

## **CBI launches Tamkeen project to combat desertification**

The Central Bank of Iraq launched a project to combat desertification in the district of Madaen under the initiative "Tamkeen", led by the cooperation with Private Banks league and the Ministry of Agriculture.

In a speech delivered by the Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Ali Mohsen Ismail, during the opening ceremony held in Al-Madaen district in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture and an elite of agricultural specialists, he said that the agricultural and industrial sectors are the way to improve the country's economy and the operation of its resources and manpower. CBI is working directly and effectively in stimulating the economy.

The Governor stressed the importance of contributing to the real economic development and improving the environment, and the development of the agricultural sector, both vegetable and animal, calling on other governmental institutions and civil society organizations to join Ministry of Agriculture to work on developing this vital sector.

During the opening, there was a field tour to inspect Kaseeba project as one of the projects of the Department of Forestry and Combating Desertification, which is one of the important green projects in the district of Madaen, Also to be acquainted with the agricultural and environmental situation in the district. This project will popularize in different provinces to eliminate desertification as it is an international concern and it addressed through several measures, including stopping land degradation, regular irrigation, and spreading plants that are resistant to environmental conditions.

On March 5, 2019, the Bank announced the launch of a 200-acre production and planting initiative in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Forestry and Desertification. The project was funded by the Tamkeen Fund, which is sponsored by the Central Bank, Iraqi banks and exchange companies; The initiative includes Afforestation and rehabilitation of existing forests, in addition to raising awareness among citizens to reduce climate change to address this phenomenon.

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