National Lists of Limitation of Intangible Heritage – Tree – Knowledge, Skills, Traditions and Practices

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| 001/07| Palm tree       | Territory of Medina, AlAhasa Oasis, Riyadh, Qassim, Hail, AUjawf, AlUla governorate and Bisha Governorate | *Palm tree is a blessed tree mentioned in Holy Quran and the prophet's Sunnah. Its cultivation in Arab societies is of special significance, not only because it is a source of producing dates which is notorious and useful for the health of human being as it fights many diseases, but also because of being related to customs, traditions and social values inherited to generations, giving it a special look of appreciation in these countries. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made it as its slogan, symbol of growth, practical embodiment of its status. Palm tree is one of the most adaptive plants due to its endurance of high temperature, dryness and salinity comparing to other plants. Palm tree is from Arecaceae. It is one of the plants that last long and is related to human being as it has an erected trunk, covered with fiber like hair in the human body; there is male and female palm trees, it cannot bear fruits unless being fertilized. If its fronds are cut, it cannot compensate or replace it, the same like human being who cannot compensate his amputated organs and it dies if its head is cut. Arab poets praised it in ancient and modern times and made it as a symbol of transcendence, rise above ugliness such as the poet who says: Be like palms that rise above hatred .. thrown with rock, yet give best fruits. *Palm tree is human’s friend as he benefits from all its components. It has many benefits; out of its fiber we make ropes, out of its fronds we make frails, scuttles, baskets, mats, head covers made of fronds which are called "Tafsha" and shoes which were used in the past in the country areas. Its leaves are used to build the roofs of clay houses. Untill recently, the date’s stone, however, was unused by the dates‘ factories and palm farmers; they were dumping it considering it as wastes. Today, however,
this is no longer happening, it turned to a notorious, medical and cosmetic product. Moreover, researches and studies proved what was believed by the people of Al-Ahsa about the benefits of dates. They were buring and smashing it and use it to stimulate the germination of eyelashes; and it is useful in the strength of sight. Out of date's stone powder, a good taste coffee is made which is not different from the known coffee but extinguished from it by its good benefits. The palm tree consists of:

- **Roots**: it is called the veins of the palm. The roots come out of the trunk base in many groups that extend in the ground to 12m to 21m deep; they are counted in hundreds in order to fix the palm in the soil and to absorb water and food.
- **Trunk**: the palm leg which is estimated to be 28m to 30m tall.
- **Palm pith or what is known to be the soft spongy substance in the palm tree or what comes out of its top and fibers such as fronds and branches in its first growth phase being like a stick or spear then grow up and extend after being folded spreading its fronds to become a branch.
- **Palm leaf stalk**: the branches of the green palm if its fronds are removed. It is for the palm like leaves for trees.
- **Frond**: upper the stem; its plural is fronds which are line palm leaves.
- **Khunasah**: The first leaf of young date palm.
- **Leaflet**: Pl. leaflets, which is one leaf in a frond.
- **Leaf scar**: Pl. leaf scars, which is the mark that is left on the trunk after removing the leaf base.
- **Leaf base**: consists of leaflets and spines; its plural is leaf bases. It is the lower cut of the frond.
- **Offshoots**: named also as "Sanaou" or "Alwaddi"; usually a palm tree only grow offshoots at the age of 3 to 8 years and stops production after 15 years.
- **Bark**, or palm fibers: a fiber texture exists in the pam trunk and surrounds the leaf base.
- **Fruit bunch (Pl. Fruit branches)**: the yellow leg that
holds the bunch.

- **Bunch of dates**: number of small similar dates naturally growing together on the palm, i.e. a group of racemes.
- **Raceme (Pl. Racemes)**: one of the branches in the bunch that holds Bisr (later dates); number of racemes constitute a bunch.
- **Palm pith**: the soft spongy substance freshly developed in the palm tree. It is good tasted and free of fibers. It is extracted from palm tree after removing fronds from its roots as well as fibers surrounding it to get access to it.
- **Spath**: something that look like a cone which contains the fertilization substance.
- **Spathe/on the form of a layered cover**: named as the cover of the (cone); what is inside it is called Spadix for its whiteness.
- **Hhababok**: it is the stage of date palm fruit after fertilization. Its color is milk white with horizontal green lines.
- **Unripe date (Pl. dates)**: is the fruit of the palm tree (also called Bisr) when it grows to become green.
- **Ripe date (Pl. dates)**: is the fruit of th palm tree after having dampen spots (soft spots) until they all become spots.
- **Abasa**: the date stone
- **Dates (Dried dates)**: is the fruit of the palm tree in the last stage of ripeness; it becomes in the soft types of coherent texture (stands together from inside) and become dark in color and having a corrugated shell, while in the hard types the color usually should be light and the texture is stiff and hard.
- **Fruitless/ Sterile**: is the definition of fruitless palm trees whose spath does not grow up or does not spath at all. It becomes fruitless because of not being fertilized, having a failed process of inflorescence or for any other reason. The spath should be wrapped with fibers/barks or being
covered after fertilization for 30 to 40 days to treat this case.

- Perianth: the date palm fruit perianth that link between the date and the raceme.

- Trimming: is the process of cutting dry palm fronds; the cutting process is executed at the area of bark by a serrated sickle. There are many tools used for the same purpose. The name of the cutting performer is called trimmer.

- Pruning: the process of removing the origins of fronds with bark that overlap with it. The origins of leaf scars at the bottom of the trunk are cut by a person standing on the ground.

- Modifying bunches: is the process of pulling the bunch from between the fronds, distributing them around the palm tree before their fruit bunches stiff (the fruit bunch is the leg of the bunch). If the bunch is heavy it should be tied; if it is light is is unnecessary to tie it.

- Wrapping: the process of wrapping the bunch to keep it, so the bunches are wrapped after being pulled up together or after the stage of ripeness of dates (the transformation of Bisr to Ripe dates). The wrapping should be made with narrow netted bags to keep dates from falling and be dirty due to soil, insects and birds.

- Reducing fruit bunches: it is a process that is made in two ways: removing the bunches (reduce their numbers) or reducing the bunches (reducing the inflorescence) four weeks before collecting dates. The benefit of these process is to increase the size and quality of the fruit, to ripe early and guarantee the production of enough spath for the next year.

- Al-Surram: the end of season of collecting dates.

- Harness: made of fiber, ropes and leaves to climb the palm.

- Date picker: is the person who climb to the top of the palm to cut the bunch and lower it with a strong rope to another person on the ground who
is called the receiver.
- Basket: a basket that is used to take down the bunches from the top of the palm by a rope.
- Palm Climber: the farmer who is taking care of the palm, fertilize it and collect dates in the beginning of the picking season.
- The number of Palm trees in Saudi Arabia is more than 28 million palm trees. It is ranked second internationally in the production of dates. The first factory to sort, pack and press dates was established in 1964 in Medina. The types of dates are more than 400 types, the most famous of which is Ajwa (compressed dated), Barhi, Sugary, Khallas, Nabaut AlSeif, Saeqi, and Halwa Aljouf.
العنوان: قوائم الحصر الوطنية للتراث الثقافي غير المادي...

الملحق مع الفصل: تخصص مكونات الحصر والأعمال

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