

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

ALGERIA – Varroa watch network

Varroa is a parasitic mite visible to the naked eye that attaches itself to the bee and causes its weakening. It is also a vector of diseases, causing non-negligible losses of the honey production and therefore the income of beekeepers. Several strategies are used to control this parasite (genetic tolerance, chemical treatments, integrated pest management, etc.) but the effectiveness of the control and the maintenance of a honey good quality stands on a good knowledge of its development cycle and, thus, the geo-climatic conditions of the production biotope.

A “varroa network” was initiative for the watch of the infestation at the national level and of the behavior of the varroa under different edaphic and climatic conditions. This network includes beekeepers from ANAP (national association of professional beekeepers) from several regions in Algeria. They are responsible for collecting information from their apiaries. These data are sent to researchers (university of Boumerdes, Annaba, Blida and national institute of veterinary medicine). The database thus established should make it possible to evaluate the critical levels and periods of infestation by zone, as well as the best operating methods and control means. Alerts and advice will then be provided to beekeepers from ANAP.



AREA-ED, through SFOAP, supports the network: technical reinforcement (identification, counting of parasite, etc.) and the management of the network (structuring, organization, dimensioning, etc.).

MOROCCO – Putting a dynamic in place in Rich, using pilot orchards

In Midelt region, the issue of marketing appears to be the most vivid in terms of apple production: many middlemen take up the production at low prices. The fruit growers imagine lifting these bottlenecks thanks to the construction of storage and processing units, and thus initiate the creation of cooperatives. Nevertheless, few actual and functioning examples of storage and processing services can be highlighted at this stage.



As part of its support to Rich fruit growers, Fert helps the establishment of pilot orchards. A technician specialized in fruit production is in charge of the monitoring of these orchards and facilitates technical actions: fruits growers are gathered around five pilot orchards (five communes) and benefit from practical training and technical advice, along the whole technical itinerary. These activities thus gather fruit growers and strengthen their exchanges on common issues. This raise and trigger a dynamic of cooperation between growers. Inputs collective supply, selling prices unification, and even collective sales, will in fact be tracks to be studied within these various groups. Support is also provided for the training of one sub-group of pruners per commune. The analysis and strategic reflection concerning the establishment and management of a pruning service has also to be supported by the project.

EGYPT – Introducing new varieties of Fennel in Fayoum

NSCE team started in 2016 with a new operational track to introduce medicinal and aromatic plants in Fayoum. This track was directed to FOs that are currently not cultivating MAPs such as Demo Agricultural Cooperative (Demo AC) and Community Development Association of Demo (Demo CDA). The project introduced the cultivation of Basil and established an extension farm in collaboration with Demo AC to illustrate the good agricultural practices in producing this crop.

In line with last year's success, the project has identified in collaboration with the FOs and the private sector that there is a massive demand for a special variety of fennel: the Dutch Fennel. One of the companies thus assisted the project with seeds provision and it is now cultivated in a plot in the area, under the supervision of Demo CDA.



The project is providing technical support and consultation on a regular basis and will continue this support until the harvesting. In addition, the FO has initiated some links with other farmers and members to show the plot and disseminate the experience in the area. The expectations are that in 2018 it will be seen as one of the production places for Dutch Fennel.

TUNISIA – Establishment of a dairy station and collection center

Camel breeding in Sidi Makhlouf delegation is semi-sedentary: camels are kept on rangeland from November until May approximately. Camel milk is rarely collected (it is mainly for baby camel feeding) and even less marketed. Its short shelf life and the absence of pasteurizer in the area have made, so far, the development of this product very difficult.



In October 2016, in a meeting of breeders, Zed Elkhir SMSA (mutual society of agricultural services) discussed the issues that breeders are facing (watering, food supply, health management, etc.). Some breeders also mentioned the possibility of intensifying their dairy production, while grouping their female camels on the same site and collecting their milk over a period of 7-8 months.

As a result of several exchanges, and with the support of Becosa, the SMSA decided to set up a pilot experiment: regroup about thirty camels and set up a milk tank. To ensure the sales of the production, a contract has already been established with a private promoter from the region who is installing a pasteurizer in Mednine.

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AGENDA



- ⇒ **13-15 April**, Agri-Business Agriculture & Reclamation Expo (Egypt)
- ⇒ **28 April**, reception of the hives constituting the bee nursery of Al Amal Union (Taza – Morocco)
- ⇒ **3 May**, visit of Rich fruit growers on the orchards of their technician (Rich – Morocco)
- ⇒ **4-6 May**, practical training on the pilot orchards (Rich – Morocco)
- ⇒ **27-30 September**, sahara agricultural exhibition (Egypt)

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