

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

#### MOROCCO – IFAD supervision mission visited the beekeeping nursery of Al Amal union

Every year, IFAD team in charge of SFOAP programme carries out supervision missions within several African countries in order to better understand the benefits of the programme at the farmers' level. This year, in North Africa (component B), IFAD mission took the opportunity to visit Taza province, in order to meet the beekeepers involved in the program, to understand their activities and the local dynamics.



Thanks to the visit of the beekeeping nursery, the Al Amal union got in 2017, as well as exchanges with the beekeepers, the mission was able to understand the importance of the technical committee and their technician. Their mission is to monitor the beehives of members' cooperatives and thus to advise beekeepers on beekeeping techniques for production and extraction, but also to manage the union's beekeeping nursery. In addition, from 2018, they will be able to acquire new skills, particularly related to the diversification of hive products, and they will have the responsibility to train and coach new members of the technical committee.

By building up and strengthening its internal/endogenous resources, Al Amal union is gradually self-preparing to the reception of the beekeeping complex (hive manufacturing unit, recycling of wax, etc.) scheduled for the end of 2019.

#### ALGERIA – Queen fertilization and local bee populations' selection

40 beekeepers of the national beekeeping association (from Blida and Tizi-Ouzou region) were trained in the implementation, the organization and the management of a local bee populations' selection and queen fertilization station, through SFOAP programme. In addition to the technical skills required for this station (queens' rearing and mass population selection), the training focused on the importance of the group and of the participative work in this type of selection process, to benefit from the richness of the original genetic pool: each beekeeper contributes by offering bees' colonies to the station, but also by collectively sharing the tasks and responsibilities of monitoring, scoring and maintaining the station.



These stations aim to improve the performance of bee populations through mass selection, to secure a queen quality control strategy that integrates pedigree data and to regulate the production and marketing of queens on the local market. The production of these stations will not only affect the beekeepers participating in the initiative, but also all Algerian beekeepers, including the smaller ones, who will have access to better and more efficient queens. In the long run, the implementation of the stations contributes to improving the quantity and quality of beekeeping production at the farm level.

### TUNISIA – A 50% drop in red meat households' consumption

Over the last three months, Tunisian households' consumption of red meat dropped by almost 50%. This sudden drop in consumption, which could have very serious repercussions on the meat production and distribution chain, is due to the latest media campaigns against catastrophic sanitary management of, mainly, slaughterhouses, which offer rotten meat unsuitable for consumption. In addition to this crisis in confidence with consumers, the global drop in the purchasing power of the Tunisians also contributes to the fall in red meat consumption. Herd breeders are strongly impacted by this crisis, as the market for their products is shrinking.



Various initiatives are therefore being put in place, particularly at the level of breeders, in order to lessen the impact of this crisis on their incomes. The aim is thus to understand and reconsider the organization and the management of the red meat value chain as a whole, possibly considering different marketing channels, such as short distribution channels, etc.

### EGYPT – The Sahara international agricultural fair in Cairo

SFOAP team in Egypt facilitated the participation in SAHARA the 30<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural Exhibition for Africa and the Middle East.



16 participants from the FOs in Fayum and Suhag were participating in this fair. The objective of visiting Sahara is to enable farmers to be linked with most of the input suppliers and technology sources in Egypt. This will give them the ability to analyze and assess their current situation and be more informed with the sector updates. The fair has also some technical seminars and sessions lead by famous Egyptian and international consultants in the field of agriculture which is also another value of the participation. The exhibition includes branches for agro-machinery, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides and services which are grouped in categorized areas. This was a way to illustrate all the needed information and helped the farmers to get a comprehensive understanding of the management of their farm.

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### AGENDA



- ⇒ **21-23 October**, exchange trip on the labelling of agricultural products in Béjaia : meeting with the figs association of Béni Maouche that manages a label (Algeria)
- ⇒ **29 October**, one-day debate between FOs and other stakeholders of the cereals sector (Algeria)
- ⇒ **November**, workshop to review the action of the technical committee of Al Amal Union (Morocco)
- ⇒ **November**, training on marketing (Taza-Morocco)
- ⇒ **December**, training in rural sociology (Taza-Morocco)
- ⇒ **December**, Fert mission in Egypt

This newsletter is produced by Fert Association ([www.fert.fr](http://www.fert.fr)) and its national facilitator partners.

SFOAP is financed by



This programme is financed by the European Union



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et de la coopération DDC