



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Sub-Regional Office of

FAO

For North Africa



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Editorial

Partnerships

The year 2014 witnessed many international, regional and national events related to food security and rural development. This last issue of the year looks back at a number of activities and highlights the recent partnership agreements that will come into force in 2015. In order to optimize its intervention in the various countries of the sub-region, the Sub-regional Office seeks to promote the regional Initiative on "Sustainable Small-Scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development." Similar to other initiatives launched by FAO, it provides a coherent framework for enhancing the current activities and mobilizing additional resources to implement targeted programs.

The formal adoption of the 2014-2017 regional programming framework with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) promises a fruitful collaboration with a key partner. This partnership tool will enable the organization to operate in a more integrated approach, optimize the use of its expertise and promote dialogue between FAO and all the technical and financial partners in the AMU through the Regional Cooperation Mechanism initiated by the Office for North Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA-NA).

There is also a potential for promising collaboration between FAO and CIHEAM, especially within the EU-funded ENPARD program. Both organizations have joint priorities, including those related to youth and women employment in agriculture, and attach equal importance to capacity building of professional organizations in technical fields and good governance. I take this opportunity to wish our readers the very best for 2015.

It really helps to further reduce rural poverty and hunger around the world 🌱

Benoit Horemans

Coordonnateur du Bureau sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique du Nord et Représentant en Tunisie



2015
International
Year of Soils

UMA and FAO Sign a regional programming framework (2014-2017)

Reinforcing cooperation to ensure food and nutrition security

A regional programming framework for 2014-2017 was signed on 8 December 2014 in Rabat, between the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary General of the AMU, and Mr. Benoit Horemans, Coordinator of FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa, commended this initiative which aims to reinforce cooperation between the two organizations in promoting and advocating the development of joint activities in the

require a common approach. As such, the Framework provides a medium-term vision of agriculture and highlights the main challenges. These relate primarily to: creating an enabling environment for improved governance and agricultural performance, food safety and the Maghreb economic integration through mechanisms and cooperation programs; promoting collective and sustainable management of natural resources (water, fisheries, forestry, grazing and land) and genetic



Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary General of the AMU and Mr. Benoit Horemans, Coordinator of FAO Sub-regional Office for North Africa, at the signature of the 2014-2017 Regional Programming Framework between FAO and the AMU.

Maghreb countries.

This programming framework is the result of a joint endeavour that helped define the strategic priorities of FAO's work program in the Maghreb in line with the those of the countries in the sub-region. Such priorities are stated in the Country Programming Framework (CDPF) and are consistent with the FAO's Strategic Objectives.

The Regional Framework helps achieve synergies between these national priorities and identify actions that can be implemented in one country but

resources (plant and animal) through enhanced coordination and cooperation among member states; and strengthening resilience of agro-food systems to crises and natural disasters.

In order to implement this cooperation framework, the two organizations are expected to sign new agreements and launch specific sectoral projects. The next issue of this newsletter will provide details on the main current and future activities undertaken by the FAO in support of the UMA 🌱

SUMMARY

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RECENT PUBLICATION

- The world's nurturers

The Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and CIHEAM sign a bilateral agreement (MoU)

During an official visit to Tunis, Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola, Secretary General of CIHEAM, was received by the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Lassaad Lachaal, on 24 September 2014. Mr. Lacirignola presented the various CIHEAM activities and discussed future cooperation projects with Tunisia. The visit was crowned by the signature of a bilateral agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and CIHEAM which provides that cooperation activities in training and research on the one hand, and initiatives within the framework of bilateral and regional development projects on the other, can meet Tunisia's national and domestic needs in the field of

agriculture, agricultural higher education, agricultural research, food security, environment and human and urban development. The Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and CIHEAM agreed on four priority areas of cooperation, namely institutional support, including support to IRESA reform process; management of natural resources (water, soil, etc.) and sustainable development; integrated and inclusive land management with a focus on youth employment in rural and agricultural areas; and economic development to enhance competitiveness of the agricultural and fisheries sectors.

Towards a stronger FAO – CIHEAM partnership

During an FAO-CIHEAM meeting at the FAO office in Tunis, Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola welcomed the FAO-CIHEAM partnership and the appointment of Mr Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of FAO for the Near East and North Africa in Cairo, as FAO's liaison officer for the CIHEAM in the region. M. C. Lacirignola recalled the existing partnership between CIHEAM and FAO under the agreement signed in 2009, which will soon be updated. A particular issue discussed concerned FAO contribution to the «Mediterra 2016» report which will focus on ways of reducing waste of natural resources and improving food production and knowledge and expertise. Mr P. Berget talked about the coordination between CIRAD and IAM Montpellier to meet the request of the FAO Regional Office to conduct a regional study on family farming. M.S. Abis referred to the main regional and global events scheduled for 2015 and requested FAO to develop a partnership with CIHEAM for joint participation in these events. Specific reference was also made to the International Year of the soil. As part of ENPARD Programme of the EU, Mr JP. Pellissier presented the project for the development of products from the South (Medenine Governorate) and the possibility of collaboration with FAO in these projects to benefit from Medenine Technopole for the development of these products.

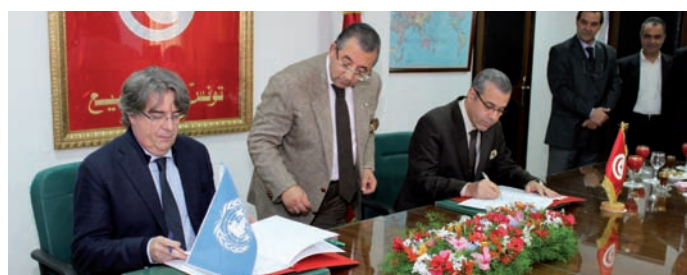
The FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa has expressed its



Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola (SG CIHEAM), Mr. Sébastien Abis (Administrator CIHEAM), Pascal Berget (Director IAM Montpellier), Jean Paul Pellissier (Deputy Director of the IAM Montpellier), Michel Bouvet (ESR Board chairman), Mr. Aziz Darghouth (IRESA President, Ministry of Agriculture Tunisia), Mr. Benoit Horemans (Coordinator of the FAO Sub Regional Office in North Africa and FAO Representative in Tunisia)

willingness to strengthen the partnership with CIHEAM. In this regard, Mr B. Horemans emphasized the possibility of collaboration within the framework of the Regional Initiative on «sustainable smallholder agriculture for inclusive development», particularly with ENPARD Program coordinated by CIHEAM. He noted the priority given by the two organizations to youth and women employment in agriculture, and highlighted the importance of enhancing and supporting professional organizations in technical areas as well as in good governance.

Signature of project of «Emergency assistance for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in Tunisia»



Signature at the Ministry of Agriculture of the emergency project for the fight against FMD in Tunisia

Mr. Lassaad Lachaal, Tunisian Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Benoit Horemans, Coordinator of FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa, signed on Friday 12 November 2014 a project of «Emergency assistance for the control foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Tunisia».

The project comes in response to the Tunisian government's urgent request and will be implemented during one year - until November 2015. The project, to be carried out during 11 months, is funded by

FAO to the tune of USD 405000.

This project aims to control the spread of Food and Mouth Disease FMD in Tunisia through the revision of failures in the management of the previous crisis (monitoring and measures), improvement of the strategy against FMD, capacity building of control and monitoring of the disease and the development of a communications and outreach strategy. The main stakeholders in this project of technical cooperation are the Directorate General of Veterinary Services, National Centre for Animal Health Watch, the Regional Offices for Agricultural Development, the Institute of Veterinary Research of Tunisia, practicing veterinarians, breeders and consumers.

A project-launch workshop was held on 12 December 2014 at the premises of the Tunisian Veterinary Association. It brought together all project stakeholders, international organizations, FAO and OIE, the Tunisian Veterinary Association and representatives of professional breeding organizations who discussed the major products and activities of the project.



Family farming: flexible systems capable of fitting into new economic development models

The theme of «Family farming in the Mediterranean: Myths and Realities» was discussed on November 6 and 7 during an international seminar held in Tunis by the PARM Association (Agricultural and Rural Prospective in the Mediterranean) with the support of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa. Several experts, researchers and farmers analyzed the current contexts and emerging trends in the agricultural sector with particular focus on family farming in the Mediterranean.

This event took place within the framework of the International Year of Family Farming and, specifically for FAO, the Regional Initiative on « Sustainable Small-Scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development».

Several proposals were made including: strengthening the position and role of family farming in agricultural policies in order to make it an important player in self-development in the context of globalization. Another proposal pertained to the support and modernization of family farming through cooperation between small producers, the use of adapted varieties and high-performing seeds, improved farming practices, technical support and professional organization. To this end,

we must capitalize on available experience and knowledge by pooling efforts and resources between countries of the Mediterranean basin.

The organization and networking of small farmers provide a favorable environment for the development of the agricultural world. In this vein, governments can help create encouraging prospects for rural communities through relevant legislation and favorable policies. Another priority relates to the necessary support of the youth to achieve generational succession and replace the aging farm managers. Young people from farming families are not attracted to agriculture because of poor rural living conditions that make them migrate to nearby industrial and tourist areas or urban communities.

Based on the above, family farming is a suitable system to address some inherent challenges of agriculture in the countries of the region. In fact, family farming can create various jobs in view of its multiple activities and self-employment opportunities. It also constitutes a source of food security, and its flexible character enables it to fit well into new economic development models

An institutional mechanism to estimate the costs of production of agricultural products in North African countries

Within the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and in line with recommendations provided in the FAO manual on production costs, a workshop was organized by the FAO Sub-regional Office on 13 and 14 November 2014 in Tunis on «improving the collection and analysis of costs of production of agricultural products in North Africa.» The meeting brought together researchers and officials from the extended sub-region to the north shore of the Mediterranean, along with representatives of the FAO. This workshop aimed to define a methodology in line with the needs and resources of North African countries and set up a sub-regional platform for exchanging data on production costs. The proceedings insisted on the need to coordinate the current endeavour both at the national and sub-regional level. The workshop resulted in the creation of a work group tasked with developing an action plan that aims to devise a sub-regional pilot project based on testing different methodologies and establishing farms monitoring centers



A growing interest in establishing a sub-regional network on the cost of production which is considered as a priority to improve statistical databases of the Maghreb countries

A Tunisian network of sustainable artisanal fishing



Commitment of members to strengthen the grouping of artisanal fishermen

A meeting was organized on 14 October 2014 by the FAO Regional Office for North Africa, the Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Interprofessional Association of Fishery Products and the Tunisian Association for the development of Artisanal Fisheries, with the participation of the WWF/ Mediterranean Programme Regional Office for North Africa, the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) and the Agricultural Investments Promotion Agency (APIA). The meeting approved the membership of the representatives of organizations of artisanal fisheries, civil society and artisanal fishermen of Tunisian Sahel governorates (Sousse, Monastir, Mahdia) into the Tunisian network of sustainable artisanal fisheries. Since its inception, the Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries has aimed to play a significant role in regional and international forums and contribute to the global efforts of preservation and development of marine resources. The members of this network are formally committed to supporting the creation of associations and gatherings for the development of artisanal fishing, and preserving the heritage and wealth of the Tunisian coastline. They also aim to create a branch network of organizations of artisanal fishermen on the east coast of Tunisia (Sahel) and contribute to the implementation of voluntary international guidelines to ensure the sustainability of artisanal fisheries

Sub-regional workshop on «Agricultural land in North Africa: Situation, problems and prospects»

A sub-regional workshop on «Agricultural land in North Africa: Situation, problems and prospects» was held in Rabat, Morocco from 19 to 21 November 2014. It was attended by 25 participants from Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, who belonged to the departments of Agricultural Legal Affairs, departments responsible for agricultural land, forest departments, the research sector and voluntary associations. The participants presented and discussed the results of consultations on agricultural land in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The situation of the agricultural land in Mauritania was also the subject of a presentation. Other sessions were devoted to more advanced topics on land, such as fragmentation and consolidation of agricultural land, land legislation in North Africa, collective land tenure systems and gender equality in access to and control of lands. The representatives of the FAO Economic and Social Department presented the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, as well as the evaluation of legislation for equitable land tenure between sexes, and an overview on the situation of rural women in North Africa. They also shared the results of a sub-regional pilot project for the development of gender-sensitive indicators and their potential inclusion in the AQUASTAT database.



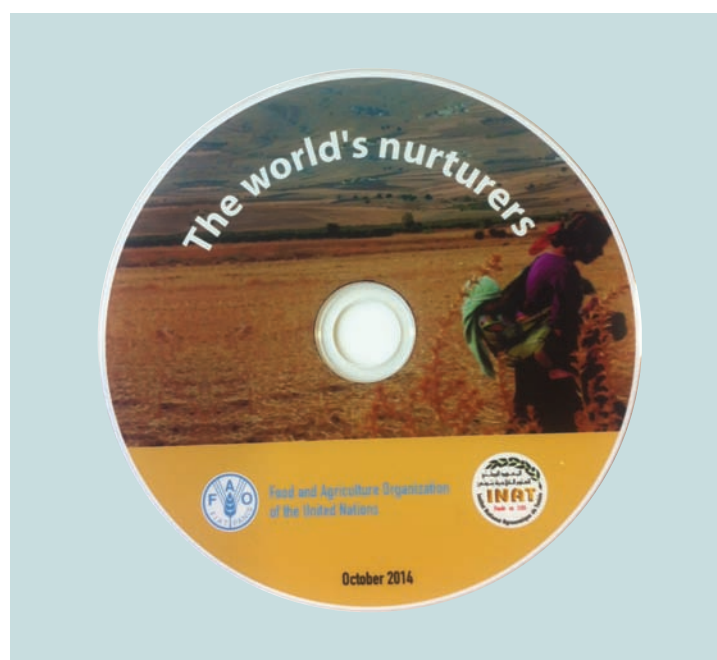
Participation in the work of the sub-regional workshop

The experience of other international and national agencies in the field of land were also presented, such as the CIHEAM (areas of research, FONCIMED network) and the Democratic Association of Women in Morocco which advocates the right of women to collective land in Morocco. During the workshop, the outlines of a work program of the Subregional Office on agricultural land were developed and validated through a collective approach.

Recent publication

« The world's nurturers »

A documentary film entitled «The world's nurturers» was produced on the occasion of the joint celebration of the World Food Day and the International Day of Rural Women in Tunisia. It is also part of the celebration of the International Year of Family Farming.



LET'S WORK FOR A HUNGER-FREE WORLD

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