

# The Jordan Launch Station



**Using deserts, saltwater, sunlight and CO<sub>2</sub> to produce food, water and clean energy**

The Sahara Forest Project is a new environmental solution designed to utilize what we have enough of to produce what the world needs more of. The Sahara Forest Project will make electricity generation from solar power more efficient. It will at the same time operate smart energy and water efficient saltwater-cooled greenhouses for growing high-value crops in the desert and sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> through revegetation of desert lands. The technology has been verified through a pilot facility in Qatar. Now the construction of a facility the size of four football fields is carried out in Aqaba, Jordan.

## Construction initiated

With start of the construction phase 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 the facility will enter into operations in May 2017. The facility is realized with financial support from Norway and EU as key funders. Additional funding is provided from The Grieg Foundation and Yara International. USAID has contributed funding for shipping and inclusion of equipment from the Pilot facility in Qatar.

## A catalyst for green growth

The Sahara Forest Project Launch Station will contain saltwater-cooled greenhouses that will utilize saltwater to provide excellent conditions for production of high-quality vegetables. Photovoltaic panels will provide power for the electrical installations in the facility. Outdoor growing zones will not only contribute yields from various crops but also store CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere into vegetation of barren land. A desalination unit with capacity of 10 000 liters freshwater per day will provide the necessary water for the greenhouse and outdoor vegetation.

The 3 hectare facility will further contain salt ponds for salt production as well as start of the art laboratory and technical facilities allowing for R&D activities.

## Multiple purposes

The Sahara Forest Project Launch Station is realized to demonstrate the potential for profitably realizing sustainable growth and production opportunities that also contribute environmental and social benefits in arid areas. The Launch Station will be the first step towards the realization of a 20 ha Jordan Centre in Aqaba, combining large-scale production with an innovation hub for green technologies. Combined these facilities will create a power house for green growth in the desert.

## A proven concept

The Sahara Forest Project technologies have been developed through studies, data modelling, experiments, pilot operations, R&D programs and value engineering. Previous operations have confirmed highly competitive yields of 75 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, with half the water consumption of comparable greenhouses in the MENA region.

