

ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

AGRICULTURE IN THE MUTAWAKKILITE KINGDOM OF YEMEN

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Yemen has a rich tradition of agriculture, stemming from the South Arabian kingdoms through the Islamic era. Yemeni scholars, anthropologists and agricultural experts have written about Yemen's agriculture in the past half century, but less is known about the state of agriculture during the Mutawakkilite Kingdom in Yemen of the Zaydi Imams Yahya and Ahmad (1918-1962). This talk draws on Arabic resources, accounts by foreign travelers and the report of a 1955 FAO agricultural mission to Yemen in describing the role of agriculture and cultivated crops in the area ruled by the imams in the first part of the 20th century.



Daniel Martin Varisco holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania for ethnographic research on water resource use and agriculture in Yemen. He has also conducted ethnographic and historical research in Yemen, Egypt and Qatar. He serves as President of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, editor-in-chief of *CyberOrient* (www.cyberorient.net), and was editor of *Contemporary Islam* (2006-2016). He has published on the history of Yemeni agriculture in the *Journal for the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, the *Journal of Semitic Studies*, *History and Anthropology* and in his *Medieval Agriculture and Islamic Science* (1994).

