

Noura Masseh Ellya KKa

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Plant Biotechnology), Deakin University, Geelong, Australia (2012-2017)

Thesis title: “Plant ascorbate influence on cell division, growth and seed production of *Arabidopsis thaliana*”

Master of Agricultural Sciences (Plant Science), Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (2004-2007)

Thesis title: “Effect of planting dates and gibberellic acid on seed production by seed to seed of two onion varieties (*Allium cepa L.*) in Erbil”

Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences (Plant Science), Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (1998-2001)

Academic Employment

- **Agriculture expert**, Hungarian Interchurch Aid, Erbil, Iraq (June 2020- November 2021)
- **Lecturer**, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (October 2017 - Current)
Currently Moodle, Google classroom and E-learning administrator, supervising undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate projects, evaluating research proposal, reviewing scientific articles, lecturing Bachelor of Horticultural Science course subjects; Plant Biotechnology, Horticultural Seed Production, Vegetable Crop Sciences, and Experimental Design and Analysis.
- **Quality assurance administrator** (Volunteer), Catholic University in Erbil, Iraq (October 2019- February 2020)
- **Lecturer**, University of Raparin, Qaladze, Iraq (September - December 2019)
Lectured Bachelor of Horticultural science course subject; Experimental Design and Analysis.
- **Sessional Academic**, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia (2016-2017)
Laboratory Demonstrator for first-year level Bachelor of Biological Science course subjects; Cells and Genes (SLE 111) and Genetics (SLE 254).
- **Assistant Lecturer**, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (2007-2012)
Lectured Bachelor of Forest and Horticulture science course subjects; Vegetable Production, Vegetable Seed Production, Plant Breeding, Basics of Statistical Analysis, Experimental Design and Analysis.
- **Laboratory demonstrator**, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (2002 – 2004)
Tutored Bachelor of Plant production different subjects; Plant physiology, Plant breeding, Genetics, Botany, Vegetable production and Experimental design and analysis.

Research Experience

- **Research Assistant, Cahill Laboratory,** Deakin University, Geelong, Australia (2016-2017)

Project Title: “Seasol activation of plant defence in *Arabidopsis thaliana*”

- Investigated the anti-fungal properties of seaweed extract (seasol) against plant fungal pathogens *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Botrytis cinerea* and *Bipolaris spp* using the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

Project Title: “Germination test of eleven ryegrass lines”

- Variety of plant growth parameters (e.g. number of seeds, speed of germination etc.) of eleven ryegrass varieties were comparatively analysed.

Technical Skills and Expertise

- **Agricultural Techniques:** *Arabidopsis thaliana* (model plant) and vegetable crops seed production; Greenhouse Design and Construction; Design and construction of hydroponic systems; Nursery bed preparation; Transplant vegetable seedlings; Irrigation system design; Fertilization and pest management; Monitoring plant growth and development using plant phenotyping; Postharvest handling of fruits and vegetables; Postharvest handling of seed crop.
- **Laboratory Techniques:** Nucleic acid extraction from plant tissues, Primer design for PCR, PCR reverse transcription, high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), light microscopy, confocal microscopy, mass spectrophotometry and general techniques in plant science.
- **Software:** Highly competent in plant image analysis, SPSS, MS Office, EndNote and Photoshop.

Awards

- **PhD Scholarship:** Awarded by the Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq (2012 - 2017)
- **Masters Scholarship:** Awarded by Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq, (2004 - 2007)
- **Outstanding Graduate Student:** Awarded by Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq (2001)

Publications

- **Kka N,** (2021), Effect of salicylic acid application on growth and development of green onions grown under salt stress. Mesopotamia Journal of Agriculture. 49, 1-11. [10.33899/magj.2021.130333.1133](https://doi.org/10.33899/magj.2021.130333.1133)

- Tariq F. S., **Kka N**, Khudhur A. M, Ahmad A. N. and Dawdy G. (2021), Passage of wheat fire impact on soil properties and environment in Kurdistan region. The Iraqi journal of Agricultural sciences 52 (1).
<https://doi.org/10.36103/ijas.v52i2.1308>
- **Kka N**, Rookes J, Cahill D (2018), The influence of ascorbic acid on root growth and the root apical meristem in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Plant Physiology and Biochemistry.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plaphy.2018.05.031>
- **Kka N**, Rookes J, Cahill D (2016), Quantitation of ascorbic acid in *Arabidopsis thaliana* reveals distinct differences between organs and growth phases. Plant Growth Regulation: 1-10.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10725-016-0205-8>
- El-Habar M, **Kka N** (2010), Effect of planting dates and gibberellic acid on seed production by seed to seed of two onion varieties (*Allium cepa* L.), Mesopotamia Journal of Agriculture 38, 2: 63-72.
<https://www.iasj.net/iasj/article/27788>

Publication Under Preparation

- Kka N, et.al., Interactions between halopriming and hormoprimering in regulating the vegetative growth and seed quality of *Vicia faba* L.
- Kka N, Rookes J, Cahill D, Alterations in endogenous Ascorbic Acid content influences reproductive growth of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
- Kka N, Rookes J, Cahill D, Ascorbic acid expression in *twn1-1* and *fis 2-6* mutants of *Arabidopsis thaliana*

Conferences and Meetings

- (Oral Presentation) “Google G Suite and Moodle” Meeting at Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (January 2020).
- (Oral Presentation) “Course syllabus” Meeting at Catholic University in Erbil (November 2019).
- (Oral Presentation) “Ascorbic acid expression in *twn1-1* and *fis 2-6* mutants of *Arabidopsis thaliana*” First International Conference of Agriculture sciences 2019, Erbil, Iraq (November 2019)
- The 5th International Conference on Applied Science, Energy and Environment (ICASEE 2018), Erbil, KRG, Iraq (April 2018)
- Australian Plant Pathology Society Victoria region general meeting, Melbourne, Australia (2016)
- (Oral Presentation) “Role of ascorbic acid in modifying root architecture of *Arabidopsis thaliana*” of Centre for Chemistry and Biotechnology conference, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia (December 2015)

- (Poster Session) Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ComBio) (2015), Melbourne, Australia (September 2015)
- (Poster Session) American Society of Plant Biologists conference, Minneapolis, MN, USA (July 2015)

Languages

- Fluent in English, Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, Arabic and Kurdish languages

Referees

Professor David Cahill (PhD Supervisor)

Associate Dean (Research)

Pro Vice-Chancellors Office

School of Life and Environmental Sciences

Faculty of Science Engineering & Built Environment

Deakin University

Locked Bag 20000, Geelong, VIC 3220, Australia

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Dr Jim Rookes (PhD Supervisor)

Lecturer in Biological Sciences

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Coordinator

School of Life and Environmental Sciences

Faculty of Science Engineering & Built Environment

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Locked Bag 20000, Geelong, VIC 3220, Australia

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Dr Kawa Abdulkareem Ali (Personal Reference)

Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology

The Dean of Agricultural Engineering Sciences College, Salahaddin University-Erbil.

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