

Editorial – Capitalization and know-how transfer

In May 2016, SFOAP in North Africa teams and some farmers, members of associations, gathered in Tunis in order to support capitalization process initiated at the level of pilot actions carried out in the four North African countries. This work will further increase in 2016 and 2017 in order to enable farmers' organizations, partners in the programme, to gradually adopt approaches and tools designed to support farmers' organizations in providing tailored services to their members, principally geared towards their inclusion in value chains. This work will also contribute to transfer know-how between organizations.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

EGYPT – Cultivation and harvest mechanization

Onions, Chamomile and Calendula cultivation have very high cultivation costs due to the high labor needs, and especially seasonal workers. These costs are also increasing because of the increase in wages and the low availability of these workers. This also induces a low possibility of extension. To alleviate this, the concept of cultivation (spraying, soil preparation, etc.) and harvest mechanization of such crops has been introduced to partner's association.

Facing issues in the adoption of innovative technologies, an interactive approach has been used to analyze the production issues and to discuss several solutions build on the use of machinery. Linkages with service providers and technical agricultural engineers specialized in the field of agricultural machinery and in alternative introductions has been made, through visit to show rooms and exchange with experts and farmers. Attention was paid to build farmers' capacities in the identification of appropriate technologies.



The associations have adopted the concept of using agriculture machinery via SFOAP support and will start using machines in the upcoming season.

TUNISIA – Camel mechanical milking

In extensive breeding, camel milk production is quite low (2-3L/day). In order to improve this production (quantity and quality), organizations and their breeders are technically supported to switch their dairy herd to and intensive or semi-intensive system (thus improving food supply of dairy camels) and to breed dairy herd to mechanical milking (thus improving hygiene of milking and milk).



Mechanical milking (initiated in the second postpartum month) is conducted with cow milking machines. Unlike cow's milk, camel milk is alveolar and non cisternal; milk ejection can be initiated during the first two weeks of training, using oxytocin. This method helps to use the whole milk production, avoiding share with baby camel. During the training, the camel is milked only once a day. Schedule and rank of entry in the milking spot compliance, washing and cleaning of all equipment, and food supply, remain key attention elements to improve milk production, in terms of quality and quantity.

BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITIES OF FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORTING THEIR INTEGRATION INTO VALUE CHAINS

MOROCCO – Fruit producers’ organizations enhance value to their apple production

Rich area, thanks to its location in the high Moroccan atlas, and its climate, is a high fruit production area: in 2015, 12.800 t of apples were produced. However, the post-production steps in the value chain (collection, transformation, commercialization, etc.) is poorly organized, many intermediaries operate in the area and fruit producers have a low bargaining power.

Installing cooling systems and processing units should help the producers to increase their margins: 37 MAD for 1L of vinegar and 12 MAD for 1L of juice.

Takbilte cooperative, member of the Rich group of the mountainous fruit producers’ national association (ANARBOM), supported by the regional office of agricultural development of Tafilalet (ORMVAT) and the programme, are developing an economic project and, at the same time, expanding its basis to strengthen the leadership and the management of the project.



Thanks to these efforts, the agricultural development agency agreed in principle, as part of the green Morocco plan, to finance a project to install apple cooling and storage systems and an apple juice and vinegar production unit (30 million of MAD); this project also includes a component of seguias development and plantations intensification.

ALGERIA – Beekeepers strengthen their capacities in project design

In order to adapt to the continuous change in their environment and to more effectively fill the needs of their group and their value chain, farmers’ organizations should strengthen their capacities, including methodological.

30 members of the beekeeping development association in Mitijda Blida (ADAMB) and of the professional beekeepers national association (ANAP) from several regions in Algeria joined, in July 2016, a training on project design and programming by objectives.



The training will help beekeepers organizations to better structure the programme they undertake to strengthen their inclusion in value chains and to participate in call for projects, as well. Build capacities will enable them to strengthen partnerships and to develop strategies tailored according to stakeholders and fields of action. Fund raising for organizations’ running costs and the implementation of their economical projects is one of the most significant step towards their self-sufficiency, viability and the sustainability of their field actions.

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AGENDA



- ⇒ **August**, project design training, in Rich and Taza area (Morocco)
- ⇒ **September**, training on beehive products (royal jelly, pollen, wax, etc.) (Taza- Morocco)
- ⇒ **September**, evaluation of the actions of the beekeeping technical commission (Taza- Morocco)

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