Editorial

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This first issue of the “Newsletter” would like to highlight the activities of FAO’s Subregional Office for North Africa and launch the process of providing regular updates on our field activities. It reviews ongoing achievements and reviews the impact of projects currently underway as well as sharing lessons learned, assesses our contribution and guidance to government policymaking while demonstrating the expertise and the added value of FAO. It also aims to give voice to direct and indirect beneficiaries of programmes currently implemented by the FAO Representatives of the five countries in the subregion, which include Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

The content is intended to be informative, providing hands-on coverage of priority areas for FAO, such as policies related to agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture, animal production and health, the management of natural resources such as water and forests, crop production and plant protection as well as emergency programmes.

We will also identify specific issues common to countries of the Maghreb region, highlight cross-cutting issues in the subregion such as emergencies related to transboundary diseases; the challenges of climate change as well as gender issues. This Newsletter’s target audience encompasses all of FAO’s partners in their diversity and plurality. Its electronic design is intended to be consistent with the FAO’s “Green policy” that calls for paperless publications, avoiding the unnecessary destruction of trees.

Enjoy reading! 💫


Three priority areas of cooperation between FAO and the Kingdom of Morocco defined together

The Country Programming Framework (CPF), recently completed in Morocco, is a new tool for coordination and strategic dialogue, defining areas and interventions of mutual interest in the medium term (4 to 5 years) between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and FAO. It is designed and developed in a synergetic and integrated way in close collaboration with the Government and national partners. The FAO Representation in Morocco has recently completed the elaboration of the CPF, covering the period of 2013-2016.

The CPF is a major shift from demand-driven ad hoc projects towards a result-based programmatic approach with a medium and long term vision. For the four forthcoming years, three priority areas of cooperation between FAO and the Kingdom of Morocco have been defined with specific results to be achieved. The first one is related to ensuring development for all, without any exclusion of vulnerable groups, including women in agriculture and fisheries who are considered to be the engines of economic and social development. This priority aims at supporting the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco in implementing various national strategies related to agricultural development and aquaculture, focused on improving the country’s food security.

Agriculture is of paramount importance in the Moroccan economy. The Green Morocco Plan is based on the implementation of a large number of investment projects that promote “solidarity” agriculture through a bottom-up approach that will mobilize producers (especially rural women) through a dynamic approach of territorial and economic development where producers are empowered around a common goal and organized into groups or efficient cooperatives.

The recognition of women’s contribution to food production and food security is being translated through gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes for agricultural and rural development. This recognition is expected to strengthen economic empowerment of rural women and girls. • • • (to be continued on Page 2)

FAO’s presence at this Fair helped promote the visibility of the FAO Representation in Morocco through various communication tools such as posters showing the five new strategic objectives of the Organization as well as ensuring widespread distribution of documents and materials published by Headquarters including FAO flagship publications such as SOFA and SOFI...

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LET’S WORK FOR A HUNGER-FREE WORLD

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Three priority areas of cooperation between FAO and the Kingdom of Morocco defined together (following P1)

• • • FAO, in addition to mainstreaming gender in all of its projects and programmes, is also implementing several women-specific targeted interventions to enable them generate income in order to improve their living conditions and well-being and strengthen the capacity of women’s groups and local NGOs within multifunctional centers established for this purpose.

The second priority area of the CPF is related to the sustainable management of natural resources and the improvement of living conditions of rural people, especially those of vulnerable populations. It aims at the sustainable management of natural resources by taking into account the requirements for climate change adaptation and the imperative of improving the living standards of the most vulnerable populations, including women and youth.

In a global context marked by increasing pressure on fisheries resources and restrictions on access to fishing areas, a number of challenges arise in terms of sustainable management of the resource to meet a growing demand for fishery products. This situation has also created development opportunities expressed in the “Halieutis Plan”, with strictly regulated management and development of the country’s fisheries resource supported by the adoption of the principles of responsible fisheries based on self-monitoring.

Finally, the third priority area is related to the management of food crises, focusing on the adoption of adequate measures to manage the impacts of drought and climate change and to strengthening the resilience of populations as well as their emergency preparedness.

Morocco- FAO Cooperation Day
Increase the resilience of poor populations

As for the Green Morocco Plan, Mr C. Lietar indicated that the Belgian Cooperation was present in all the strategic orientations of the Green Morocco Plan and would leave it to the country to define its specific needs in bilateral cooperation.

Civil society and more specifically the women’s voice was presented by Ms Fatima Rafi, Secretary General of the National Union of Moroccan Women who underscored “the fundamental role of civil society in the development of a supportive agriculture”, especially in relation to the issue of anticipating shocks.

The grassroots movement has a moral responsibility in this, and in order to protect itself from any potential risk faced by the agricultural sector, there is a “need for the intervention of all citizens.”

Ms Fatima Rafi described “rural women as the backbone of a number of agricultural subsectors.” As such, she called for granting them a special place in development cooperation agreements in order to “strengthen their empowerment and work to raise awareness” of the issues of shocks and emergencies.

Mr Mohamed Ait Kadi, Chairman of the General Council of Agricultural Development highlighted that the food security of Morocco is “thought out in the context of a strategy that falls within the guidelines of the Green Morocco Plan. The promotion of investment to improve the living conditions of rural populations also warrants international cooperation, such as that undertaken by FAO”.

Mr. Carlos Lietar, Cooperation advisor at the Embassy of Belgium, provided an overview of the five sectors supported by the Belgium Government, including agriculture and food security. Intervention of the Belgian cooperation is triangular, the three dimensions of which include a local development approach, a sectoral approach and a food security approach, if needed in case of emergencies.

For his part, Mr Bruno Minjauw, Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator at the Subregional Office for North Africa defined the sources of shocks that threaten food security and the concept of increasing resilience as a swift response to support the affected poor populations.

Shocks can have four sources: natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, drought; conflicts; transboundary plant or animal diseases as well as economic crises. FAO provides support through four intervention pillars: strengthening institutional capacity, improving information and early warning systems, improving prevention and impact reduction and ultimately providing a swift and efficient response.

Enhancing the resilience of vulnerable poor populations implies strengthening their capacities to anticipate and prevent shocks, but even more, helping them grow stronger after a crisis.
A World-class Fair
(following P1)

Alongside the various SIAM events, the FAO Office held a Cooperation Day, which was inaugurated by Mr. Aziz Akhamouch, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. The key event of the day was marked by the signing ceremony of the Country Programming Framework between FAO and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Finally, in the presence of distinguished panelists and experts a debate was held in the following topic: “The Green Morocco Plan and its specialized strategies for an agriculture which is at the same time open, competitive, socially diverse, localized and sustainable.” The 8th edition of the International Agriculture Fair of Morocco (SIAM) chose “Agricultural Trade” as this year’s theme and invited Belgium as a guest of honor. This event takes place in an area totaling 100,000 square meters, with 70,000 square meters dedicated to hosting exhibitors. For five days, more than 1060 exhibitors from 52 countries have attracted a large audience of around 720,000 visitors.

Sub-regional news

Launching of a Food Bank in Mauritania

A Food Bank in Mauritania was created on 30 January 2013, launched at an official ceremony attended by Ms Mariam Mahamat Nour, FAO Representative and Mr Isselmou Ould Hanafi, Managing Chairman of the Mauritanian Coalition Against Hunger. The importance of this tool in the fight against hunger is in tune with the goal of the World Food Summit held in 1996, which aims to halve the number of the malnourished by 2015.

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO’s efforts - to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. Thus, Food banks aim to achieve one of the leading human rights, namely the right to food and contribute to achieving the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing poverty and hunger.

This Food Bank’s “role is to collect, manage and share foodstuffs to help needy Mauritians meet their food needs. Its action is based on gratuitousness, donation, sharing, volunteering and philanthropy”. These concepts are “the missing links in the chain of achieving the Food Security” that the Mauritanian government is working to implement.

New appointment in Libya

Mr. Abubaker Mohamed Abadelaziz who has been recently appointed as Coordinator of the Unilateral Trust Fund (US $ 72,000, 000) for Libya made a visit to the FAO Subregional Office for North Africa, where he held a meeting with Mr. Benoit Horemans, Subregional Coordinator, and he also met with various experts of the Multidisciplinary Team of the Office.

A better coordination and commitment of all stakeholders to promote the employment of vulnerable youth in rural areas

A meeting on “Strengthening rural populations and the professional integration of vulnerable young people in rural areas, a priority challenge for Tunisia” was held on April 11, 2013 at the Ministry of Agriculture. The objective of the meeting was to mobilize source partners to support to the joint project proposal of FAO and WFP.

A wide variety of partner organizations and representatives of cooperation programmes attended the meeting, including representatives of the German Development Agency (GIZ), the European Union, the French Development Agency (AFD), the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Investment Bank, the Japanese International Development Agency, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Italian Cooperation Office as well as the Embassies of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Russian Federation.

The FAO / WFP joint programme combines the comparative advantages of the two UN Agencies and aims to scale up results within the two forthcoming years, reaching out to 24,000 young people in each of the targeted five governorates and thus to a total of 132,000 beneficiaries. Through the project, based on the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) approach, FAO has already trained 127 young women and 132 young men in the regions of Jendouba and Sidi Bouzid, thus demonstrating a concern and respect for gender parity. The novel approach of this initiative lies in the fact that it specifically addresses the characteristics of the target population, defined by a high rate of illiteracy. The courses took place close to the homes of these young people, where they were introduced to vocational training in agriculture during a production cycle; they also strengthened their understanding of specific agro-ecological systems. Learning to share observations and information collected from the members of the group constitutes new form of education. This vocational training was complemented by skill-development to prepare a “business plan” with the goals of becoming eligible for microcredits. The success of this learning is based on the common interests for these young people, a group of whom have already formed a registered association. The purpose of this initiative is also to create group dynamics, solidarity and strengthen the capacity of young people to work together.

A recommendation made by the GIZ as well as the AFD stressed the importance of having another meeting for consultation and coordination between the various agencies and ongoing programmes in the field that target youth and employment creation.

Howard Buffett visits Jendouba and Tabarka

The Goodwill Ambassador of the World Food Program (WFP), Howard Buffett, paid a visit to the North-Western part of Tunisia, to the regions of Tabarka and Jendouba, to inquire on the pilot project jointly implemented by FAO and WFP.
## Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>“Improvement of the legal framework for the management of non-timber forest products”</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>National Tunis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>“Analysis the current status of the IPM FFS Programme in Near East countries”</td>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Subregional Amman, Jordan</td>
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<td>Training workshop</td>
<td>“IPM FFS Training for the South”</td>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>National Tunis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Land and Water Days</td>
<td>29-02</td>
<td>Regional Cairo</td>
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<td>Water Scarcity Initiative</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Subregional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>“Regional Awareness-raising Workshop on Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries and Forests.”</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Regional Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Training “Workshop on gender mainstreaming in FAO programmes”</td>
<td>11-12-13</td>
<td>Subregional Tunis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>“Small ruminants: creation and technology transfer: the role of research and the development in the services provided by to farmers’ associations”</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training workshop</td>
<td>“IPM FFS training for the Central Region”</td>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>National Sousse</td>
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<td>Meeting of the Joint Standing Committee</td>
<td>“Mediterranean Network for Animal Health – REMESA”</td>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Workshop</td>
<td>“Strengthening Public-Private Partnership for the prevention and control of transboundary diseases”</td>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>National Tunis</td>
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## Last issue

**Advocacy document FAO / CIHEAM IAM Bari**

“Improving people’s living conditions through a better use of local agricultural products”

This communication medium in the form of brochures and containing a CD is composed of three materials on the labeling of local products in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. It aims to educate and inform about the various regional products labeled in the Maghreb. It presents a Maghreb project to improve people’s living conditions through a better use of local agricultural products.