

Editorial – Launching of the first newsletter of SFOAP in North Africa

The support to farmers’ organizations in Africa programme helps farmers’ organizations to evolve into more stable, performing and accountable organizations that effectively represent their members and advise them on farming enterprises.



With the inclusion of a fifth regional network, the Maghreb and North African Farmers Union (Umnagri), the main phase of SFOAP (2013-2017) has expended the geographical area to the North Africa region.

Complementary to the “direct institutional support” provided to Umnagri, Fert acts as the regional facilitator for North Africa. In this component, Fert develops and pilots test tools for farmers’ organizations to provide tailored services to poorer members, principally geared towards their inclusion in value chains. Since end of 2014, the operational system is set up in four countries of North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). The implementation of activities has reached cruising speed in 2015. The first newsletter may be launched now!

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS

MOROCCO – Study tour of the Taza regional beekeeping cooperatives’ union



July 21st and 22nd, the representatives from 11 cooperatives, members of the Taza regional beekeeping cooperatives’ union, and from the provincial agriculture direction and the Taza agricultural advice center joined a study tour in Chefchaouen. They had the chance to meet several unions and agricultural cooperatives from the same beekeeping sector, but also from other sectors: mushrooms, olives, etc.

Significant interactions - on the management and internal organization of cooperatives, on the local groups representativeness, on the role of external supports and of the commercialization – allow them to discover other experiences and realities and to feed their own internal thought related to strengthening their organization.

ALGERIA – Development of the cereal sector associations’ community in the Wilaya of Setif

Trainings on creation, governance and administrative and financial management of an FO took place in March 2015 for the benefit of several stakeholders of the cereal sector in the Wilaya of Setif. They also matched with the mandatory compliance of all associations with the new associations’ law.



In addition to the support in administrative procedures, these exchanges improved the participants understanding of the importance of adopting collective and collaborative approaches in order to enhance their performance, weight and influence in the agricultural sector and more specifically in the development and implementation of development programmes.

It is also important to note that, in this particular context, the cereal sector associations’ community expanded in the Wilaya of Setif, and more specifically in the cereal sector, by the creation of several new producers’ organizations.

EGYPT – A Gender-Sensitive Value Chain Analysis

In the framework of FAO programme “Regional initiative on sustainable small-scale agriculture”, NSCE is conducting an analysis of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) value chain in Fayoum that includes the gender dimensions. The main purpose of the study is to generate a deep understanding of the value chains and of all involved stakeholders, in order to implement an action plan for a sustainable agricultural productivity development that also mainstreams gender equality.

Chamomile, calendula and fennel were pre-selected because of their potentials in a better involvement of women in their value chains. Indeed, for now, women are mainly involved in labor-intensive activities (weeding, processing, etc.), but have a limited access to marketing activities. In value chains such as chamomile’s, for example, the opportunities to involve young people and women in promotion and marketing stages are great.

The findings of this study will also be used to improve the development of SFOAP support to FOs involved in MAPs value chain in Fayoum.



TUNISIA – Pasture management and sheep breeding improvement

The breeders from the Agriculture Development Group of the Northern Sheep Breeders visited a pilot farm dedicated to intensive sheep breeding, and followed by the Livestock and Pasture Office, in Saouef (Zaghouan Governorate). The farm manages more than 1500 ha of pasture, based on natural and silvopastoral rangelands.



This visit enabled farmers to understand the important role of rangeland in sheep diet and to improve their technical competencies in term of livestock management (improving races, seeding rangelands, etc.)

Moreover, thanks to this visit, partnerships can be settled with the Livestock and Pasture Office, in particular on sheeps’ genetic pool improvement.

If you wish to sign up to receive this newsletter:
lettre_paopa_an@fert.fr

AGENDA



- ⇒ **18 - 23 October**, Study tour in Morocco for camel breeders from Mednine, Kébili and Tataouine Tunisia)
- ⇒ **19 October**, Assessment of legal frameworks of SMSA – Hammamet (Tunisia)
- ⇒ **25 - 29 October**, Fair of honey and hive’s by-products (organized by ADAMB) – Fort de l'Eau, Alger (Algeria)
- ⇒ **October**, Wash and transformation of camel hair actions – Gouvernorat de Mednine (Tunisia)
- ⇒ **November**, Demonstrations days on seedbed preparation, sowing adjustment and estimation of losses during germination – Setif (Algeria)
- ⇒ **November**, Validation workshop on the MAPs value chain analysis – Fayoum (Egypt)

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