Regional Platform for Detection of GMOs” organized by FAO, held in Amman, **Jordan**, 28 - 30 July, 2009.
- Lecture on “Plant Genetic Engineering for Tolerance to Drought as Adaptation to Climate Changes”. Workshop on “The climate changes and its negative impacts on agriculture production in Syria” held at GCSAR, August 2009
- Attended "workshop of Biosafety in Agricultural Biotechnology in Syria" held at General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research in Damascus - **Syria** from 30 August to 1 September 2003.

Membership and activities in professional associations

- Member of the Arab Agricultural Engineering Syndicate, Damascus, Syria, since 1996, membership number (16333)
- Member of Institutional Biosafety Committee at GCSAR since 2008.