



Watch Letter



Agenda Post-2015 and Mediterranean Futures



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About CIHEAM

Founded in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is an intergovernmental organisation composed of thirteen member states (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

The CIHEAM is at the service of its member states to promote multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean in the fields of agriculture, food, fishery, and rural territories, aiming to respond to the needs of the States. The CIHEAM works for the Mediterranean and therefore with Mediterranean populations. Providing concrete solutions, sharing experiences and avoiding the waste of knowledge are among the main objectives of each one of its actions.

The CIHEAM pursues this cooperation mission through specialised training, networked research, scientific diplomacy and political partnership. Thanks to its activities, the CIHEAM therefore contributes to the elaboration of a global, structural and engaging vision for development in the Mediterranean.

170 permanent agents and hundreds of consultants regularly work within the 5 headquarters of the Organisation: the 4 Mediterranean agronomic institutes (MAI) based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France), and Zaragoza (Spain); the General Secretariat is located in Paris (France).

The Watch Letter

This Quarterly Letter has been published since 2007 and is devoted to major topics in Mediterranean Agriculture, Food and Environment.

While enabling the CIHEAM to gain a widespread recognition, it circulates analyses aimed at a heterogeneous public (policymakers, researchers, journalists, etc.) on emerging agricultural and food issues. The objective of the Watch Letter is to provide brief analyses which will fuel both the discussion on the Mediterranean and the broader global debate on food and agriculture.

The General Secretariat of Paris is responsible for the direction and the management of this bilingual publication (English and French).

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Editorial


Cosimo Lacirignola
CIHEAM Secretary General



It is now almost three years since the signatories to the Declaration on "The Future we Want" committed themselves in Rio to defining a Post-2015 Development Agenda. More of them, more targeted and universally applicable, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), after a lengthy, albeit necessary, process of international negotiations, are being adopted this September by the United Nations General Assembly.

As far back as 1992, with the Rio Declaration and, in 2000, the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) a compromise was reached between States, paving the way for the process of sustainable development. Since then, there has been real progress in many spheres and in a majority of nations persuaded of the imperative necessity of reconciling economics, social wellbeing and ecology in their growth strategies. Yet the achievements should not be overstated, given the contrasting results depending on the country and sector of activity, and there are serious obstacles to bringing about change.

Although the general trend is one of improvement, unfortunately there remain serious regional gaps and increasingly evident socio-economic inequalities even within the same country. Worse still, in some areas, the situation has even deteriorated. The Mediterranean Region is not immune to these global trends. As always, the region illustrates the extent to which the challenges of development, calling for more cooperation and synergies, also show up the practical difficulties of implementing policies and strategies to foster the building of a better future.



In 2015, just when we should be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, which raised such hopes in 1995 with the inauguration of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the geopolitical landscape of the region has been fundamentally transformed and the possible future development scenarios in the Mediterranean harbour several unknowns. In these circumstances, the European Neighbourhood Policy is making even greater efforts to prioritise its sectoral commitments. The challenges of employment, youth and geographical cohesion, linked to agricultural and rural development in the countries of the region, remain critical. The same is true of trade negotiations, strategies to promote equality between women and men, and initiatives to achieve geopolitical stability in the Mediterranean Basin. Insecurity related to food, water, land and climate cannot be dissociated from economic, social, migration and environmental problems. The future of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership clearly needs more cooperation in agriculture, whether in research or development of rural areas.

However, other challenges await the Mediterranean and the 20 years that have passed since the Barcelona Declaration call for new proposals as a matter of urgency. The displacement of populations which we are witnessing – at first within the countries in crisis, then towards the neighbouring countries and finally to Europe – is forcing us to see this phenomenon as a dual challenge. In the first place, we have to manage the humanitarian crisis and meet the political challenge. That is undeniable. But we also need to look to a more distant future and identify the most effective instruments to alleviate the tensions in the Mediterranean region. Food security and rural development are more strategic than ever in this context.

Clearly, the European Neighbourhood Policy should, from now on, seek to distinguish better between timeframes. Although Euro-Mediterranean cooperation is now differentiated between countries, perhaps the time has come also to differentiate between the actions of the ENP which belong to the short term and those which fall within the longer term. Against this background, what is essential is to maintain multilateral initiatives, since faced with the magnitude of the challenges of such a specific geopolitical space, how could we imagine for a moment that the interdependencies woven over centuries could suddenly cease to exist? We deluded ourselves if we think that a major event in a country bordering the Mediterranean would not have consequences for its neighbours. Looked at another way in strategic terms, it is Europe which represents the balcony overlooking the Mediterranean, not the other way round.

Greater synergies between the actors working for Mediterranean development must therefore be explored as a priority. The emphasis should be on agriculture (not only, but let us stop demoting it in the strategic development agenda for the Mediterranean) because it is a wonderful reservoir of solutions. While its purpose in providing food is inescapable, agriculture is also a provider of jobs and stability in often marginalised rural areas in which more inclusive policies (both social and economic) must be implemented.

For that, public policies should implement innovative and inclusive approaches designed to more involve vulnerable groups in the governance and the decision making process. In the light of the intended outcomes, it will also be essential to widen the debate to all stakeholders (the social partners, companies, associations, public authorities, etc.) in order to consolidate constructive ongoing dialogue and support joint construction of development projects. In isolated areas, where the challenges of sustainable development are still insufficiently understood, increased efforts to raise awareness must be made.

A Post-2015 Agenda at the heart of CIHEAM's activities

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must commit the international community to making major efforts to end poverty, tackle climate change and provide opportunities for all to take charge of their own future. Despite the controversies over the level of detail of the SDGs and the means of implementing them, the negotiators agreed on a set of 17 Goals containing 169 specific targets which will help to guide development assistance, research and government policies between now and 2030.

Some SDGs are integral to CIHEAM's mission and its activities with the countries of the Mediterranean: achieving food security and improved nutrition (SDG 2), ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), as well as sustainable management of water (SDG6), marine resources (SDG 14) and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15). The SDGs that seek to ensure quality education and promote life-long learning (SDG 4), achieve gender equality (SDG 5) and reduce inequality within and among countries (SDG 10) also fall within CIHEAM's sphere of action. These various SDGs are crucial for the Mediterranean Region where the populations' primary needs remain access to a healthy and balanced diet, with food production that respects natural balances and the chance to live a decent life in rural areas. By tackling these challenges in the years ahead, we will contribute to human security, inclusive development and sustainability of resources in the Mediterranean.

Implementing these Goals will be no easy task and there remain many concerns as to the clarity of such an agenda which will include some 800 indicators to be evaluated. We will have to be imaginative to design a transparent and accountable monitoring mechanism which can make States answerable for their choices (while not forgetting civil society and the private sector, also key protagonists of sustainable development). With regard to the ambitions of the Development Agenda, there is also the thorny question of the roadmap of financial commitments in the context of government budget ceilings. More than a trillion dollars per year will be needed from now until 2030, 20 times the annual amount of government development aid. While a political consensus was indeed achieved in New York during the United Nations General Assembly, the political vision of the development agenda after 2015 remains vague. Achieving the 17 Goals will require huge continuous collective efforts in States which will have to mobilise the financing necessary for sustainable development themselves. In this regard, building local and national capacity will be one of the principal cornerstones of the SDG process. Since 1962, CIHEAM has made building its capacities and sharing its knowhow and knowledge its driving force and principal strength. Our education and research institutes fulfil this mission daily, ever in pursuit of innovation and adaptation to meet countries' diverse needs and support development at local level, especially in rural areas.

The difficulty of implementing the SDGs makes revitalised and effective multilateral cooperation even more essential. In our region, the Post-2015 Development Agenda will benefit from the experience of several decades of effective Mediterranean cooperation in the face of change and global challenges. CIHEAM also intends to engage fully in this process and will give its wholehearted support to the global partnership for sustainable development, which will be strengthened through the framework of SDG 17. Post-2015, the SDGs and the implementation of the ambitious agreement on climate expected from the Paris Conference will clearly provide new opportunities for cooperation in the Mediterranean. This cooperation will certainly have to rely on the dynamic forces in the region. Yet to achieve more sustainable and responsible development in the Mediterranean, it will also be necessary to foster synergies between the various actors, both public and private, in the conviction that alliances and partnerships must now guide initiatives and strategies in a region which often suffers from a surfeit of disjointed activities. This is also an approach currently advocated by CIHEAM, a Mediterranean organisation of 13 Member States, which works with all the countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as all international and national institutions working for development.

This CIHEAM *Watch Letter* n°34 seeks to put the Sustainable Development Goals on the Mediterranean radar. The perspectives assembled here, emanating from the high level institutions whose contributions are vital to the success of the SDGs. They take the long-term view, crucial to cooperation in this Mediterranean Region which is in a constant state of turmoil. This publication aims to provide a forward-looking multisectoral reading guide to help understand the possible future scenarios under the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Mediterranean societies. Gathering together expertise, knowledge and commitment is another of this publication's objectives. We hope that its wealth of high level content will make a valuable contribution to a period of debate over the future of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. Thank you to all the authors who agreed to contribute to this *Watch Letter* and the many institutions which responded positively to our call when we suggested a work on this theme.

In November 1995, CIHEAM and its Member States welcomed the signing of the Barcelona Declaration and the launch of an ambitious partnership between the EU and the countries of the South and East Mediterranean. Two decades later, it would be dangerous merely to consign this great idea to history.



Voilà près de trois ans que les signataires de la déclaration « l'avenir que nous voulons » se sont engagés à Rio pour définir un agenda du développement après 2015. Plus nombreux, plus ciblés et susceptibles d'être appliqués par la majorité des Etats, les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) sont adoptés en ce mois de septembre par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies après un long, mais nécessaire, processus de négociations internationales.

Déjà en 1992, avec la Déclaration de Rio et, en 2000, avec l'adoption des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD), un compromis avait été trouvé entre les États, rendant possible le processus du développement durable. Depuis, celui-ci a connu de réels progrès, et ce, dans de nombreux domaines et au sein d'une majorité de Nations convaincues de cet impératif visant à concilier l'économie, le social et l'écologie dans leurs stratégies de croissance. Mais le bilan ne saurait être lénifié car les résultats sont contrastés selon les pays et les secteurs d'activité et car il subsiste de véritables freins à la mise en œuvre du changement.

Si l'on observe une tendance générale à l'amélioration, demeurent malheureusement de profonds écarts régionaux et des inégalités socio-économiques sans cesse plus évidentes au sein même des pays. Pour certains territoires, la situation se serait même dégradée. L'espace méditerranéen n'échappe pas à ces tendances mondiales. En effet, comme toujours, cette espace illustre à quel point les enjeux du développement, appelant à plus de coopérations et de synergies, révèlent aussi des difficultés à mettre en œuvre, sous un mode opératoire multilatéral, des politiques et des stratégies favorables à la construction d'un avenir meilleur.

En 2015, alors que devraient être célébrés les 20 ans d'une déclaration de Barcelone ayant suscité de grands espoirs en novembre 1995 lors de sa prononciation instaurant le Partenariat euro-méditerranéen, le paysage géopolitique de la région s'est profondément transformé et plusieurs inconnues résident sur les futurs possibles du développement en Méditerranée. Dans ces conditions, la Politique européenne de voisinage (PEV) cherche à mieux prioriser ses engagements sectoriels. Les enjeux liés à l'emploi, à la jeunesse et à la cohésion territoriale restent déterminants et liés au développement agricole et rural dans les pays de la région. Il en est de même des négociations commerciales, des stratégies en faveur de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes et des initiatives menées pour la stabilité géopolitique du bassin méditerranéen. Les insécurités alimentaires, hydriques, foncières et climatiques sont indissociables des problématiques économiques, sociales, migratoires et environnementales. Pour le futur du Partenariat euro-méditerranéen, une plus grande coopération agricole, que ce soit dans la recherche ou dans le développement des zones rurales, s'avère sans aucun doute nécessaire. Mais d'autres défis attendent la Méditerranée et les 20 ans de la déclaration de Barcelone invitent à faire, en urgence, de nouvelles propositions. Le déplacement de populations auquel nous assistons - d'abord au sein même des pays en crise, puis vers les pays limitrophes et enfin jusqu'en Europe - en raison de son caractère durable et de son impact économique et social sur les pays d'accueil, nous oblige à considérer ce phénomène comme un double défi. Il y a tout d'abord une crise humanitaire à gérer et un défi politique à relever. Ne le nions pas. Mais il convient aussi de regarder le futur plus lointain et identifier quels pourrait être les instruments les plus propices à une atténuation des tensions au sein de l'espace méditerranéen. La sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural s'avèrent plus stratégiques que jamais dans ce contexte.

Sans doute la PEV devrait-elle désormais chercher à distinguer davantage les temporalités. Si la différenciation des coopérations euro-méditerranéennes entre les pays s'est mise en place, il serait peut-être opportun de différencier aussi les actions de la PEV qui relèvent du court-terme et celles qui s'inscrivent dans une perspective plus lointaine. Avec en toile de fond l'impérieuse nécessité de maintenir des initiatives multilatérales, car face à l'ampleur des enjeux de cet espace géopolitique si spécifique, comment pourrions-nous envisager un seul instant que les interdépendances tissées durant des siècles cesseraient soudain d'exister. Il est illusoire de penser qu'un événement majeur dans un pays riverain de la Méditerranée n'ait pas de conséquences sur ses voisins. Renversons les regards sur le plan stratégique : c'est l'Europe qui représente ce balcon ouvert sur la Méditerranée, pas l'inverse.

Une plus grande synergie entre les acteurs opérant en faveur du développement méditerranéen doit constituer à ce titre une voie prioritaire à explorer. Il faudra miser sur l'agriculture (pas seulement, mais cessons de la déclasser dans l'agenda stratégique du développement pour la Méditerranée) car elle constitue un réservoir formidable de solutions. Si la finalité alimentaire reste incontournable, l'agriculture est aussi pourvoyeuse d'emplois et de stabilité dans des territoires ruraux, souvent marginalisés, au sein desquels des politiques plus inclusives (à la fois sociale et économique) doivent être mises en œuvre. Pour cela, les modes opératoires des politiques publiques et les processus décisionnels devront davantage intégrer les évolutions en cours en matière de participation des publics vulnérables à la gouvernance. Au regard des résultats escomptés, il deviendra également indispensable d'élargir le tour de table à l'ensemble des parties prenantes (partenaires sociaux, entreprises, associations, administrations publiques...) afin de consolider un dialogue constructif, pérenne et de soutenir la co-construction des projets de développement. Dans les territoires isolés, où les enjeux du développement durable restent insuffisamment connus, des efforts accrus de sensibilisation devront être menés.

Un Agenda post-2015 au cœur des activités du CIHEAM

L'agenda du développement après 2015 devra engager, en effet, la communauté internationale vers des efforts considérables pour mettre fin à la pauvreté, faire face au changement climatique et offrir les opportunités pour que chacun se saisisse de son avenir. Malgré les controverses sur le niveau de précision des ODD et leurs moyens de mises en œuvre, les négociateurs se sont mis d'accord sur un ensemble de 17 Objectifs comprenant 169 cibles spécifiques qui participeront aux orientations de l'aide au développement, de la recherche, ainsi que des politiques publiques d'ici 2030. Certains ODD font partie intégrante de la mission du CIHEAM et des activités qu'il déploie avec les pays de la Méditerranée : la promotion de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition (ODD2), la garantie de modèles de consommation et de production durables (ODD12) ainsi que la gestion durable de l'eau (ODD6), des ressources marines (ODD14) et des écosystèmes terrestres (ODD15). Les ODD visant à garantir une éducation de qualité tout au long de la vie (ODD4), à parvenir à l'égalité entre les sexes (ODD5) et à réduire les inégalités entre et à l'intérieur des pays (ODD10) entrent également dans le champ d'actions du CIHEAM. Ces différents ODD sont cruciaux pour l'espace méditerranéen où les besoins premiers des populations demeurent l'accès à une alimentation saine et équilibrée produite dans le respect des équilibres naturels et la possibilité de vivre dignement dans les espaces ruraux. En progressant sur ces enjeux dans les années à venir, nous contribuerons à la sécurité humaine, au développement inclusif et à la durabilité des ressources en Méditerranée.

Mettre en œuvre ces Objectifs ne sera pas une tâche facile et les inquiétudes sont encore nombreuses quant à la lisibilité d'un tel agenda qui devrait compter près de 800 indicateurs à évaluer. Il faudra donc être inventif pour concevoir un mécanisme de suivi et de redevabilité transparent, capable de rendre les États comptables de leurs choix (sans oublier non plus la société civile ainsi que le secteur privé qui sont autant d'acteurs clés pour le développement durable). Face aux ambitions relatives à l'agenda du développement demeure aussi l'épineuse question de la feuille de route des engagements financiers dans un contexte de plafonnement des budgets publics. Les besoins dépassent en effet le millier de milliards de dollars par an d'ici 2030, soit plus de 20 fois les montants annuels de l'aide publique au développement. Un consensus politique a bien été trouvé à New York au cours de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, mais la vision politique que recouvre l'agenda du développement après 2015 demeure floue. Atteindre ces 17 objectifs demandera donc des efforts colossaux, continus et collectifs dans des États qui devront mobiliser eux-mêmes les financements nécessaires au développement durable. A ce titre, précisons ici que le renforcement des capacités locales et nationales constituera l'une des principales clés de voute du processus des ODD. Depuis 1962, le CIHEAM a fait du renforcement des capacités et du partage des savoirs et connaissances, son moteur et sa principale force. Nos instituts de recherche et de formation remplissent cette mission au quotidien toujours en quête d'innovation et d'adaptation pour répondre aux divers besoins des pays et accompagner des dynamiques au niveau local, en particulier en milieu rural.

La difficile mise en œuvre des ODD rend d'autant plus essentielle une coopération multilatérale renouvelée et opérationnelle. L'expérience de plusieurs décennies de coopération méditerranéenne efficace face aux changements et défis globaux est donc une chance pour l'agenda du développement après 2015 dans notre région. Le CIHEAM entend d'ailleurs s'engager pleinement dans ce processus et apporter tout son soutien au partenariat mondial pour le développement durable qui sera renforcé dans le cadre de l'ODD 17. L'après 2015, avec les ODD et la mise en œuvre de l'accord, que nous espérons tous ambitieux, sur le climat après la Conférence de Paris (COP 21), offrira sans doute de nouvelles opportunités pour la dynamique de coopération en Méditerranée. Cette dernière devra assurément s'appuyer sur les forces vives de cette région. Mais pour avancer sur un développement plus durable et responsable en Méditerranée, il faut aussi favoriser les synergies entre les différents acteurs, du public comme du privé, convaincus que les alliances et les partenariats doivent désormais guider les initiatives et les stratégies dans une région qui souffre souvent d'un trop plein d'activités désordonnées. C'est aussi l'un des axes défendus actuellement par le CIHEAM, Organisation méditerranéenne de 13 Etats membres, mais qui travaille avec tous les pays de cet espace euro-méditerranéen et toutes les institutions internationales et nationales mobilisées pour le développement.

Cette Watch Letter n°34 du CIHEAM cherche à mettre les ODD à l'heure méditerranéenne. Les perspectives rassemblées ici, émanant d'institutions de premier rang dont la contribution est essentielle à la réussite des ODD, projettent la réflexion dans des temps longs, qui sont indispensables pour conduire une action de coopération dans cette région méditerranéenne sans cesse en effervescence. Cette publication entend proposer des clés de lecture multisectorielles et prospectives pour mieux comprendre les futurs possibles de l'agenda du développement après 2015 au sein des sociétés méditerranéennes. Rassembler des compétences, des connaissances et des engagements constituait également l'un des objectifs de cette publication. Puisse son contenu très riche et de haut-niveau offrir une contribution appréciable dans une période de débats bien contrastées quant à l'avenir de la coopération euro-méditerranéenne. Nous remercions tous les auteurs qui ont accepté de contribuer à cette Watch Letter et les nombreuses institutions ayant répondu favorablement à notre appel lorsque nous avons souhaité proposer un tel dossier thématique.

En novembre 1995, le CIHEAM et ses États membres s'étaient réjouis de la signature de la Déclaration de Barcelone et du lancement d'un partenariat ambitieux entre l'UE et les pays du Sud et de l'Est de la Méditerranée. Deux décennies plus tard, il serait dangereux de ne pouvoir conjuguer cette grande idée qu'au passé.



Post-2015 Development Agenda, CIHEAM and G20 2015 Turkish Presidency Food security and tackling food loss and waste

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The year 2015 is globally an important year where major strategic negotiations are taking place on sustainable development, agriculture, food security, nutrition, rural development and other related issues.

The United Nations is working on a new set of goals for 2016-2030, known as the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs in the framework of Post-2015 Development Agenda. The goals will be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The SDGs are a follow-up effort to the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, in effect from 2000 to 2015. The SDGs may be said to be more enthusiastic when compared to the MDGs. They are intended to be more inclusive and equitable. They include goals like ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

This year, there are also other significant events being realized related to agricultural production, food security, sustainable development, inclusive growth which are paving the way for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Some of them can be mentioned as Milan Expo 2015, with the theme of "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life"; 21st Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP 21); 7th World Water Forum; preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD); debates on the future of Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation; International Year of Soil...

CIHEAM is taking part and making good contribution to most of these events, becoming more visible day by day. With its new strategy, CIHEAM is expanding and improving its relations with the European Union (EU) and the Commission, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSd), World Bank and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and several other international forums and organizations with the aim of strengthening communication, conducting synergistic activities and increasing capacity of collective/collaborative efforts. CIHEAM participated to the review process of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), established in the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). CIHEAM has also focused on the development of several strategic initiatives in the framework of the gradual repositioning process of the CIHEAM and the development of its missions in a changing regional context.

The Organisation has repeatedly expressed the crucial need to consider agricultural and food sustainable development around four complementary pillars: "the environment to preserve" (the resources, with climate-intelligent practices), "social matters for the sharing of resources" (food, with the struggle against waste), "the economy to produce" (food and income) and "innovation to adapt" (the role of knowledge, know-how and inventiveness). This vision of sustainable development based on four complementary pillars considers that human security should be a central priority in the debate addressing issues related to food and agriculture.

CIHEAM is therefore implementing a set of activities to assist the European, North African and Middle Eastern Countries to face these challenges so together with FAO, it takes place in the studies to present a strategic Action Plan in the Mediterranean for the next ten years. This action plan would be structured around the themes of food and nutritional security, small-scale family agriculture and water resources.

The more the CIHEAM is coherent in its strategic approach ("interior diversity for a unique exterior action") the more its areas of expertise and technical interventions will be recognised. The challenges in the Mediterranean are such that it seems to have become imperative that all the organisations working in the field of development and multilateral cooperation in the region should work together, whatever the focus of their mission is.

Another point of importance for the year 2015 is the G20 Turkish Presidency, not only because Turkey is a Mediterranean country and a founding member of CIHEAM but also because Turkey has placed the issues related to food and nutrition security among the thematic priorities in its G20 agenda. More specifically, Turkey decided to focus on achievement of more sustainable food systems and the reduction of food loss and waste (FLW).

FLW is a global problem of enormous economic, environmental and societal significance. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 1.3 billion tons of food, worth almost 1 trillion USD, is wasted and lost every year.¹ This amount is equivalent to the one third of world food production consisting of approximately 30% of cereals, 40-50% of root crops, fruits and vegetables, 20% of oilseeds, meat and dairy, and 35% of fish.² Due to hunger and malnutrition, nearly 10 million people lose their lives every year and 795 million people (one out of every nine) are malnourished and suffer from chronic hunger.³

However, with the prevention of only 25% of food waste, all food requirements of the starving people in the world can be met. Consequently, FLW has recently become an increasingly important topic both domestically and globally. Recognising this, Turkey has launched a very important campaign in 2013, targeting to prevent bread waste and have gained very successful outcomes. Up to now, daily bread waste and total consumption has decreased 18% and 10%, respectively. As a result, national economy has gained 2.8 billion TL (1.04 billion USD) savings in one year.

Thus, as the G-20 2015 Presidency, besides the issues related with agriculture, food security and nutrition, Turkey decided to attract attention to the crucial importance of reducing FLW. In this part of this article you will find a brief summary of the related activities of the G20 2015 Turkish Presidency. As part of Australia G20 Presidency in 2014, the G20 Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Framework has been developed and endorsed. The FSN Framework sets three multi-year priority objectives: (i) increasing responsible investment in food systems; (ii) increasing incomes and quality employment in food systems; and, (iii) increasing productivity sustainably to expand the food supply.

Under the Turkish G20 Presidency, for ensuring continuity between the presidencies, the Development Working Group (DWG) recognized the need for an Implementation Plan for the G20 FSN Framework. At its first meeting on 2-3 February 2015, the DWG requested FAO to coordinate the relevant international organizations for preparing Implementation Plan of the G20 FSN Framework for eventual approval by the DWG at its June meeting. The objective of the Plan is to identify specific, concrete and practical actions that make real progress towards the achievement of the Framework's three priority objectives, with a focus on low income developing countries (LIDCs).

The Implementation Plan mainly prioritizes practical actions in the areas of responsible investment, incomes and employment and sustainable productivity growth including reduction of FLW. It pays particular attention to smallholder and family agriculture, with an emphasis on women and youth. In parallel to the preparation of the Implementation Plan under the DWG, G20 Agriculture Ministers discussed how the G20 can best support the achievement of sustainable food systems and issued a Ministers Communiqué outlining their views and recommendations at G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting in Istanbul on 7-8 May 2015.

As an important outcome of the Communiqué, the Agriculture Ministers requested the Agriculture Deputies in collaboration with the DWG to bring together the conclusions of Ministers' Meeting and the recommendations of the Implementation Plan into a G20 Action Plan on Food Security/Sustainable Food Systems for consideration at the Antalya Leaders' Summit in November 2015. The Action Plan is intended to be a high-level deliverable for G20 Leaders, incorporating elements of the Agriculture Ministers Communiqué and the DWG Implementation Plan.

In line with the request of the Agriculture Ministers Communiqué, a zero-draft Action Plan, mainly considering conclusions of implementation plan and the Ministerial Communiqué were prepared and presented at the 3rd Agriculture Deputies Meeting held in Izmir on 2-3 July, 2015. In this meeting, action plan was broadly discussed and revised according to the views and contributions of the participants. Development Working Group and Senior Agriculture Officers are now working together to finalize the Action Plan. In the Ministerial Communiqué, it is also stated that a platform should be established with cooperation of FAO, IFPRI and other relevant international organizations, building on existing systems, for sharing information and experiences in measuring and reducing FLW.

Another important event that took place during the Turkish Presidency is the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS). While Implementation Plan highlights that G20 members will continue to support annual MACS, the Ministers Communiqué emphasizes the important role of the MACS "in promoting international collaboration to identify global research priorities and facilitating collaboration between public and private sector organizations in the key areas most likely to drive sustainable productivity gains". Furthermore, the Ministers asked MACS "to consider these needs and propose ways to support the G20 agenda on agriculture and food security issues with a particular focus on supporting transition towards sustainable agricultural and food systems."

In this regard, fourth Meeting of G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS), with the main theme of FLW, was held in Izmir, Turkey on 27-29 July 2015. In response to Ministers request mentioned above, MACS agreed to establish a working group which will explore the alignment of research priorities and collaboration with the aim of reducing gaps and avoiding duplication with due consideration to other existing efforts e.g., by FAO/WHO/OIE and STAR-IDAZ.

¹ See <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/an894e/an894e00.pdf>

² See <http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/keyfindings/en/>

³ See <http://www.fao.org/hunger/key-messages/en/>

MACS also agreed to support FAO, IFPRI, and other relevant international organizations to develop the platform mentioned in the Ministers Communiqué and share information and experiences relating to agricultural science and technology in measuring and reducing FLW. Additionally, MACS compromised on idea of establishing a working group with a subset of members and in consultation with FAO and IFPRI. This working group would conduct a preliminary mapping of their existing science and technology activities related to FLW, so as to contribute to enhanced information sharing and global coordination.

The G20 Leaders Summit will be held on 15-16 November 2015 in Antalya. Our objective here is to bring the agreement gained at both Ministers and MACS Communiqué to the attention of our leaders while keeping agriculture, food security and nutrition high at G20 agenda. On the other hand, after the G20 presidency is over, Turkey will continue to follow-up and lead agriculture related issues and events in 2016, too. EXPO 2016 Antalya will be a significant event to be realized in Turkey, beginning in April 2016, with the theme of “flowers and the children”, where there will be several activities in parallel.

As a result, it is clear that the Mediterranean Agenda of CIHEAM Member Countries is complementary to the G20 Members Agenda on food and nutrition, and G20 can make a great contribution to the efforts for achieving food security at global level. Therefore, there is a need for greater cooperation among the G20 Member countries and international organisations like CIHEAM for achieving the SDGs especially on food and nutrition security, because the Mediterranean Future as well as the global welfare depends certainly – if not only – on a better food security.

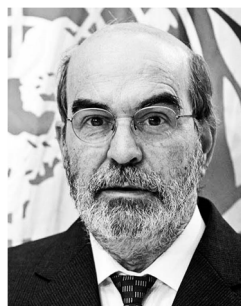


The centrality of hunger eradication in the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda: a turning point for the international community and the Mediterranean region

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The year 2015 marks a turning point in the global community's approach to development. Leaders from more than 150 countries gathered at the United Nations Summit in September to agree on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that hold the key to a transformed global economy by 2030. The SDGs, succeeding the Millennium Development Goals, cover a wide range of socio-economic issues, including poverty, hunger, gender equality, sustainable development, full employment, quality education, global governance, human rights, climate change and sustainable energy for all.

Since the MDGs were signed in 2000, promising changes have already been seen. Progress against achieving the MDG 1 "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" was significant, with the target of halving the poverty rate being reached in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. However, progress in reducing hunger has been slower, with the hunger target having been missed by a small margin. The good news is that 72 countries have met MDG 1 and received recognition at an awards ceremony during the FAO Conference in July this year. It is important to acknowledge this commendable progress. Moreover, the number of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day in the world has halved since 1990, with around 700 million people lifted out of extreme poverty. Nonetheless, we cannot ignore the challenges lying ahead of us. Even some of the countries that enjoyed rapid and outstanding growth over the past twenty years have not always been able to eliminate poverty and eradicate hunger.

Overall, the poverty and hunger picture in the world is gloomy. The figures are self-explanatory. Nearly 800 million people still suffer from chronic undernourishment, most of whom are located in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Asia, representing 14 percent of the developing world's population. SSA is the region with the world's highest rate of extreme poverty. Meanwhile, 70% of the world's poor depend on natural resources for all or part of their livelihoods. The many barriers facing the poor, and in particular smallholders, include poor access to and degradation of productive assets, and lack of access to infrastructure and services, creating a vicious poverty circle.

SDGs: towards inclusive growth and development

How can this poverty trend be reversed? Combating exclusion of the world's poorest people entails looking at the issue of poverty and hunger through a multi-faceted lens. At the same time, the root causes need to be addressed from the social, economic and environmental perspectives in an integrated fashion. One of the main lessons learned from the MDGs is that successfully addressing poverty and hunger requires simultaneously tackling factors such as livelihood needs, food security, nutrition, health, education, employment, equality, inclusive growth, and access to basic infrastructure and services. Experience from FAO and other UN agencies has shown the benefits of integrated policy approaches to address the multidimensional challenges of poverty and hunger.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development needs to trigger deep transformation, based on a set of integrated, actionable and people-centered SDGs that leave no-one behind. The root causes of poverty, exclusion, inequality and natural resource degradation must be addressed, while inclusive approaches to growth and development must be pursued, not only economically but environmentally and socially too. This people-centered development agenda is about focusing on people as rights holders and not only as stakeholders. Both men and women need to be provided with equal access to productive resources as well as to decision-making processes. This is the only way that prosperity can become sustainable and create pathways out of poverty. In other words, only a transformative development agenda can bring change through improved livelihoods. Hunger eradication is key for progress on all the other goals.

Ending hunger and poverty at the center of the SDGs

Given that the majority of the poor are located in rural areas in developing countries, it is logical that food security and rural development be at the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, the 2030 Agenda endorses the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition. For the first time ever, agriculture and food security have been placed at the center of the goals and rightly so. Indeed, in order to feed a growing world population, expected to exceed 9 billion by 2050, we already know that food production needs to increase by 60 percent, and this at a time when agriculture is already facing unprecedented pressure from a degraded natural resource base and from the adverse effects of climate change. We also know that investment gaps and lack of social protection are fixable parts of the reality of many developing countries. A recent report, published by FAO in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), has estimated that it would take an additional US \$265 billion annually to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2030ⁱ. This cost is minor compared to the significant costs of hunger and malnutrition that societies bear in the form of productivity losses and health care spending. These costs are estimated to reach USD 3.5 trillion a year.

More specifically, SDGs 1 and 2 focus on ending poverty and hunger in a holistic fashion. They give special attention to the role of social protection, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, resilience, sustainable management of natural resources and rural development. SDG2 in particular demands a comprehensive, holistic and time-bound framework to "end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." These goals are central in that their achievement will have positive impacts on the rest of the SDGs, in particular: inequality; inclusive and sustainable growth; health; gender equality; sustainable production and consumption; climate change; oceans and seas; ecosystems, biodiversity and forests; and peaceful societies.

Eradication of hunger and extreme poverty is possible in our lifetimes. We can be the Zero Hunger generation. There is indeed an emerging consensus among the international community around this powerful goal.

FAO and the Rome-based UN agencies' actions within the 2030 agenda: hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

It is worth underlining the critical role played by FAO, alongside the sister Rome-based UN agencies (RBAs), namely the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as major non-state actors and organizations, in advocating for placing the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty at the center, which constitutes the transformative dimension of the 2030 agenda.

Indeed, as part of this effort, Member States have recognized the RBA partnership's major role, through their policy and technical support, in setting SDG 2, "Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture", and its related targets and indicators. Early in the process, the RBAs jointly identified and prioritized indicators for SDG 2, submitting a joint proposal of 14 indicators for 8 targets.

The RBAs also joined forces to advocate for the importance of securing financing for food security and nutrition ahead of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015. We prepared a joint think-piece underlining that, in defining a financing framework for the 2030 agenda, the international community should give high priority to allocating resources to ending hunger and malnutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural development. In the same vein, our organizations drew attention to how a financial framework based on the joint think-piece could help achieve SDG 2.

FAO's response

FAO priorities and vision in the context of Agenda 2030

Even if each country is called to develop its own strategies to reach the goals, there are some common elements, namely political will, inclusive economic growth, agricultural modernization, support to family farming, presence of effective social protection systems and the integrated linking of different actions.

In this context, FAO stands ready to increase its support to all nations that make the political commitment to strengthen efforts against hunger and malnutrition. According to the latest FAO report on the State of Food Insecurity in the World, 795 million people around the world are still going to bed hungry and chronically undernourished. Urgent action is needed to reverse this unacceptable situation in a world of plenty.

At the same time, malnutrition remains a vast and often acute problem. Two billion people are micronutrient deficient, while 1.4 billion individuals are overweight. Obesity is a growing concern affecting 500 million individuals. In the Mediterranean region, a recent report by FAO and CIHEAM has showed a shift away from an ancient diet long considered a model for healthy living and sustainable food systems that preserves the environment and empowers local producers. While Southern Mediterranean countries continue to struggle with undernutrition, countries throughout the region increasingly struggle with obesity and overweight.

Last year, FAO and the WHO co-organized the Second International Conference on Nutrition. FAO, created 70 years ago, was called upon to play a leadership role in improving nutrition and strengthening linkages with food systems. We need both food and nutrition security. Quantity and quality of food are both important.

FAO's main priority and global challenge remains ending hunger and malnutrition, and this has become a pillar of the SDGs. Indeed, in 2013, through a focused strategic framework, FAO elevated the first global goal from "reduce" to "eradicate" hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. It has reoriented its priorities around five strategic objectives. The implementation of this framework is leveraged by partnerships within and outside the UN system, including with regional organizations and non-state actors such as civil society organizations, the private sector, producer organizations and cooperatives, as well as academia and research institutions.

How do these SDGs and challenges translate into FAO's vision? How can FAO, hand in hand with a wide range of stakeholders, act in a responsible and efficient way, thus contributing meaningfully to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development? The FAO Conference in 2015 sent a strong sign of support for continuing the direction that we set out in 2012. It has endorsed the following key priorities for the coming years: eradication of hunger, raising levels of nutrition and addressing climate change. In order to overcome the global hunger challenge, we will ensure that FAO continues to offer holistic support at various levels: sustainable production and management of natural resources, social protection and poverty eradication, improving access to markets by family farmers and helping build resilience of rural populations.

The year 2015 is also set to become a landmark with the negotiation of a global agreement on climate change during the 21st conference of the parties (COP) in Paris. We hope that this event will culminate with a global agreement of historic importance for humanity. Today, climate change is viewed as one of the biggest challenges for agriculture, indeed placing many regions of the world at risk. Being severely affected, the Mediterranean region is one of the world's climate hotspots. Agriculture should be viewed as part of the solution to adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects, and not part of the problem. Agriculture needs to be present on the international agenda for climate change.

The MENA region at the heart of FAO's priority actions: integrated actions on Smallholders, water scarcity and resilience

The Mediterranean region is experiencing drastic changes with unprecedented challenges linked to food, climate and rural insecurities. At the same time the region holds great potential with its very specific agro-ecological, climatic conditions as well as peculiar socio-economic, cultural and historical features. In order for Mediterranean agriculture to shift towards a more integrated and horizontal approach, there is a need for transformational change through renewed policies. Mediterranean agriculture needs to achieve the goals in the context of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. This requires an integrated approach, whereby issues related to food security, employment, income-generation, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable natural resource use are all addressed in an integrated way also encompassing economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity.

Moreover, Mediterranean agriculture has to become more resilient to shocks and extreme events and to develop adaptation strategies as the adverse impacts of climate change are expected to worsen. As a result, actions geared towards technical and organizational innovations, improved and consolidated knowledge, physical, human and social capital strengthening as well as improved governance and inclusive investments are all important parts of this renewed vision of Mediterranean agriculture and rural development. FAO and CIHEAM, along with other strategic partners, are striving to develop this vision in support of member countries from the region.

FAO and CIHEAM: for a strategic partnership

FAO does not work in isolation: the value of partnerships

The entire world is called upon to bring its contribution to overcome the challenge of hunger eradication and poverty reduction. No single organization, individual, nor country can achieve this alone. Responsible citizens have an important role to play by minimizing food waste and consuming environmentally friendly food products. Responsible producers must also do their share by adopting sustainable agricultural practices embedded in a wide range of agricultural models including climate-smart agriculture and agro-ecological systems, to name only a few examples. Investors are called upon to invest in agricultural practices following the framework of the principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems as embraced in 2014 by a very inclusive multi-stakeholder process: the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which FAO has the honor to host.

Renewed partnership with CIHEAM: strategic plan for 2016

FAO and CIHEAM need to continue to strengthen their collaboration, which dates back more than 50 years. They share the same objectives of enhancing food and nutrition security through the development of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, a rational management of natural resources as well as of responsible and equitable food systems and value chains. We have been collaborating through joint knowledge generation, brokering dialogues and developing cooperation projects to strengthen the capacities of different actors in the region at different levels.

Both our organizations feel the need to renew their partnership around a strategic cooperation agenda for a sustainable agriculture in the face of the numerous social, political and economic changes in the region. This lay at the heart of the 2014 Algiers recommendation, adopted on the occasion of the 10th CIHEAM ministerial meeting, when the Ministers requested "that European Union, FAO and CIHEAM examine the idea of defining a common strategic cooperation agenda designed to support agricultural, food and sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean".

Both our organizations share a common vision of agricultural and rural development. Nonetheless, no matter how efficient our actions in the region have been so far, we do need to think out of the box and further build on our complementarities in order to adapt to the changing realities of the region. It is now time for us to be more strategic and pragmatic. We must strive to build consensus, avoid the wasting of resources and consider various options to address the region's most pressing challenges.

And the CIHEAM and the FAO are working on the development of a strategic Action Plan for the Mediterranean on a five years' time horizon as well as the signature of a revised partnership agreement (MOU). This action plan will be articulated around the themes of food and nutritional security, small-scale agriculture and family farming as well as addressing water scarcity in the region. In line with our respective strategic framework, it will be built around three joint areas of work along with concrete joint actions. These topics, which have emerged as key priorities for the region, have given birth to three FAO regional initiatives for MENA and will form the basis of the revised bilateral agreement (MoU) between the CIHEAM and the FAO.

This strategic action plan could be supported by the agricultural ministers of the CIHEAM's 13 Member States on the occasion of their meeting in 2016. Some key partners such as the European Union, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will be invited to join this action.

Joint actions, such as the co-authoring of the 2016 edition of *Mediterra* Report, the joint development of the MEDAGRI network and collaboration on MED-Amin, as well as the joint formulation of a strategic plan for the Mediterranean, are only a few concrete actions of this strategic action plan for the region.

The multi-faceted nature of food and nutrition insecurity in the region and the potential effects in the neighboring regions calls for collaborative efforts, partnership, networking, joint analysis and advocacy among key stakeholders. The strategic FAO-CIHEAM partnership will be based on a renewed vision of the Mediterranean region's needs and prospects. Agricultural and rural areas are at the heart of the stability for future prosperity. Innovation is needed to achieve a new vision for the Mediterranean, one that is more people-centered and aligned with the 2030 agenda and its "agriculture-centered" Sustainable Development Goals.



Water and Food Security in the Mediterranean Region *Challenges and Potential in a Changing Climate*

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A recent study on the “water footprint of humanity” shows that water used by the agricultural sector accounts for nearly 92 percent of annual global freshwater consumption (Hoekstra and Mekonnen, 2012). In the agricultural sector, 19 percent of the total water footprint relates to the production for export. Farmers generally tend to over-irrigate, as shown by studies in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, conducted by ICARDA and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Central and West Africa, where farmers over-irrigated wheat by 20-60 percent (Shideed et. al., 2005). Producers perceive water as a fixed input in the short run, but allocable among competing crops on the farm. As water prices were highly subsidized, they did not have a major impact on water allocation.

Water use efficiency is low in many areas. For example, it is 40-60 percent for irrigated agriculture in Syria (Munlahassan, 2007). This low figure is due to the widespread use of traditional surface irrigation methods with their low efficiency, high seepage and evaporation losses and uneven field coverage. A recent ICARDA study (Yigezu et al., 2011b) conducted in the three provinces of Syria showed that if the current adoption level of improved supplemental irrigation (ISI) continued at 22.3 percent, it could save at least 120 million m³ of water per year. Introducing a water use charge of US\$0.20 for every cubic meter applied would encourage adoption and conserve an additional 46 million m³ of water per year (Yigezu et al., 2011a), and increase total farm profits by US\$16.14 million per year, generating a total yearly impact of US\$36-90 million. However, water pricing in dry areas remains a sensitive political issue.

Climate change amplifies the food security challenges, as it affects crop yields, availability and distribution of freshwater and rainfall, and food prices (Vermeulen, 2014). As a result of rainfall variability, temperature fluctuations and frequent drought, farming in rainfed areas is highly risky and unpredictable, implying that food production in Near East and North Africa (NENA) countries is insecure. This is evident in FAO food security indicators (FAO, 2013). Two important indicators of food security and vulnerability are the cereal import dependency ratio and the value of food imports in total merchandise exports. Data indicate that the average cereal import dependency ratio of all NENA countries during 1990-2011 was 73.9 percent, which is the highest globally. The world cereal import dependency ratio during this period was 15.7 percent and that of developing regions 15.5 percent. NENA countries are also prone to food shortages and food price fluctuations in the international markets. This situation is further complicated by the fact that the value of food imports accounts for nearly one-third of the total merchandise exports, while food imports represent only 5.6 percent of the world's total merchandise exports.



Studies show that food security in NENA countries can be substantially enhanced through increased adoption of currently available technologies supported by enabling policy and institutional environments (Khouri, Shideed and Kherallah, 2011). On-farm results show a huge potential for improving land and water productivity and profitability of smallholder rainfed agriculture, with desired investment levels.

Dryland agriculture – a core issue for climate change

Dry areas cover more than 40% of the world's land surface and are home to 2.5 billion people – one-third of the global population. Poverty, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, frequent drought and environmental degradation are widespread. In recent decades, food production has fallen significantly in most dry areas, while demand has increased due to high levels of population growth. These areas face several demographic challenges like rapid population growth, high urbanization, large youth populations and the world's highest unemployment rate. Climate change is already exacerbating these problems, and experts predict that the situation is going to worsen.

The global food crisis of 2007/8 and subsequent price hikes have highlighted the danger of policies based on food imports. The dryland areas have a strong reliance on imported food, especially wheat, which is a staple product and suffers from substantially lower yields than in many other regions – up to 30 percent below the global average.

Across all dryland areas, scarce water availability is the key limiting factor for food production. All these countries are suffering from severe groundwater depletion and salinity, compounded by rapid natural resource degradation and desertification.

The Middle East and North Africa is the most water scarce region in the world, and the problem is set to deteriorate. Famines and disasters have hit drylands with increasing intensity and, together with spikes in food prices, have led to political unrest in many countries. With climate change, such events may become even more frequent.

Interestingly, agriculture plays a key role in the linkages between food security, climate change, water security and poverty. With declining overall rainfall levels, caused by climate change, periods of drought are becoming more frequent and intense. Temperatures are getting extreme and climatic zones are shifting. These result in shorter growing seasons for farmers and increased prevalence of pests and diseases in areas where they were not previously a threat to crops.

Strategies, technologies and best practices to better respond to climate change

With sustainable intensification of higher-potential agricultural areas, improved crop varieties and livestock breeds, integrated crop-livestock systems and more targeted research and investment, there are good prospects of reducing risk and even improving agricultural output, despite climate change. Different land and water management practices can mitigate the challenge of producing more with limited resources. For this, it is crucial to favor crop varieties and livestock breeds that make efficient use of the available natural resources (ICARDA/CCAFA, 2012).

In high potential rural areas, food production needs to be done with an emphasis on sustainable intensification. Egypt is an example of this type of ecosystem. In high potential areas, 72 percent of the increased food production is expected to come from agricultural intensification, another 21 percent is expected to come from cropping intensity, and only 7 percent will come from an increase in arable land.

For low potential marginal lands, it is important to make the natural resource base more resilient to climate change, reducing risk and vulnerability for the worst affected rural communities. Food production here is likely to center on the rearing of sheep and goats, though this may be coupled with the production of hardy drought resistant fodder crops. A good example is the Awassi sheep, a native breed that gives resilience to rural communities in the Middle East.

In seven countries across Middle East and North Africa, new approaches tested by national research and extension systems, together with ICARDA, have produced a 22 percent increase in wheat yields for Egypt and a 58 percent increase in Sudan – based on actual farmer experiences. Techniques include the use of different planting methods, high yielding varieties, improved water management and integrated pest management.

Advances in crop science to produce improved and higher-performing crops and livestock hold exciting prospects for making dryland food production systems more efficient, and more resistant to climatic pressures and new pests and diseases. More than 900 improved cereal and legume varieties have been released by national programs in partnership with ICARDA, and adopted by farmers worldwide. Releases of plant genetic materials from ICARDA's gene banks, which host wild relatives of barley, wheat and legumes, has led to the development of crops with higher yields and greater resistance to a range of biotic stresses. Some varieties also offer large improvements in bread-making quality, nutritional value and other traits.

Already, scientists have produced the following convincing results:

- New varieties that have been released for cultivation are generating annual benefits worth US\$850 million.
- Dryland researchers have developed synthetic wheat varieties that can produce 2.5 tons per ha with just 220 mm of water.
- 'Gokce', a drought tolerant variety of chickpea introduced in Turkey was able to withstand the worst drought of 2007. It is now used for about 80% of the country's chickpea production. With a yield advantage of 300 kg/ha over other varieties and world prices of over US\$1000/t, this variety brought in an additional US\$165 million for Turkish farmers in 2007 alone.

Diversification of agricultural systems is also an effective means of mitigating risk and increasing income, both in high potential areas and marginal lands. Herders in rangeland areas are being encouraged to produce value-added products, such as yoghurt and cheese from their sheep and goats. In Tunisia, pastoralists are growing spineless cactus as fodder for their ruminants.

Integrating crop-livestock systems can be another highly effective way of cushioning each sector from the external factors. Successful technologies that combine crop and livestock systems include:

- On-farm feed production
- Rotation of barley with forage legumes
- Growing cactus and fodder shrubs
- Making feed blocks from crop residues and agro industrial by-products.

Conservation agriculture (CA), which includes zero tillage, conserving nutrients and water in the undisturbed soil, retaining crop stubble and crop rotation, is particularly well suited to dryland farming, especially in rainfed conditions. This produces significant benefits through lower production costs, higher yields and better soil health and nutrient recycling. Under conservation agriculture, soil carbon is retained and increased, contributing to climate change mitigation.

Field trials on wheat, barley, lentil and chickpea have produced documented evidence. By using conservation agriculture together with good crop management, farmers can increase net revenues by about US\$120 per hectare. The extra revenue comes from higher yields (12 percent increase) and lower production costs (saving of US\$40 per hectare for eliminated plowing).

In four years, adoption has grown from zero to almost 27,000 hectares in Iraq and Syria. To encourage mechanization, specially designed zero-tillage seeders have been developed. These are manufactured locally by small-scale entrepreneurs. They cost in the range of US\$1,500-US\$5,000, as compared to US\$50,000-US\$60,000 for imported machines.

Better water management is needed to address the challenges of water security. Irrigation efficiency, crop rotation and using biotechnology for enhancing efficient water use in crops, are all options for making maximum use of scarce water reserves. Adapting crop varieties to use less water is a promising approach that is already producing impressive results in some dry countries. Investments in water technologies, such as drip irrigation, hydroponics, vertical agriculture and water harvesting techniques must go hand-in-hand with improved soil and crop management techniques.

Involvement of rural communities is essential in developing options to enhance water security. Strategies available to farmers include careful conservation and management of renewable groundwater, rainfall harvesting and underground storage (in cisterns or aquifers).

A policy shift is also important, so that the users can have better incentives to adopt more sustainable water management practices. In dryland areas in particular, there is an urgent need for more data on groundwater reserves and water quality, and for improved monitoring strategies. The resilience and adaptability of rural communities should be harnessed along with the scientific know-how on water efficiency, especially for agriculture.

Sustainable water management options for the dry countries include:

- Modernizing irrigation systems and improving efficiency
- Modifying cropping patterns to enhance water productivity
- Supplemental irrigation
- Macro and micro water catchments
- Watershed management
- Deficit irrigation.

Thus, a comprehensive three-pronged approach should target:

- Sustainable natural resource management, especially water
- Genetic improvement of crop and livestock
- Socio-economic policy and institutional support.

Partnerships for agricultural research

Agricultural innovation systems can be strengthened through research, education and extension. Agricultural research offers practical solutions to many of the constraints posed by climate change (ICARDA/CCAFS, 2012). A range of practical techniques can be highly effective, especially if supported by an enabling policy environment. In Egypt, for example, sowing wheat on raised beds increased yields by 25 percent. Experience shows that an integrated 'agro-ecosystems' approach is required to apply technical options in a 'holistic' way, to deliver real benefits to people's livelihoods.

An enabling national policy environment is essential to support investment in agricultural development, drive sustainable productivity growth and encourage better farming practices including natural resource management. In many dryland countries, there is a strong need for more capacity development and institutional support. Agriculture, which is the backbone of most dryland economies, needs to be a national priority. With the support of advances made in science, technology and research, farmers can be equipped to adapt to the new and changing climatic conditions.

Agricultural research is not a high investment priority for governments of developing countries, despite agriculture being the main engine for economic growth. Many dryland countries spend only between 0.2% and 0.5% of agricultural GDP on research. This low investment in science and technology for enhancing food production could cost countries dearly in the long run. Countries that have made high investments in science and technology and agricultural research have seen impressive economic growth as a result. Some of the examples include Brazil, China and India, and, more locally, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The benefits of investment in agricultural research extend far beyond the immediate farm sector. The impact that they have on transport and agro-industries helps in creating jobs and providing stable livelihoods. However, more funds are needed to promote adaptation. It will be important to develop a policy framework for public-private partnerships that can attract responsible private investment in the agriculture sector, and drylands in particular.

Partnerships are an important mechanism for sharing knowledge and solutions. Alliances can be developed between partners to help dryland countries improve agricultural performance and adapt to climate change challenges. ICARDA has successfully proven this through its collaborative work with partners like national programs, donors, ARIs, other CGIAR Centers, policy makers, farming communities, NGOs, etc. in all the above mentioned initiatives and achievements.

Concluding remarks

The problem in dry areas is not only natural resources scarcity, it is the combination of natural resources limitation (particularly water scarcity), degradation of natural resources, and low levels of resource use efficiency. Therefore, removing inefficiencies in resource use and food production systems is the key to achieve food and water security targets. Further growth in food production must come mainly from productivity growth and intensification, rather than expansion of cultivated areas.

From ICARDA's experiences in innovative dryland agriculture, it can be concluded that for attaining water and food security in the Mediterranean region in the context of climate variability, it is essential to achieve productivity growth and intensification through tested and proven scientific techniques together with enabling policy environment.

Promoting integrated systems approach is vital for the eco-efficiency criteria of sustainable food production systems. Focused attention and priority needs to be given to policy and investment in the rain-fed areas. Supporting dryland agriculture is of prime importance because it holds the key to future food security, and possibly a new Green Revolution.

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Food Security for Human Security in the Mediterranean

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Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)



Introduction

Food security is an issue of critical importance for the Mediterranean region, and therefore has always been a priority for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

PAM is an international organization that brings together the parliaments of 27 member states in the Mediterranean region on an equal footing, along with a number of associate and partner countries. Through its work, PAM strives towards the creation of the best political, social, economic and cultural environment and conditions for the fellow citizens of the member states. It carries out its work through its three Standing Committees (SCs): 1st SC on Political and Security Related Cooperation, 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social, and Environmental Cooperation, and the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue amongst Civilizations and Human Rights.

Food security represents a major issue for the entire world, because we need to feed a constantly increasing population by using the available soil. In this context, it may be worth noting that, at the global level, the issue is gaining momentum: the theme of the EXPO 2015, the Universal Exhibition hosted by the city of Milan in Italy, is self-explanatory about the priorities for the whole planet.

A multi-faceted issue

The relevance of food security is also critical in the wider domain of security. Beyond the purpose of avoiding humanitarian disasters such as famine, ensuring that populations have adequate access to food, at stable prices, is an essential factor to ensure national security. Indeed, food security directly affects the conditions of well-being and prosperity of entire populations, further constituting a potential threat to human security.

Food security is also a major concern for the Mediterranean region, due to ongoing climatic changes. Its geographical position is in fact conducive to an arid climate, susceptible to serious events, notably droughts. This region is particularly vulnerable to the phenomenon of climate change that is disrupting the environmental system of the Mediterranean, and has manifested itself with major extreme weather events that have caused severe food shortages.

The link between environmental and economic factors in matters of food security is particularly relevant in the Mediterranean. The environmental vulnerability of this region must be added to the configuration of its economy. Many countries in the Mediterranean, especially in the Middle Eastern and North African region, are highly dependent on a rural economy based on agriculture. Such economic and geographical features make many populations dependent on food production for their own income. The high poverty rates also reveal that such populations spend a big part of their income on basic food supplies. Therefore, food security is key to the prosperity and development of this region.

The critical connection with political stability

Due to its relevance and implications, food security is closely linked to political stability. Its determinant factors, that is to say climate change and the consequent fluctuations in food prices, act as stressors, which may intensify other grievances among the population. For instance, academics have identified a clear link between sharp increases in food prices and social unrest by comparing the UN Food Price Index with social unrest in the Mediterranean in 2008 and during the Arab Spring in 2011¹. The spikes in food prices critically affect stability, leading to the outburst of cumulated grievances in the form of riots and political protests. This model reveals that the lack of food security was one of the stressor factors which helped trigger the Arab Spring.

The link between food security and instability can be observed by looking at the examples of Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria in the lead up to the Arab Spring. Many studies focus on the rural and agricultural roots of the revolutions that took place during the so-called Arab Spring.

¹ <http://necsi.edu/research/social/foodcrises.html>

It is no coincidence that the events, which contributed to spark the protests in the whole region, originated in the North African country of Tunisia. The example of Tunisia indeed highlights the link between food security and political instability. As indicated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index from January 2004 to May 2011, global markets were hit by severe fluctuations in food prices. The two peaks in prices of 2008 and 2011 also correspond to a surge in riots in 30 countries around the world, including Tunisia. Such fluctuations particularly affected the Tunisian population because of the restructuring of the agricultural sector, which had been undergoing in the years leading to the Arab Spring. The Tunisian economy had in fact been undergoing a process of liberalization starting from the 1980s, which strengthened export-based agricultural production, and turned Tunisia into a net importer of basic food supplies like grain. Global rises in food prices therefore impacted the Tunisian imports, thereby affecting the cost of staple foods, greatly consumed by rural families. In the protests of 2008 and 2011, food security indeed constituted a precipitating factor for social unrest. The lack of stable price levels and the restructuring of the Tunisian agricultural can be considered as significant factors in the prompting of the political instability².

Egypt is another case in point. Similar to the Tunisian example, the issue of food security might raise serious concerns due to its potential impact on national security. During the years preceding the widespread uprisings of the Arab Spring, shortages in the supplies of subsidized bread conducted to riots and demonstrations. The 2007 bread riots are indicative of the negative consequences that the heavy dependence on imported wheat provokes³. Like Tunisia, Egypt is a net importer of wheat (Egyptian wheat is low in gluten and therefore needs to be mixed with imported wheat to make bread) and, as a consequence, its economy suffers from the fluctuations in global food prices. Both the social unrest of 2007 and the 2011 mobilization of Tahrir Square in the midst of the Arab Spring, reveal the role played by food price fluctuations and food insecurity in escalating the disaffection of the Egyptian people with regards to the Mubarak regime. In addition, the country faces a loss of arable land at an estimated rate of 11,700 hectares per year due to desertification.

As identified in a study of the Columbia University, the Syrian example proves the fragility of the Mediterranean region in the face of climate change, and its consequences on national security. Between 2006 and 2010, Syria experienced one of the worst droughts in its modern history. Small farming operations were affected the most, and as a result of this, around 1.5 million people were internally displaced. The movement of people from the rural farmlands to the big cities of Syria in search for work often proved unsuccessful, and many of them faced abject poverty⁴.

The government's policies in regards to subsidies for water-intensive crops and bad irrigation techniques did not help addressing this situation, but perhaps even contributed to the growing dissatisfaction of the Syrian farming community with the government⁵. Unlike other Arab Spring movements, which started in major cities, the Syrian Arab Spring began in Da'ara, which is an agricultural hub. The areas which were affected the most by the drought were in the North Eastern parts of the country, which now hosts the self-declared Islamic State. We must not ignore the fact that climate change may have played a role in the unfolding of events in Syria, contributing to a wide array of consequences, including security threats.

PAM activities on food security

In order to work towards food security it is important to take both preventative and conservatory measures to environmental factors that may destabilise food production or access, as well as to have a comprehensive strategy to achieve this goal. Food security is closely dependent on effective trade policy, sustainable farming practices, water security, sustainable irrigation techniques, and proper waste management. Although various levels of government and the private sector are involved in these areas, all effective action starts with good policies and the right legislation. This is why the role of lawmakers is very important on a national level, as well as on an international level, to ensure the proper exchange of good practices, effective approaches, innovative ideas, experiences, as well as international cooperation to ensure food security on a regional level.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean has tackled food security issues from several perspectives. The 2nd PAM Standing Committee regularly produces reports and resolutions on pressing issues, which are adopted annually at the PAM Plenary Sessions, and in 2012, Food Security was one of the key topics addressed in the adopted documents. Food Security in the Mediterranean region is closely linked to issues of "climate change and management of water resources". These are also two topics of high priority for PAM, which has adopted reports and resolutions dedicated to environment and climate change every year since the establishment of the Assembly, and on the issue of water resource management in the region in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

² <http://www.ijsaf.org/archive/19/2/gana.pdf>

³ <http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/conferences/2011-edia/papers/711-berazneva.pdf>

⁴ Peter H. Gleick, 2014: Water, Drought, Climate Change, and Conflict in Syria. *Wea. Climate Soc.*, 6, 331–340.
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-13-00059.1>

⁵ Francesco Femia and Caitlin Werrell, Climate Change Before and After the Arab Awakening: The Cases of Syria and Libya, <http://climateandsecurity.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/climatechangeandabspring-ccs-cap-stimson.pdf>

In 2010, the PAM Second Standing Committee established the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean, which serves as a link between regional parliamentarians and leaders from the private sector. The PAM Panel has been very active on various issues, such as food security, where cooperation between the private and public spheres is essential.

The value of cooperation at the international level

Aware of the importance of international cooperation as an instrument to join efforts in facing common challenges, PAM has developed excellent cooperation, on the issue of food security, with key regional actors such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). In 2011, PAM Vice-President Sen. Amoruso addressed the meeting of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of PACE, highlighting that food scarcity and speculation on food commodities, are factors which have played a role in destabilization of the southern Mediterranean region.

PAM has strong relations with UNESCO, and the two organizations cooperate on a variety of issues. In 2012, PAM and UNESCO co-organized the *International workshop on knowledge and policies for health security, climate change effects mitigation and the Mediterranean environmental transition*, which was held in Turin, Italy. Two separate sessions focused on *Food Safety, Food Security, and environmental sustainability: the case of the Mediterranean Diet* and *Food Security, Environmental Migrations and Urban Sustainability*.

In addition PAM, as an observer member of the UN, enjoys excellent relations with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and most notably the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO regularly participates and contributes to the activities of PAM and its Panel. For instance, in 2011, the Assistant Director General of FAO, Mr. Laurent Thomas delivered a key note speech at the PAM meeting of the Standing Committees, in Palermo. During his address, Mr. Thomas urged member states to use PAM as a platform for developing cooperation and solidarity strategies in the event of food shortages. In 2015, PAM has formally requested to become an observer at the FAO, in order to formalize and structure the existing cooperation.

Most recently, PAM tackled the issue of food security at the 2nd SDSN Mediterranean Conference: "Solutions for Agri-food Sustainability in the Mediterranean". This event, organised by the University of Siena under the auspices of PAM, was an initiative sponsored by the UN SDSN Mediterranean and the Region of Tuscany (Italy). PAM contributed at the event, underlining that food security requires a legislative, educational and research approach by all stakeholders.

The cooperation with the UN System will also be related to the UN post-2015 development agenda and the new Sustainable Development Goals, which will be adopted in New York in September.

PAM also addressed the Private Sector Forum on Food Security in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region organised in Barcelona, on 5-6 May 2015, by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The Barcelona event represented an opportunity to underline the importance for PAM to work with all the major actors on the food security issue, as well as relevant stakeholders from both the public and the private sectors, in order to provide legislative support for sustainable agriculture solutions on a national level, and to increase policy harmonization on the regional level to achieve comprehensive food security for all the people of the Mediterranean region.

Food Security was one of the main topics of the meeting "Science, technology and environment: waste management and food security", held by PAM in Milan on 11 June 2015. A session of the event was dedicated to the "Use of organic waste for Food Security and Environment". On that occasion, the importance of using organic waste in order to produce organic nutrients for the soil was repeatedly stressed, due to the crucial role played by the soil organic matter (SOM) in increasing the productivity of the soil.

PAM considers the CIHEAM as an essential interlocutor for contributing to the challenges faced by food security in the region. Therefore it is the intention of PAM to deepen its relations with the CIHEAM in order to establish a structured and mutually beneficial relation between the two institutions. The experts of the CIHEAM, particularly within the framework of activities of its Panel on Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean, could greatly contribute to the work of the Mediterranean parliamentarians, who want to play a primary role in supporting food security through their legislative activity at national and regional level.



Building sustainable supply chains: ITC's Trade for Sustainable Development Principles

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Introduction

Where does the food on our plates come from? Only a few years ago, the answer would have been important to a small niche of consumers, or perhaps to respond to the inquiries of a curious young diner. This is no longer the case. Consumers increasingly demand sustainably produced food. Traceability - an essential component of proving that food is grown, processed, and traded in a sustainable manner - is becoming big business.

20 years after the Barcelona Declaration and 15 years after the United Nations Millennium Summit it is now firmly recognized that sustainability is key for building economic resilience of economies, communities and preserving livelihoods. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will constitute the new global development agenda for the next 15 years and will be officially adopted by world leaders at the September 2015 UN Summit in New York, also places sustainability issues at its core. One only has to take a look at SDG2 - focusing on food security and promotion of sustainable agriculture to understand this.

Produce more, Produce better

The growth in prominence of sustainable agricultural production occurs against the backdrop of enormous pressure on local and global food systems. By 2050, the world will need to feed two billion more people, while coping with climate change-induced disruptions of historical patterns of rainfall and agricultural production.

Meeting the challenge of long-term food security requires producing more food from less water, soil, air, and chemical inputs; more conscious consumption, with far less food waste; and all the while, securing better livelihoods for millions of small-scale farmers while protecting eco-systems and biodiversity.

Meanwhile, the market has responded to consumer desires for sustainably produced food with a proliferation of voluntary sustainability standards and certification schemes, the results of which are visible in just about any supermarket in Europe. These voluntary standards and schemes have created lucrative new market opportunities. But they have other, less straightforward, implications. Consumers wondering what to buy might struggle to choose among a dizzying array of options, each promising variations on roughly similar sustainability goals.

More significantly, voluntary standards have also placed added pressure on farmers and agribusinesses around the world to provide evidence of good sustainability practice. In developing countries, complying with - and proving compliance with - such standards can be prohibitively expensive, especially for smaller producers.

It is difficult to argue that standards that exacerbate the economic marginalization of the poorest farmers are worthy of the term 'sustainable', given its implied balance among the economic, the environmental, and the social. At the same time, well-designed standards and traceability along supply chains, coupled with targeted technical assistance, can be invaluable tools to foster the development of sustainable food systems, increasing farmers' well-being while encouraging better environmental practices in agricultural production.

The International Trade Centre (ITC), a Geneva-based joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, takes a two-pronged approach towards maximising the contribution of voluntary standards to sustainable development. The first deals with the standards themselves: they should be coherent, avoid needless complexity, and, where possible, move towards mutual recognition or harmonization. The second deals with traceability: technological advances are making traceability more affordable and accessible, giving buyers, retailers and consumers the assurances they need, while simultaneously making it easier to target the precise points in the supply chain where actors are falling short of sustainable practice.

Convergence of agricultural standards between Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) and EU countries is a good example of the potential benefits of harmonization of standards among Mediterranean countries. In that regard, the technical assistance that CIHEAM is providing through its work in upgrading agricultural practices in developing countries has been complementary to ITC's approach to support small and medium sized producers and enterprises to better connect with value chains and markets. To ensure that these interventions are a success it will be important to engage all stakeholders, including business, and make markets part of the solution. With this as a guiding principal there is an opportunity for the ITC and CIHEAM to deepen their cooperation in the future within the scope of the Euromed partnership.

Trade for Sustainable Development Principles

Turning to ITC's approach, last year saw a launch of a set of 'Trade for Sustainable Development' principles to support sustainability practices in global supply chains. By adhering to the Trade for Sustainable Development Principles, stakeholders from across the supply chain are expected to embrace, support and enact – within their sphere of influence – a set of core values that support sustainable trade.

Sustainability is the first of the principles. We need a set of core criteria, common to all sustainability initiatives, which define 'sustainability' from the perspective of everyone in the supply chain, from primary producers to consumers. We have to reduce the burden on producers and suppliers, incentivize capacity building, and understand the impacts different measures have on the ground.

In addition to embracing the 'sustainability' values associated with trade, signatories should also adhere to the principle of transparency, which is the next core Trade for Sustainable Development principle. ITC's "Standards Map", a neutral, online database of information on nearly 200 voluntary sustainability standards and eco-labels is a vehicle for enhancing transparency about these schemes; ITC and its partners are developing a tool to evaluate and compare sustainability standards for both content and compliance processes.

Transparency is empowering: using Standards Map and self-assessment tools, we work with smallholders to sensitize them to the basic areas of good agricultural practices are required to sell on to a trader or ultimate buyer. We also work with companies and industry platforms to improve access for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

To keep transaction costs to a minimum, organizations must be open to sharing good practices. Turf wars don't help the cause of sustainable development. That is why the final principle is harmonization. While harmonizing disparate standards is not easy, there is no inherent reason why two retailers, each with their own eco-label for the same objective, cannot agree on an identical sustainability audit for a given product. We must build collaboratively on existing resources and methodologies with the aim of avoiding duplication in standards, multiplication of audits or assessment methodologies.

Since the principles were launched in October 2014, the number of signatories has grown steadily, reaching approximately 40 by mid-2015¹. They include large multinationals such as Nestlé, supply chain traceability enablers such as GlobalStandard 1 (GS1), regional producers' associations, standard-setting organizations, and business platforms gathering multiple industry players.

We hope the Trade for Sustainable Development Principles will become a foundation for standard-setting organizations, multinationals, NGOs, and others, in shaping sustainability standards rooted in the UN's post-2015 development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable supply chains traceability and targeted aid, thanks to web-based global solutions

Turning now to traceability, the next frontier for sustainability in supply chains. Currently, the absence of comprehensive digital links between supply chain actors means that they cannot adequately understand each other's sustainability and quality management attributes. Neither, of course, can consumers.

Yet as we have seen, buyers increasingly demand such information. And technological innovations – notably web-based platforms and the increasing ease of bringing together social networks and analysing large quantities of data – make it easier to track sustainability practices at each step of the production chain than ever before.

In a manner analogous to the voluntary standards themselves, the buyers' new sustainability requirements, partly stemming from the underlying consumer demand for sustainably produced goods is potentially a powerful tool for advancing sustainable trade practices – but risks leaving out smallholder farmers and SMEs unless complemented by action to integrate them into traceable, sustainable supply chains.

Smart use of technology can both enable traceability and pinpoint places in the supply chain where external capacity support could be targeted to boost sustainability practices most efficiently. This is why ITC is working with the UN Global Compact and GS1 to develop a free online system which provides a foundation for traceability and sustainability-mapping in the supply chain.

Under the system, all supply chain participants, including farms and SMEs, will be able to register and obtain a unique identifier (a number). In a dedicated online platform, these numbers will serve as a profile identifier – a 'suitcase' containing key information about the individual farmer or business, their location, or what they produce or provide as a service. Farmers and businesses will be able to volunteer information about themselves and possibly share it with other stakeholders, such as regulators and potential business partners, in a manner not dissimilar from how we share information about ourselves on Facebook or LinkedIn.

Participating in the system makes commercial sense for farmers: by signalling who they are and what they do, they can enhance their visibility in the supply chain. Built-in sustainability self-assessments will let them signal their existing practices to potential customers. For buyers and retailers, the system will enable them to manage and communicate their sustainable supply chain commitments better.

¹ See <http://www.intracen.org/t4sd/principles>

The system will also contribute to improving sustainability performance. Information associated with the profiles based on the unique numbers will enable actors at every level of the supply chain to identify sustainability issues at the various stages in the production process. Primary producers and processors in the developing world will be able to better understand relevant sustainability codes, and signal where they might need assistance.

The data can help governments, regulators and external donors determine where such technical assistance is most needed, making it possible to target aid at the crops, regions, or producers. Finally, the data will enable companies around the world to benchmark themselves against peers elsewhere.

In the medium to long run, the data yielded by the system will provide a macro picture of sustainability trends in regional and global food systems, pointing to successes and areas where improvement is necessary.

According to the World Food Programme, some 795 million people today do not have enough food to lead healthy and active lives. Without available, affordable, and nutritious food, we will not be able to achieve the post-2015 development agenda's objectives of ending hunger and other forms of extreme deprivation.

Food security gains will prove temporary unless agricultural production operates within environmental and social constraints. This is why promoting sustainable agriculture rightly figures in the prospective Sustainable Development Goals. Well-crafted voluntary sustainability standards, effective traceability, and well-directed capacity support can help get us there.




International
Trade
Centre

Trade for Sustainable Development Forum 2015

Building Sustainable Supply Chains

1-2 October 2015
Geneva, Switzerland

The Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Forum provides a platform to share experiences, promote sustainable trade practices, and showcase different ways to enhance transparency in supply chains.

It enables discussion on voluntary sustainability standards and benchmarking approaches to improve standards implementation and usability to have a positive impact for suppliers and buyers.

This year, the Forum looks at current initiatives that connect small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to sustainable supply chains. The forum will take stock of the progress and lessons learned since the Trade for Sustainable Development principles were launched in October 2014.

Promoting sustainability, transparency, and harmonization in supply chains while supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, the principles encourage companies and institutions to embrace these core values in order to build more sustainable supply chains.

The event brings together over 200 representatives from multinational corporations, governments, international organizations and NGOs from national, regional and international backgrounds, as they all have a stake in more transparent and harmonized voluntary sustainability standards in international trade.

The Forum is organized by the Trade for Sustainable (T4SD) programme of the International Trade Centre (ITC). The International Trade Centre is the joint agency of the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

<http://www.intracen.org/Trade-for-Sustainable-Development-T4SD-Forum/>

The Mediterranean Farmers' Perspective on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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World Farmers Organization (WFO)



During the course of the current year, the combined presentation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the approval of the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN General Assembly in New York, will finally bring sustainability at the forefront of the international policy coordination agenda.

Expected to frame political and corporate policies over the next 15 years, the SDGs are a set of 17 ambitious goals described as *"action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable"*, and accompanied by 169 associated targets, very general and to be adjusted for each country according to general conditions and existing priorities.

Compared to their predecessors the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), SDGs broaden the sphere of action to include new topics such as sustainable growth, resilience, reduction of inequality, sustainable consumption, climate change, access to energy and conservation of both land and marine resources.

While MDGs have not fully considered the holistic nature of development. The SDGs find respective correlations within topics in a way to create an overall action plan to be tackled simultaneously at different levels: globally, nationally and locally. In addition to eliminating poverty, the new framework will need to address the drivers of change, such as economic growth, job creation, reduced inequality and innovation that makes better and more careful use of natural resources. The MDGs were considered targets for poor countries to achieve, with finance from wealthy states. With SDGs, every country will be expected to work towards achieving the goals.

Within this massive project every actor in society -from national Governments to members of civil society, international organizations and academia - will have to play a role.. This works also for the private sector such as agriculture and the farming, that are increasingly emerging as global player in the development of the agenda.

The role of farmers in detail

The role of agriculture in the achievement of Goal 2 claiming to ensure to *"End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"* by 2030, is fundamental. Farmers have a crucial role to play and must be in a position to feed the world population by providing healthy, nutritious, affordable and diverse food, while protecting the environment, securing food safety and respecting animal welfare. Food security underpins the achievement of almost every development goals, as it is a major contribution to lifting people out of poverty by enabling them to find a decent job and go to school.

Farmers should produce food that be enough, good, safe and at reasonable prices for consumers. They can produce food in a wide variety of ways, year round. This variety is key to end all forms of malnutrition as it allows for a balanced diet, acknowledging the nutritional value of vegetables, as well as of animal food products and ensuring healthy lives. Sustainable agriculture is a fundamental element for the future development agenda as it creates lasting growth in rural areas and ensure food security. It is about bringing together different agricultural systems, depending on the local traditions and regional constraints, which can jointly deliver conventional or organic agriculture, reduce tillage, provide efficient nutrient and water management and inspire environmentally sustainable management of grasslands. A similar observation should be made with regard to the protection and availability of genetic diversity in agriculture (2.5), which should be promoted not only as such, but also as a functional model to a sustainable and competitive agricultural production.

For what concerns Goal 15 claiming to *"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forest, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"*, farmers are stewards in combating desertification and land degradation. Yet, they can do more than avoid downgrading of land. In fact, farmers can actively upgrade farmland by contributing to halting biodiversity loss. They can provide valuable experiences to increase the nature potential of farmland as well as to the management of nature's reserves. In this regard, they are key in providing access to green spaces and help strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's natural heritage, thus creating the pillars for the development of sustainable tourism, leading to higher occupational rates in rural areas.

Looking through the SDGs and especially on the single targets set within each goal, further comments related to the role the agricultural sector is likely to play arise as follows:

- Goal 6 claims *"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"*, the agricultural sector has already made good progress and should be considered to be one of the areas where it is still possible to increase efficiency. However, appropriate investment is required, as it will support farmers in optimizing the use of water in the production processes as well as in the management of water resources.
- In Goal 7, centred on the *"access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"*, agriculture can be a playing field for the use of renewable energy sources able to boost and optimize the use of agricultural soils.
- Goal 11 calls for making *"cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"*. Along this goal one of the target focuses on the availability of "safe, inclusive and accessible" green areas in urban areas by 2030 (paragraph 11.7). This is also an objective that can benefit from the support of agricultural enterprises around the world.
- Goal 12, addressing the private sector for more *"sustainable consumption and production patterns"*, cannot but involve the agriculture sector already struggling to significantly reduce food waste and losses along the supply chain of food production (paragraph 12.3). To this purpose the optimization of consumption patterns and production techniques are key elements that can certainly be improved through research and innovation.

The Post-2015 Agenda won't be effective unlike the targets set will be attentively monitored. It is necessary to intervene and setting specific deadlines for achieving goals. It is also important to always have global agricultural enterprise representatives involved, at least for the objectives that are directly and indirectly related to agricultural production. That is why the World Farmers' Organisation, WFO, is strongly engaged in representing the voice of farmers in the Post-2015 negotiations, in its capacity of Operating Partner for the Farmers Major Group.

The Mediterranean perspectives

Not only can the SDGs improve the farming sector for the reasons mentioned above, but they can also enable farmers from the Mediterranean area to have access to tools, regulations, innovative systems used by other countries in the same sector. Moreover SDGs can likely guarantee a more sustainable food production leading to food security for farmers.

Evidence shows that the Euro-Mediterranean Region is vulnerable to environmental disasters, both land-based and at sea. According to a report¹ realised by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Program, the Mediterranean coastal environment provides the livelihood for at least 150 million people. 13 gas plants, 55 refineries, 180 power stations, 750 yacht harbours, 286 commercial ports, 112 airports, and 238 desalination plants were listed by the same report along the Mediterranean coast; they could be potential sources of environmental emergencies. The report states also that establishing adequate measures to mitigate the impact in case of natural or man-made disasters is a top priority for the whole region. Hopefully, the SDGs can act as a concrete solution to these issues. They will, with no doubt, contribute in raising awareness of governments and as well as making citizens more familiar with the possible negative consequences on the Mediterranean environment.

Over the last decades, the Mediterranean basin has increasingly become a complex socio-economic, political and institutional area spanning several geographical spaces and entities, such as EU countries, pre-accession and candidate countries, those involved in EU Southern Neighbourhood Policy, Euro Mediterranean & multilateral institutions, as well as different sets of sub-national, economic and civil society actors. This diversity of stakeholders represents a variety of local, regional, national, EU and global cultures; as well as of geopolitical situations, strategies and policies. Not to mention cross-cutting challenges at basin level such as sustainable development in its so-called three dimensions (economic, social and environmental); the action on climate change and environmental risks prevention, or the promotion of decentralization and democratic governance, among many others.

While planning and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs the Mediterranean area, there are several factors that must be contemplated. The first one is the climate in this area. In North Africa and in Southern Europe, a considerable amount of land has been forsaken, especially in arid and mountainous regions, giving rise to the possibility of fires. We also need to consider that some of these areas in Northern Africa have become temporary homes of local nomads; therefore they must also be considered while implementing SDGs. The proposed Goal 5, aiming at achieving gender equality and women empowerment is also crucial regarding agricultural progress. Indeed in the Mediterranean, women play important role in agriculture, in cattle farming but they participate very rarely in the decision making process. At all levels, civilian and governmental in the Mediterranean, girls and women should have an equal access to information, school, work and be represented

¹ Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Program (PPRD South) February 2013, <http://www.preventionweb.net>

Regarding Southern European countries, the main issues to consider are the economic and social concerns regarding agriculture. Countries such as Greece and Spain have seen their agricultural sectors stagnate because of the financial crisis. Recovery has not been successful as both political and economic solutions have been unable to solve the problems. This has caused society, as well as farmers to demonstrate their lack of support for institutions. Therefore cooperation with farmers will be essential in creating trust in the accomplishment of the objectives. Farmers in these regions will need educational, financial and institutional support in order to allow them to compete with the prices of other producers within the European Union. In regards to North African regions, efforts will have to be directed towards eradicating poverty. This step will allow society, especially farmers, to position themselves more adequately and focus on agricultural development. Moving on, in order to achieve such sustainable goals, it is primordial that efficient use of water and soils is promoted among producers. It is a key step in preventing the loss of biodiversity in the region. This means that the farming culture will have to transform and adapt to the current situation farmers are living in.

In view of these global challenges, it therefore appears crucial to strengthen multi-level and territorial cooperation within the Mediterranean rims, in order to reinforce the assets the area naturally benefits from, while reducing and solving the common challenges it has been faced with over time.² Accomplishing these goals will not only depend on National Governments, but also on a broader spectrum of stakeholder and on individual choices, at large. The detailed approach to these goals aims at creating an environment of engagement from the people for the people. This is where WFO's expertise and network will be crucial in ensuring that the voice of world's farmers is heard clear and loud.

Conclusion

As representative of the global farming community, WFO has been leading the involvement of the Farmers Major Group in the preparation phase of the Post-2015 agenda and it is keen to continue taking over this critical role during the implementation phase.

WFO community is composed of National Farmers Organisations, strongly engaged in the political lives of their countries. In this perspective, WFO members look at the SDGs implementation phase as an opportunity to strengthen their cooperation with National Governments and to support them to implement the Goals with a view to reinforce the agricultural sector from the national to the global level. In fact, national Farmers Organisations may provide an added value to the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs, in close collaboration with National Governments.

Moreover, Farmers' Organisation may give their fundamental contribution to the realization of a so-called "data revolution", the gathering of more and more precise statistical information on agriculture within countries that will be used to measure the success of the SDGs implementation.

On their side, to be really effective in tackling issues arising from sustainability, farmers need access to appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make continuous improvements to agricultural sustainability. Investments in education and capacity building will provide lasting returns. Farmers need the possibilities to acquire the appropriate knowledge and to become real entrepreneurs. This is because the economic dimension of sustainable development is important as well as the social and environmental ones.



² European Economic and Social Committee, *The post-2015 objectives in the Euro-Mediterranean region*, by Ms Le Nouail Marlière, June 2015

Future prospects of the Euro-Mediterranean integration

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Challenges and Opportunities | Where we stand

By calendar coincidence, two main events related to the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation define the agenda of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2015: the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Process (1995) - from which legacy the Union for the Mediterranean and its Secretariat are direct heirs - and the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) aimed at offering adequate responses to the growing challenges of the Mediterranean region by involving, through a joint consultation process, relevant stakeholders and taking into account the wide and varied interests and concerns. For those working in favour of integration between both rims of the Mediterranean, both events are an occasion to analyse the current political and socio-economic situation in the region, while taking stock of the achievements and difficulties with respect to the previously established objectives and identifying future prospects arising from the new context.

Transforming the Euro-Mediterranean basin into a common area of peace and stability, building a zone of shared prosperity as well as developing human resources, promoting mutual understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies¹ were the main goals of the Barcelona Process. Twenty years after the signature of the Barcelona Declaration and ten years after the implementation of the current ENP, despite positive advancements achieved at all levels of sectoral activities, it has been demonstrated that other challenges and happenings are withholding progress and derailing regional focus.

Joining the long-lasting conflicts in the Mediterranean, by perpetuating political instability and drastically impacting the economies of the region, situations in Syria and Libya have a tremendous impact on the socio-economic state of play in the region. The huge waves of refugees and displaced is escalating dramatically, with more than 4 million² and almost 28.000³ registered refugees respectively in addition to millions of internal displaced persons and asylum seekers. This human tragedy is added to the classical dilemma of illegal migration faced by the European continent. Unfortunately, so far this year more than 2.000 people⁴ have died or have disappeared in the Mediterranean attempting to reach Italian and Greek coasts. This drastic milestone indicates the Mediterranean as the most dangerous and deadliest migrant route for those who abandon their own countries and risk their lives in search for better economic opportunities, fleeing war or lack of freedom. However, in this humanitarian tragedy, we cannot forget that almost 188.000⁵ migrants were finally rescued after making the perilous journey to cross over to Europe.

The rates of youth unemployment in the countries of North of Africa (25%) and the Middle East (19%) are higher than any other developing region. Women are especially affected by unemployment: female participation in the labour force only reaches 25.4% in the Middle East and 28.1% in North Africa⁶. Paradoxically, in this region the level of education of youth does not guarantee finding a job. On the contrary, surveys show that unemployment rates are higher for young university graduates. The most flagrant case is Tunisia where unemployment rates of this group reach approximately 30% while those of young people with secondary and primary studies stand at 20% and 12% respectively⁷.

Nevertheless, in this dark panorama, it is worthwhile exploring the opportunities that could be developed. The population growth in the MENA region, among the highest in the world, is characterized by a significant demographic transition in which young people (aged 15-24) represent approximately 30% of the total. This, of course, represents a huge potential for stakeholders to take advantage and expand the field of human development. Indeed, investing in youth as well as in education and vocational training focusing on employability is, in the long term, a more effective and powerful tool than any other complementary security measure to be implemented in the region.

All above-mentioned challenges, affecting both Europe and the South and East of the Mediterranean, are calling for a major intercultural dialogue, stronger cooperation and, notably, further regional integration. Therefore, these issues can only be tackled through coordinated efforts: partnerships and synergies should be created, complementarities and commonalities found, and best practices exchanged and replicated.

The role of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM Secretariat) is, precisely, to provide this appropriate collective regional response by combining the regional and policy dialogue with the promotion of tangible regional projects with an important socio-economic impact in the quality of life of the populations. In other words, a political strategy with on-ground action.

The role of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean | Who we are

The UfM Secretariat is the only intergovernmental organisation that unites the 28 Member States of the European Union, nine⁸ Arab Mediterranean countries, Israel, Turkey and the Balkans. This is a highly valuable asset since all countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region, from both North and South, are meeting around the same table with one main guiding principle: co-ownership.

¹ Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, 27-28 November 1995. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV:r15001>

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), July 2015. <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), June 2015. <http://www.unhcr.org/538484ab9.html>

⁴ International Organisation for Migration (IOM), August 2015. <http://www.iom.int/infographics/missing-migrants-project-global-map-10-august-2015>

⁵ International Organisation for Migration (IOM), August 2015. <http://www.iom.int/news/deadly-milestone-mediterranean-migrant-deaths-pass-2000>

⁶ World Bank (WB), 2013. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/07/04/000445729_20130704145420/Rendered/PDF/792620PUB0EPI10Box0377371B00Public0.pdf

⁷ Office of Economic Cooperation for the Mediterranean and the East (OCEMO), 2014: http://www.ocemo.org/Connaissance-des-hommes-et-des-territoires-en-Mediterranee_a412.html

⁸ Due to political reasons, Syria suspended its participation in December 2011.

This is possible thanks to the strong political will and leadership of the UfM Co-Presidency, led by the European Union, from the North, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from the South, along with all 43 UfM Member States. The Union for the Mediterranean is therefore, unique in the region, governed on the basis of a geographical balance also consistent with the ENP, as well as with Southern Mediterranean countries' priorities and interests.

The UfM Secretariat acts as a platform for regional and policy dialogue, bringing together governments and a great diversity of actors in the region united in strengthening cooperation and integration in the Mediterranean. The UfM Secretariat is, in this sense, a "one-stop-shop" for exchanging ideas and best practices, weaving networks and building consensus. Since 2012, 8 high level conferences, 13 Senior Official Meetings and more than one hundred expert forums and round tables were organised by the UfM Secretariat and are good examples of this inclusive dynamic.

It is important to stress that the UfM Secretariat could never fulfil its mission without joining forces with the global ecosystem of organisations which constitute its institutional framework. In effect, in pursuing its objectives, the UfM Secretariat counts on a wide magma of partners with which works in complete synergy. These partners are, among many others, the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (PA-UfM), the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), the Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (Business-Med), the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI University) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

Furthermore, the UfM Secretariat is the operational institution where political decisions are put into action, and where regional and sub-regional projects are developed with the mobilisation and support of a multiplicity of stakeholders (parliamentarians, international financial organisations, development agencies, private sector companies, civil society organisations, universities and research centres, foundations, etc.).

Thanks to another important principle of action, variable geometry, every UfM Member State is allowed to take part in projects that may be of interest to them. Even though UfM project eligibility criteria requires an initial involvement of a minimum of three countries (including at least one Southern country), this flexible and pragmatic approach offers all UfM Member States the opportunity to join in at any stage of the project cycle.

To date, the activity of the UfM Secretariat covers major regional strategic matters such as energy, environment, transport interconnection and sustainable urban development, education and research, employment and gender issues. The UfM Secretariat acts as a catalyser of concrete projects on these fields which receive the unanimous endorsement of the UfM Senior Officials, representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 43 Member States. These projects -either related to infrastructure or human development- can be framed in three cross-cutting pillars: 1) Youth employability and inclusive growth, 2) Women's empowerment, and 3) Sustainable development.

Highlighted in the first of these three pillars, and in line with the subject of this article- is the UfM flagship initiative "Med4Jobs" aimed at addressing unemployment in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular developing the skills of youth and women through education and training, reducing the gap between labour demand and job supply, and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development with a special focus on SMEs and start-ups. Med4Jobs envisages identifying, upscaling and replicating successful job-creating projects in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean basin while establishing a North-South regional platform based on workshops for dialogue, sharing of best practices and private-public collaboration.

Emblematic projects of Med4Jobs initiative are, by way of illustration, *MedNC*⁹ -a network of accredited schemes for the occupational and social integration of young people excluded from the labour market, namely school dropouts and unemployed graduates- and *HOMERe*¹⁰ -an internship mobility programme between nine Mediterranean countries facilitating transition from higher education to qualified work in the country of origin-.

Both projects are led by the UfM Division of Higher Education and Research, which aims to encourage the development of high-level joint study and research programmes, facilitate student and researcher transnational mobility, increase students' entrepreneurial skills and employability chances and foster innovation, knowledge and technology-sharing and its economic return on the industry.

In line with these priorities, the UfM-labelled project *Higher Education on Food Security & Rural Development*¹¹, promoted by CIHEAM, combines the allocation of scholarships for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean students with the improvement of the ongoing CIHEAM Master of Science degrees and advanced training courses for professionals.

Advancing regional integration in education and research, a priority for the next decade|The way forward

One of the major goals which must be met in years to come is regional integration in the Mediterranean. Whether it be in the fields of trade, economy, transport interoperability, industrial cooperation, agriculture markets, environment and climate change, higher education or scientific research -but also in many other strategic fields- this should be the underlying objective of any new investment in the region. Intra-regional dialogue, exchange of ideas and experiences, joint endeavors and common projects are needed now more than ever.

⁹ MedNC is the acronym for Mediterranean New Chance. <http://ufmsecretariat.org/mednc-new-chance-mediterranean-network/>

¹⁰ HOMERe is the acronym for High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executives Recruitment. <http://ufmsecretariat.org/homere-high-opportunity-for-mediterranean-executive-recruitment/>

¹¹ Higher Education on Food Security & Rural Development: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/higher-education-on-food-security-and-rural-development/>

In particular, education, research and innovation are key elements to secure greater progress and cooperation between both rims of the Mediterranean and also between Southern Mediterranean countries. Even though it is obvious that education brings significant gains to countries, we must not forget the human and social benefits of raising levels of knowledge and of building closer ties between schools, universities, students, professors and researchers. Not only through enhanced skills and higher employment opportunities, increased innovation potential and competitiveness, but also - if not mainly - through greater fulfilment of individuals, development of open-mindedness and mutual respect, more active citizenship, tolerance hence more governable, equal, peaceful and inclusive societies.

One UfM labelled exemplary project, which stems from this vision, is the *Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes* (in French, *Université Euro-Méditerranéenne de Fès* -UEMF¹²), a new regional campus of excellence that, having already launched its first programmes in temporary premises, will be officially inaugurated in Morocco in September 2016. UEMF aims at attracting committed and highly competent students from across the Mediterranean and training them, in Arabic, French and English languages, on strategic issues for the development of the region by contributing to build the first generation of Euro-Mediterranean-minded young professionals. UEMF programmes will be complementary with those from the EMUNI University (also awarded with the UfM label¹³). Both institutions, operating from their headquarters in Fes and Slovenia, will stand as regional hubs for Higher Education and Research in the Mediterranean region.

Structured scientific cooperation also contributes to long-term and greater mutual understanding between countries. Cooperative scientific research can provide joint responses to the most important societal challenges of the region, such as climate change, water provision, food security, economic development, migration, etc. It is, unquestionably, a crucial and stable instrument that should be further used in the region to strengthen relations. Promoting further scientific diplomacy in the Mediterranean area is also highly recommended, as it vehicles a common language for intercultural dialogue, joint achievements and, *in fine*, trust-building, in spite of political, economic or security variables.

With the *Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)*, which Joint Programme has been submitted to the European Commission at the end of 2014 by more than 12 Mediterranean countries under the Italian leadership, there is for the first time a real prospect for durable scientific regional integration - far beyond cooperation - in the region. This initiative, which intends to set up an integrated long-term research programme on food systems and water resources, should be strongly encouraged and reinforced.

Its added-value -perceived in terms of opportunities for researchers and capacity building (training, mobility, and research infrastructures), competitiveness and job creation, development of inclusive sustainable and healthy societies, and, above all, regional stability- is resulting in a growing political and financial support. So much so, that the participating countries have committed up to 200 million euros to date. On the basis of the principles of co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefits, PRIMA Member States have expressed their strong preference for the UfM Secretariat to host the Dedicated Implementation Structure (DIS) and thus provide the governance structure for the programme. The UfM Secretariat has already conveyed its availability for such a partnership to its governing body; the Senior Officials.

The importance of post-2015 challenges requires a change of perspective. The Euro-Mediterranean region should be viewed from a comprehensive and holistic approach embracing, simultaneously growth, political stability and security related issues if they are to be tackled consistently and permanently. This can only be achieved under the framework of an increased North-South common agenda based on shared objectives. The UfM institutional framework can be utilized to be instrumental as a forum that would support this collective work. The resumption of UfM Ministerial Conferences over the last years as well as the acceleration of the UfM pipeline of initiatives and projects demonstrates a strong engagement and mutual conviction by UfM Member States to advance together in that direction.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, to which the fundamental principles are embedded in the UfM activities, the human dimension of cooperation process should be placed at the forefront of Euro-Mediterranean relations. *"Restoring harmony in civil society, reinforcing intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and strengthening regional integration are now more important than ever if we are to create a common space for solidarity and stability in the Euro-Mediterranean region"*¹⁴.

In the field of education, the promotion of student, professor and researcher mobility flows, the harmonization of quality standards and recognition and accreditation procedures, the development of academic and vocational training networks and the use of online tools (which could help to not only guarantee access to education and absorb the growing student enrolment but also facilitate North-South links), can greatly improve integration in addition to employability for a promising future.

¹² Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes:
<http://ufmsecretariat.org/creation-of-a-euro-mediterranean-university-in-morocco/>

¹³ EMUNI Master and PhD programmes:
<http://ufmsecretariat.org/three-new-ufm-projects-from-higher-education-and-research-division-are-labeled/>

¹⁴ Conclusions of the high-level meeting on intercultural and interreligious dialogue held on 22-23 July 2015 at the Headquarters of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona.

The Post-2015 Agenda for Development and the Mediterranean: a European perspective

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The post-2015 Agenda for Development has the ambitious goal of "transforming our world by 2030". The cornerstone of the Agenda is the document that will be adopted by the UN Assembly on 25-27 September. The text includes the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as SDGs^[1], the most "mediatised" element in the debate. In a wider scope, however, the post-2015 Agenda is taking shape through various events of global relevance at least.

One of these, for instance, was the International Conference on Financing for Development, concluded on 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa. In fact, along with the SDGs, i.e. the "contents" of the Agenda, the debate on post-2015 is on the implementation of the SDGs and the financial means to support it. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, agreed on 16 July 2015, establishes the financial pillars to support the implementation of the SDGs. These pillars are:

- The domestic revenue mobilisation
- The "traditional" Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- A greater involvement of private sector
- International trade

The important roles of migration, and science, technology and innovation for sustainable growth are addressed in the agreement as well.

This brief paper will focus on the issues at stake in other two upcoming and crucial events. The first one is the already mentioned UN Assembly to be held at the end of September in New York; the second, is the 21st Conference Of the Parties (COP21) on climate action that will gather in Paris, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. The text will examine some of the general issues discussed in the debate on Post-2015 Agenda. The second part of the text focuses on the EU perspective. The final paragraph outlines the value of Post-2015 Agenda for the Mediterranean Region, both in terms of necessity and opportunity.

Background and some open questions

The challenging commitment to "transform the world" originates from the achievements accomplished in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are eight targets for development that the UN launched in 2000 along with a set of indicators to be measured in a time span of 25 years, from 1990 to 2015. The final report of the UN on MDGs invites to celebrate, explicitly: "Thanks to concerted global, regional, national and local efforts, the MDGs have saved the lives of millions and improved conditions for many more"[2].

¹ Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, United Nations Organization, downloadable at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

² The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015

This is true especially for Goals such as the number 1: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger". The sub-target of Goal 1 was to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 a day and to halve, in the same period, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. For the first goal the result was impressive: the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. On food security, the target was almost reached: the proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has fallen by almost half since 1990, from 23.3% in 1990–1992 to 12.9% in 2014–2016.

Though the UN report states that "the work is not complete", the MDGs are considered to be a success. Thus, the UN proposed to raise the level of ambition in development policies after 2015, calling for eliminating poverty by 2030. This message does make sense in political perspective rather than in economic one. The end of poverty and hunger is something we should not give for granted³, but the UN call for action is nonetheless a meaningful move in order to take on the challenge.

Actually, the experience of the MDGs stands out as a proof that setting ambitious and universal targets is paramount to mobilize resources and galvanize public opinion. This can produce impressive results, provided that the call at global level matches the determination of governments and other stakeholders at local level.

In order to accomplish the universal mission of defeating poverty by 2030, 17 goals with 169 associated targets have been proposed. Those are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are the core of the post-2015 Development Agenda, covering a wide range of issues: food and nutrition security, health and education, gender and social equality, management of land, water and sanitation, working conditions, infrastructures, consumption and production patterns, access to energy and innovation.

The SDGs proposal is the outcome of a widespread public consultation carried out through the UN Open Working Group (OWG). The SDGs scheme, moreover, no longer intends development as an issue of exclusive interest of poor countries but as a global issue instead. Stating that "development" must be "sustainable" means going beyond traditional indicators, such as the measurement of poverty reduction and infant mortality, to make environmental sustainability and societal equality global targets that also apply to developed economies.

Some scepticism has been voiced on the sheer number, targets and indicators of the SDGs. Maybe MDGs did not take sufficiently in account sustainability, but they were just eight, easy to communicate to public opinion and their achievements were relatively simply to measure. The MDGs were monitored through 48 indicators, whereas the SDGs provisional indicators are 304. On 11 August 2015 the UN Statistical Commission started a public consultation – with the participation of Governments, international agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector – on those indicators. The conclusions will be drawn in March 2016. There is concern because providing data on all the 300 indicators could be complicated, especially for those countries whose statistical capacity is limited. The SDGs are a challenge not only in terms of the Goals themselves but also in terms of providing data on their progressive achievement. In other words, they could require supplementary investments in knowledge and data collecting and management.

The dynamics between global and local dimension of the post-2015 Agenda, the degree of inclusivity it can deploy and the reciprocal influence between means and goals are other open questions on the fulfilment of the SDGs.

Regarding the first element, the final result of the UN Assembly will unveil whether the comprehensiveness of the Goals will twin the effectiveness of the message. Secondly, MDGs experience taught that tackling poverty and hunger requires simultaneous efforts in different policy areas. Economic growth is key factor, but the domestic policies must be coordinated to ensure a fair distribution of the benefits of increased wealth to the population. The SDGs are even more interlinked than MDGs and so should be the policies – agriculture, food, education, health, trade, climate, migration and environmental and social policies – aiming to transfer the principles into practices.

Concerning the third element, i.e. the participation of civil society, the question is how much this involvement can become action on the ground. The pledge that "nobody will be left behind"⁴ is a moment of truth for the capacity of dialogue between institutions at every level and grassroots organizations.

The debate on financing, finally, cannot avoid reckoning the global financial crisis impact, which accelerated the decline of traditional patterns of funding development projects. In recent years, new players have been coming to the foreground and technology gives stimulating opportunities for funding development projects in poor countries, even on a micro-scale. The effectiveness of those resources in promoting "bottom-up" development dynamics, however, has still to be proven.

³ The results of a simulation carried out by the Brookings Institution, for instance, show that as in 2030 the number of people in extreme indigence "could be between 100 million and more than a billion". See <http://devinit.org/report/prospects-ending-extreme-poverty-2030-need-know>

⁴ Zero Draft, cit.

In this scenario, food and nutrition security (namely intended as food production and consumption patterns) on one hand and climate change on the other can play a key role to enable countries with different levels of prosperity to find a common ground. Focusing on food and nutrition security means looking at the core of the primary needs of the human being and, as such, revise the old fashioned dichotomy between rich countries, prone to prioritise environmental aspects of sustainability, and least developed ones, more inclined to emphasise the economic performance. This polarity can be overcome with a robust dose of innovation. Through the lens of innovation, SDGs should be interpreted as "an urgent need to reconcile the two approaches in a common movement"⁵.

There is symmetry between the contrast of views of countries on food security and the dispute on how to act on climate change. On climate change, also, we can see differences between economic *versus* environmental aspects of sustainability. Many expectations to go beyond this dichotomy rely on the outcome of the 21st Conference Of the Parties (COP21) on climate change to be held in Paris at the end of the year. The hope is that the COP21 will open a new era of global cooperation on climate change. The declared objective of the conference is to achieve a global legally binding agreement on climate.

In past months, various French ministers said that they are convinced of the interdependency between agricultural diplomacy and climate negotiations and have highlighted the importance of food production in this regard. Agriculture, land use and impact on the planet of the increasing food demand in presence of more and more pressing environmental constraints are "The other inconvenient truth" of our times⁶.

The EU will take part into Paris COP21 conference with the commitment on a binding, economy-wide, greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 40% by 2030, in terms of "Intended Nationally Determined Contribution" (INDC). The EU gives great relevance to the Paris climate conference in shaping a new Agenda for development.

The credibility of any possible agreement reached in Paris will be measured also in terms of financial commitments. The Paris Climate conference aims to mobilize \$100 billion per year by developed countries, from public and private sources, from 2020, in order to enable developing countries to combat climate change whilst promoting fair and sustainable development.

The current carbon market systems show a desperate need to be reinvigorated and the main expectations are on the attitude of the 15 countries of the G20 – that will have a summit in Turkey in mid-September – accountable for 70% of greenhouse gases emissions.

This is the broad picture in which EU expects a renewed approach to development policies to take off.

The EU and European Parliament contribution

The debate in the EU advanced through different stages in a time span of three years. The initial step was the public consultation "Towards a Post-2015 Development Framework", opened by the European Commission from 15 June to 15 September 2012.

Since then, various official documents on many aspects concerning the Post-2015 Agenda framework followed. Among them there are two Communications from the European Commission ("A decent Life for all: from vision to collective action", 2 June 2014, and "A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015", 2 February 2015), just as many Conclusions of the EU Council ("A Transformative post-2015 agenda", 16 December 2014, and "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015", of 6 May 2015) and the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 25 November 2014 "The EU and the global development framework after 2015".

The latter document⁷ is useful to illustrate the debate that took place in the EU: a diffuse reflection on post-2015 framework for development policies that strives to keep together the means and the goals, along with the overriding challenge of sustainability and the cross-the-board issue of climate change.

As regards of the means, the MEPs stress the need for a renewed "global partnership" able to implement the principles that will be ratified by the UN Assembly. In order to accomplish this task, the EU Parliament calls for an "appropriate institutional architecture" to address "the complexities and the inter-linkages between the different parts of the future framework". Concerning the financial part, European Parliament confirms the importance of ODA and reminds to the EU Member states their commitment to allocate to it at least 0,7 % of the Gross National Income (GNI), also calling for "the EU to facilitate public-private partnerships, where possible" and "to make combating corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance, tax havens, illicit flows of capital and harmful tax structures an overriding priority in financing development".

⁵ Lacirignola C., Abis S., "Post-2015 Development Agenda", <http://www.diploweb.com/Post-2015-Development-Agenda.html>

⁶ The definition is by Jonathan Foley and makes reference to the "Inconvenient truth" on climate change unveiled to the US audience by Al Gore in the known 2006 documentary.

⁷ The EU and the global development framework after 2015 - 2014/2143 (INI)
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2014-0059+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Regarding the SDGs, the MEPs welcome the human rights-based approach emerged in the OWG and suggest the clustering of the goals according to the following "priority areas": poverty eradication and fight to inequality; peace-building (conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery); climate-change mitigation, protection of the environment, and disaster-risk reduction; food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, combating land degradation, water and sanitation; health and education; inclusive and sustainable growth, employment and decent work creation.

Other recommendations from the plenary of Strasbourg are the support to social entrepreneurship initiatives in development and the creation of "novel tools that support better cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises in developed countries and developing countries".

On a more general level of the debate, however, is the relevance given to a new common international framework on climate change action that characterizes the EU position more than other global players. The commitments that countries' representatives are expected to take in the already mentioned Paris Climate Conference are a crucial point for the EU. The feeling is that the lack of significant advancement from the international community on the issue of the combat to global warming could jeopardise the full and complete implementation of post-2015 Development Agenda. This feeling may be exaggerated, but a failure in Paris would not only threaten the implementation of SDG no. 13 ("Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"), but also be a "false start" in the first significant event after the UN Assembly adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda.

The post-2015 agenda for development and the Mediterranean Region

The Mediterranean area, including Member States of the southern and southeastern part of the EU and MENA (Middle East and North Africa) countries, is a region in which all the challenges identified in the SDGs framework are well visible. Social equality, environmental resources management, food and nutrition security, peace building, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and even energy issues: the Mediterranean basin is a microcosm of the development issues at global level.

On the shores of the "mare nostrum" and in Middle East we can find prosperous countries, thriving economies, regions devastated by conflicts and menaced by endemic instability and, finally, least developed countries.

In the perspective of sustainable management of resources, the Mediterranean is one of the biodiversity "hot spots" of the planet, hosting 10% of endemic plants in only 1.6% of world's surface⁸. This biodiversity is at risk because of urbanization and inefficient use of land and water.

According to the estimates of UNPCC, the climate change will hit hard in the region: the "Scenario A1b" of the IPCC predicts an increase in average temperature between 2-4° C for the period between 1980/89 and 2080/99, and defines the regions of non-tropical drylands characterized by higher temperatures and lower rainfall as especially vulnerable⁹.

The war that is devastating countries like Syria and Iraq represents a new typology of armed confrontation that calls for a new approach to conflict prevention and recovery. The destruction of physical and social infrastructure increases inequality, health risk, food insecurity and land and water degradation.

The upheaval known as "Arab Awakening" has demonstrated that social inequality, high level of education and food insecurity caused by a fatal dependency on the global markets for the supply of staple food¹⁰ can be an explosive mix, with consequences on migration flows.

The concentration of all these problems in such a small portion of land and the variety of the conditions in which they occur can be interpreted as a ruinous and disintegrating factor.

But diversity means availability of many possible solutions, also. In the last 20 years, the environmental, social and political diversity in the Mediterranean Region has been viewed as an insurmountable problem. Post-2015 Agenda for Development will make sense for Mediterranean regions if it will give the opportunity to look at this heterogeneity as an opportunity.

The possibility of such an approach is visible in the Mediterranean food consumption pattern. The worldwide-acknowledged "Mediterranean diet" is actually based on heterogeneity, both in terms of nutritional principles and in social and political perspective. Mediterranean food consumption pattern in fact is nothing comparable to an immutable tradition, expression of the hegemony of one country or culture on the others. Actually, it originates from continuous economic, environmental and cultural exchange. Mediterranean diet history tells about innovation more than tradition.

⁸ Medail F., Quezel P., Hot-Spots Analysis for Conservation of Plant Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Basin, *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* Vol. 84, No. 1 (1997)

⁹ IPCC report 2007

¹⁰ De Castro P. et al, *The Politics of Land and Food Scarcity*, Routledge 2012

Mediterranean is the basin where the interchange of various habits, commodities, foods, schools of thought, even plant varieties, parasites and the remedies to defeat them has been taking place in centuries. The Mediterranean diet is an epitome of all this diversity. Still, it is acknowledged to be unique and, as such, is protected by UNESCO. The educational organization of the UN emphasises the social and "political" component of Mediterranean diet: "a moment of social exchange and communication, an affirmation and renewal of family, group or community identity. The Mediterranean diet emphasizes values of hospitality, neighbourliness, intercultural dialogue and creativity, and a way of life guided by respect for diversity"¹¹.

Considering – as we suggested at the beginning of this brief – food and nutrition security as a key challenge for development, interlinked with all the others, the connection between Mediterranean and Post-2015 Agenda can be of mutual benefit. On the one hand the Mediterranean Region needs an actual implementation of the SDGs and, on the other, can be a laboratory for all the dimensions of sustainable development.

The Mediterranean Region is passing through a "nutritional transition" in which problems of under-nutrition coexist with overweight, obesity and food-related chronic disease¹². In this context, the SDGs can play a dual role: as a push to the regain of Mediterranean consumption pattern, that is facing a declining trend in the region; and as contribution to recover the political dimension of food in the Region, establishing a sort of "food diplomacy" in order to reconcile the shores of the basin and the different policies related to sustainable development. As much as the countries of the basin are diverse as strong should be the efforts in the coordination of food and development policies, i.e. the only ways to tackle challenges such as climate change.

Can all the issues and problems of Mediterranean Region transform into opportunities thanks to the post-2015 Development Agenda? The answer could be yes, at some conditions. The call for a genuine commitment from international community should be based on inspiring principles, develop attainable goals and match the determination of governments and other stakeholders at regional and local level.

¹¹ UNESCO, Mediterranean Diet,
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/RL/00884>

¹² *Mediterranean food consumption patterns, Diet, environment, society, economy and health* FAO-CIHEAM White Paper 2015

Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans A tool for rural development with up-scaling potential

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Introduction

The "Area Based Development Approach" in the Western Balkans is an ongoing initiative, developed and implemented by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe¹ with the support from the EU and FAO. It has specific implementation characteristics with an up-scaling potential for economic, social and sustainable growth in rural areas across the region.

Namely, complex inter-dependence of poverty, social exclusion, ethnic tensions and administrative burdens are characteristic of the Western Balkans, especially of the cross-border regions. One of the critical problems of the cross-border areas of the Western Balkan countries is how to reach remote rural areas in decline where poverty and lack of sufficient economic activities lead younger generations to leave the areas.

During the last five years activities have been intensified to address these common problems by initiating planning for implementation of rural economic development actions using the Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) with the objective of providing incentives for sustainable economic development in four cross-border areas ("Drina-Tara" - cross-border region between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, "Drina-Sava" - cross-border region between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, "Prespa" - cross-border region Albania and Macedonia, and "Sharra" Albania, Kosovo* and Macedonia,) in order to try to turn the wave and contribute to the improvement of life in those communities.

The action targeted these marginalized cross-border areas with complex development problems - poverty gap, post-natural or human disasters, post-conflict environment and exclusion issues. The approach used is inclusive, participatory and flexible and ensures integration and coherence. Participation of ethnic minorities is particularly important as border areas have suffered more than others of conflicts in the last two decades, especially due to the fact that are characterized by a higher density of ethnic minorities.

The SWG, its actions and the ABDA are complementary to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED) and its goals.

¹ See <http://seerural.org>

* This designation is without prejudice to the position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration on independence.

Area Based Development

The Area Based Development (ABD) is an innovative approach enabling a breakthrough in sustainable economic growth by targeting defined geographical areas in cross-border regions, which are characterized by a set of common, complex development problems. It is considered as an effective approach to facilitate sustainable growth in rural areas in decline. It is suitable for targeting defined geographical areas in cross-border regions in the Western Balkans. The approach uses a methodology, which is inclusive, participatory, flexible, and ensures integration and coherence.

ABDA history

The idea for developing a specific approach emerged as early as 2006 and was discussed throughout the years by SWG members and supporters, namely FAO and the European Commission, at the regular meetings in the SWG decision-making bodies and the annual Agricultural Policy Forum (APF). Finally, preparations for its implementation started in 2010, when DG-AGRI funded a project, carried out by the EC - Joint Research Centre (JRC), for "Identification of potential rural cross-border target areas for the implementation of an area-based development approach in the Western Balkans: methodology & assessment". The overall objective of the project was to perform a comparative assessment of the potential target areas identified in terms of their assets and handicaps, in order to be able to pilot the approach in a selected appropriate area.

The process continued in 2011 when SWG was commissioned by DG ENLARG to develop a proposal for an "Area-Based Development Project in the Western Balkans". The output was a project fiche together with technical annexes (in-depth analyses and action plans for each of the regions) for the piloting of the Area Based Development approach in selected cross-border regions. Based on the project fiche, DG ENLARG commissioned SWG in 2013 to carry out a pilot project "Preparation for implementation of the Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans", which focuses on building the capacities and structures within the SWG and selected regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming ABD programs.

The objective was the contribution to sustainable economic growth of the target regions by strengthening the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, the private sector and NGOs in the fields of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities.

ABDA Objectives

The overall objective of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans is to facilitate cross-border and regional cooperation and reconciliation by providing mechanisms for legitimate, transparent, participatory and ongoing processes of needs assessment, priority setting and to provide support to the implementation of the Area Based Development Programmes for economic development in particular WB cross-border regions.

The overall action focuses on the three parallel processes:

- 1) Facilitation of cross-border and regional cooperation and reconciliation by providing mechanisms for legitimate, transparent, participatory and ongoing processes of needs assessment, priority setting, and action planning in a particular region.
- 2) Contribution to sustainable economic growth of a particular region by facilitating implementation of identified actions and in particular by providing investment support in the sector with the possible highest added-value and catalytic effects to the rural economies.
- 3) Strengthening cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies and NGO's in the field of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities.

The ABD as approach with its general objectives contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

ABD current situation and future perspective

The new phase started in June 2015, with a duration of 2 years and funding by DG European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). Again, SWG's main role will be the one of a "facilitator" of the process, but will also focus on capacity development with support from other agencies (e.g. FAO, GIZ) and, in particular fund-raising for the implementation of the pilot grant scheme and the SHGs projects.

While the ongoing support of the EU to capacity building and facilitation in the selected ABD areas continue under the 2014-2020 IPA Multicounty Strategy, the funding does not foresee support for grants or other projects prepared by the Stakeholder Groups under the ABD approach. The Forum and the Minister's Meeting in 2014 recognized the success, positive impact and development potential of the ABD approach and recommended upscaling of current activities and its extension to other areas in the region. Therefore, the SWG embarks on further fund raising activities and search for alternative funding resources, which was endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting.

Institutional set-up, regional offices and Stakeholders Groups (SHG)

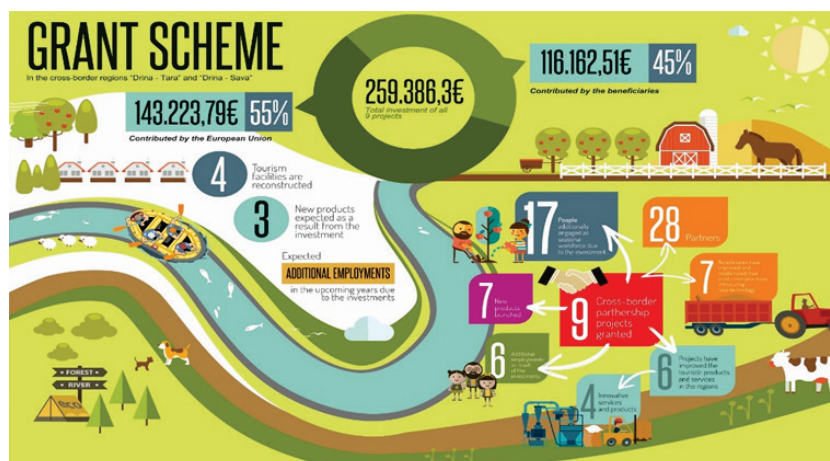
One of the key results has been the establishment and consolidation of the Stakeholder Groups (SHG) in each of the four targeted regions. The SHG established for the ABD areas include representatives of public, private and civil sector and participate in the capacity building process, as well as the process of programming and project identification.

Permanent Secretariats of the SHG - Project Management Units (PMUs) have been established in the cross-border areas in order to facilitate and coordinate the entire process of assisting the stakeholders in preparation of a project pipeline and ensuring consistency and relevance in priority setting and coherence in implementation. All four offices have two staff members: a Regional Coordinator and a Technical Assistant. Also operational protocols and rules and procedures for the functioning of the SHG were developed and accepted by the Stakeholder Groups.

Strategic frameworks, programming documents and priority actions for each of the pilot areas were prepared, focusing on a multi-annual planning perspective for economic development of the Western Balkan rural cross-border areas. In addition, a general communication and publicity strategy, an action plan for the implementation of a pilot grant scheme, and a set of promotional material for each of the four areas were prepared.

Enhancement of the competitiveness of small and medium scale producers with implementation of the pilot grant scheme

"Pilot grant scheme", following largely the modalities of the support measures as implemented under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) or the Instrument for Pre-Accession – Agriculture and Rural Development component (IPARD). Its main goal is to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium scale producers by providing small grants for renewing production facilities and purchasing equipment to improve existing or create new innovative products. In total small grants with a value of around 150,000 EUR for 9 projects with 28 beneficiaries were successfully implemented. The main achievements of the grant scheme are presented in the picture below.



ABDA project pipeline

The identification and formulation of priority actions and a project pipeline is one of the major driving forces for the activities of the SHGs and created quite a momentum in the region. A number of priority actions have been identified as part of the elaboration of the programming documents and a project pipeline developed. For each of the four regions the members of the Stakeholders Groups defined three priority actions in a participatory process facilitated by SWG. Finally, a number of concept ideas and project proposals were elaborated. The project proposals focus on the following areas:

- 1) stimulating the diversification of the rural economies through support to creating sustainable rural tourism products;
- 2) protection of natural and cultural heritage;
- 3) value chain development and branding of products;
- 4) creating regional economic development centers;
- 5) improvement of the socio-economic position of women and rural youth, and finally;
- 6) support to creating a green economy sector and promoting sustainable use of forests and mountainous areas.

Up scaling potential

The SWG has prepared in addition, a number of preliminary assessments of other cross-border areas that could also qualify for the application of the ABD approach by their characteristics, subject to funding of the costs for the institutional set-up, SHGs' project proposals and for grant schemes. The study² carried out in 2009 identified 10 cross-border regions, of which four were selected for the implementation of the ABD approach in a first step.

² "Identification of potential rural cross-border target areas for the implementation of an area-based development approach in the Western Balkans and using improved methodology". Institute for Prospective Technological (IPTS) Studies – JRC Seville, Faculty of Agriculture - University of Belgrade, 2009

However, out of the six other potential areas, three were selected by the SWG Assembly for the up scaling of the ABD approach, applying the lessons learnt from the four pilot areas. The three additional areas are (from North to South):

- Neretva Region (southeast part of Croatia, south-eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and south-western part of the Republic of Montenegro);
- Prokletije Region (border region between Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia);
- Pčinja Region (border region along the Macedonian, and Serbian and Bulgarian borders).

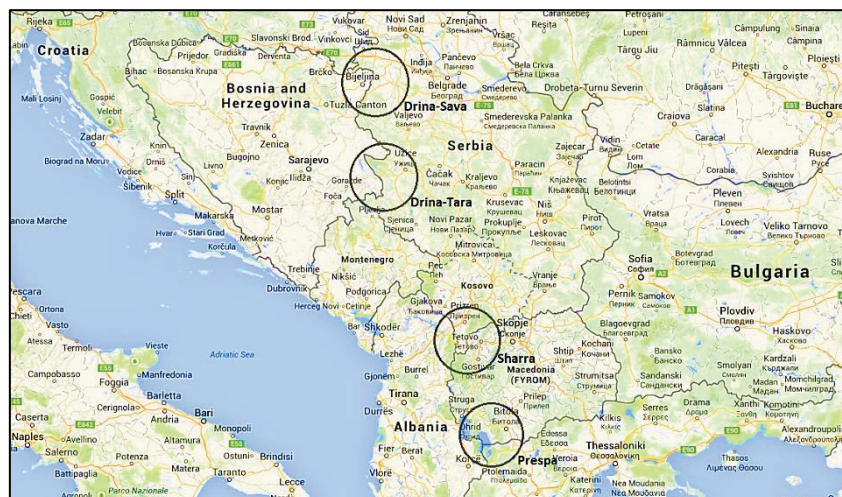
It is foreseen to initiate the assessment in three out of the six areas during second half of 2015.

Lessons learned

The SWG through the implementation of the action has drawned the below listed lessons learned:

- Permanent and strong involvement of all key stakeholders, local government, civil society and private business is essential for developing and implementing integrated cooperation actions based on the ABD approach. This includes commitments to enter into partnerships, both public/private and among private business partners and NGOs.
- The SWG considers that involving of national and local chambers and associations in identifying representatives from civil society and the private sector as formal members of the SHG would be important.
- Furthermore, the local stakeholders should be invited to participate in the activities on preparing actions in accordance with their respective interest in the action concerned.
- Although the political mandate of the SWG does not cover all policy areas of importance to solve common problems in the selected cross border areas, the SWG would continue to facilitate actions to solve such issues. This concern in particular, problems related to solving environmental and transport infrastructure issues.
- In this regard, the Ministers of Agriculture, members of the SWG, should ensure close cooperation with the respective line Ministries to facilitate resolution of all issues for the common good of the areas concerned to foster economic growth and quality of life as well as the attractiveness for tourists visiting the areas.
- The SWG acknowledge the support from the EC in the preparation for implementation of an ABD and urges the EC to enhance the dialogue with the SWG and member governments on the legal requirements for strategic planning, programming and implementation of the Regional and Territorial Cooperation policy area to ensure timely implementation.
- In this regard, the ABDA is addressed in the IPA multi- country strategy paper to ensure that the ABDA can be supported under a multi-country programme.
- The approach and experiences from the implementation of the integrated economic development projects in “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” cross-border areas involving all relevant economic partners in the process are of a crucial importance for further practical implementation of ABDA.

Map of the ABD pilot areas





The "SWG" stands for Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South East Europe (SEE). It is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisted of governmental institutions responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective countries and territories.

It is a platform for networking and regional co-operation among the SEE countries and territories in the field of agriculture and rural development. As an organization the SWG is an international body, acting in a spirit of friendship and good neighborliness and enhances mutual respect and confidence, dialogue and cooperation among the Member Institutions.

Vision

Innovative and sustainable agriculture and rural development through cohesive regional co-operation for improvement of rural livelihoods in the SEE countries.

Mission

To increase horizontal collaboration among respective countries and territories of SEE, coordinating regional initiatives related to agriculture and rural development and support the process of economic development in rural areas of Southeastern Europe.

General Objective

To facilitate close cooperation among the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development and to support the EU integration

Specific Objectives

- To improve the common understanding of EU agriculture and rural development policies;
- To assist the improvement of implementation structures and systems for agriculture and rural development in rural areas, with specific emphasis on cross border cooperation;
- To improve the understanding and use of implementation tools for agriculture and rural development;
- To identify and share information and application of good practice in agriculture and rural development to broaden the rural agenda.

Partnerships

The SWG has established a partnership relations and cooperation with different institutions and organizations, such as European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), German International Cooperation (GIZ), International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), PREPARE network and others.



IX MINISTERIAL MEETING
Ministries of Agriculture
from South East Europe
11th - 13th November 2015, Tirana, Albania

Starting with the first Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE organized in November 2007 in Germany and as per the conclusions of the Ministerial Meetings in the past years, the Ninth Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE in 2015 will be organized in the period November 11-13th, 2015 in Tirana, Albania and will be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Albania.

Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers for Agriculture from SEE countries is a high political event organized by SWG on annual basis in November each year.

The aim of the Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture is to discuss the future of regional cooperation and reforms in the sector of agriculture and rural development in the process of EU approximation of the WB region.

The Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture serve as platform for discussion and agreements among the Ministers of Agriculture of SEE countries related to regional cooperation and actual topics related to agriculture and rural development issues with regional relevance such as trade, economic development of border areas, management of natural resources etc.



L'année 2015, tournant pour le développement et l'intégration régionale en Méditerranée

Mourad Ezzine

Manager du Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée (CMI)



Le **Centre pour l'intégration en Méditerranée (CMI)** est une plateforme réunissant agences de développement, États, autorités locales et société civile de l'ensemble du pourtour méditerranéen dans le but d'échanger des connaissances, de discuter des politiques publiques et d'identifier des solutions aux défis qui se posent dans la région.

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L'année 2015 représente un tournant dans la politique internationale pour le développement, puisque c'est une échéance importante pour lancer de nouvelles actions, y compris en Méditerranée. Trois échéances, en particulier, sont à retenir : (i) l'adoption des Objectifs de développement durable par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ; (ii) les vingt ans du Processus de Barcelone et la révision de la Politique européenne de voisinage de l'Union européenne et (iii) la 21^e Conférence des parties (COP21) de la Convention-Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCC).

Les objectifs de développement durable et la réduction des inégalités

Parmi les dix-sept objectifs proposés par le Groupe de travail ouvert sur les objectifs de développement durable, il y en a un qui concerne plus que jamais la Méditerranée : « Réduire les inégalités au sein des pays et entre les pays ».

L'exclusion a été le catalyseur des révolutions arabes qui ont révélé l'ampleur des frustrations ressenties par les populations marginalisées, et reste le principal facteur de la contestation sociale dans certains pays, et de conflits dans d'autres. Cette exclusion touche particulièrement les jeunes, et de manière plus dramatique les femmes et les habitants du monde rural et des régions éloignées des grands centres économiques. Elle se traduit par le chômage et la perte de confiance dans les structures de l'État et, dans le sud et l'est de la Méditerranée, nourrit tantôt la radicalisation et tantôt les migrations clandestines.

Cette thématique multidimensionnelle a été abordée par le Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée (CMI) dans un rapport du *Cycle de réflexion sur les transitions économiques en Méditerranée*. Le groupe de travail qui a rédigé ce rapport considère que dans cette région le contrat social entre l'État et sa jeunesse est au cœur des processus de rénovation, de mobilisation et d'intégration. La coopération internationale est essentielle pour accompagner ces processus, mais sa relance devra partir du Sud.

Afin d'agir sur l'exclusion dans le long terme et renouer le contrat social qui unit l'État avec ses citoyens, le rapport propose de porter l'attention, en priorité, sur quatre axes étroitement articulés entre eux : (i) la composition progressive de chaînes de valeur euro-méditerranéennes par des co-productions entre Nord et Sud de la Méditerranée ; (ii) l'appui au développement de l'économie de la connaissance ; (iii) le soutien à l'économie rurale et au développement régional ; (iv) la sécurisation de la mobilité des personnes légalement installées sur l'espace commun¹.

Le succès de l'Europe a été bâti sur la libre circulation des biens, des personnes et des capitaux. La coopération économique a joué un rôle primordial dans la construction d'une union politique et les relations entre les professionnels et les entreprises, et la valorisation des chaînes de valeur est une clé pour l'intégration régionale. Si aujourd'hui les relations avec le Sud se basent principalement sur les contrats de sous-traitance à court terme, bâtir des liens de long terme doit devenir une priorité.

L'économie de la connaissance, bien public par excellence, doit devenir un facteur de développement de relations plus égalitaires entre pays. Il s'agit d'une condition nécessaire pour mieux positionner la région méditerranéenne dans l'économie mondiale et favoriser ainsi un plus grand nombre d'emplois pour les jeunes, mais surtout de meilleurs emplois, ceux qui rentabilisent les importants investissements en capital humain consentis par les sociétés méditerranéennes. Le renforcement de la qualité des systèmes éducatifs, la valorisation des formations professionnelles, les échanges entre formateurs, élèves, étudiants, tout ce qui constitue des « communautés de pratiques », doit être mis en avant.

¹ Cycle de réflexion sur les transitions économiques en Méditerranée. Réponse à la consultation de l'Union européenne pour la définition d'une nouvelle politique européenne de voisinage méridional. Lien sur le site du CMI : <http://bit.ly/1TPXWpa>

Le Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée examine ainsi la mise en place d'actions qui visent à une montée en compétences des pays du Sud de la Méditerranée dans une optique d'harmonisation des contenus des formations, d'amélioration de la qualité et de reconnaissance mutuelle des diplômes. La formation professionnelle fait ainsi l'objet d'une attention particulière.

Dans une région où entre le tiers et la moitié de la population habite en milieu rural (mais avec une persistance de fortes disparités territoriales sur le plan socio-économique notamment), il importe de réfléchir aux synergies à préserver ou à développer entre territoires urbains et ruraux pour ouvrir la voie à une croissance durable et partagée. Le soutien à l'agriculture familiale et à la décentralisation permet de développer l'économie et, dans le cadre d'un renouvellement du contrat social, de favoriser la participation citoyenne selon un principe de subsidiarité, avec une approche ascendante. L'attention aux liens entre ville et campagne fera l'objet d'un événement qui sera organisée par le Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée avec la Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, sur « Cohésion territoriale et croissance inclusive dans une Méditerranée en transition » à Marseille le 6 novembre 2015.

La mobilité des personnes permet de créer des liens entre les pays et leurs ressortissants. Cela favorise la compréhension mutuelle, le développement d'intérêts croisés. La valorisation des diasporas, du multiculturalisme, de la stabilité économique et professionnelle des résidents étrangers deviennent fondamentaux. Il est intéressant de constater que la France est en train de revoir sa législation sur le séjour des étrangers avec des propositions qui vont dans ce sens. Les travaux montrent que les migrants reviennent plus difficilement dans leur pays d'origine et n'y développent pas d'activités lorsqu'ils ont des statuts juridiques précaires dans les pays d'accueil. En outre, l'expérience a montré que les politiques d'aide au retour sont coûteuses et inefficaces. En revanche, les effets des diasporas sur les pays d'origine sont essentiels en terme de transfert matériel (argent) et immatériel (normes, pratiques de santé, de comportement sociétal, de fécondité, etc.). Le passage d'une optique de « migration » à une optique de « mobilité » favorise le développement socio-économique des pays d'origine et d'accueil. Une politique d'immigration efficace est une politique qui favorise la mobilité des migrants en garantissant la transférabilité et la continuité des droits acquis dans le pays d'accueil. Conscient du besoin de continuer à travailler sur une vision partagée sur ces enjeux et de la nécessité de participer activement à la construction d'une Méditerranée pour les jeunes, le CMI a décidé de se concentrer notamment sur les causes profondes du malaise de la jeunesse. Les attaques terroristes récentes dans le monde arabe et en Europe et la croissance de mouvements radicaux ont été alimentées par une jeunesse marginalisée qui se sent exclue des processus décisionnels économiques, politiques et sociaux dans les pays d'origine. Si les réponses initiales à ces phénomènes ont été d'ordre sécuritaire, il est important dorénavant de mieux comprendre et d'agir sur ses fondements économiques, sociaux et politiques.

Le besoin d'une vision régionale méditerranéenne plus forte

La pertinence d'une présence forte de l'Union européenne en Méditerranée est incontestable. Les efforts qui ont été faits au niveau euro-méditerranéen doivent être renforcés puisque la communauté de destin qui lie l'Europe aux rives Sud et Est de la Méditerranée est incontestable.

L'existence de fora de dialogue régionaux entre l'UE et les pays du Sud est fondamentale. Ainsi, plusieurs organisations multilatérales ont émergé au fil du temps, toutes avec des caractéristiques spécifiques et complémentaires. L'Union pour la Méditerranée, espace politique de dialogue entre les pays riverains, réunit des représentants des gouvernements et fait avancer des projets grâce au rapprochement des volontés politiques. La Fondation Anna Lindh donne la voix aux sociétés civiles méditerranéennes à travers la culture, l'éducation, les médias. Le CMI réunit des institutions financières internationales, des agences de développement, des gouvernements et des collectivités locales et finance des actions de partage des connaissances et des partenariats pour sensibiliser l'ensemble des acteurs du développement sur les priorités et les enjeux en Méditerranée.

Dans le cadre de la révision de la Politique européenne de voisinage, le CMI œuvrera pour que le dialogue entre l'Union européenne et les pays du Sud et de l'Est s'ouvre à tous les sujets, y compris les plus sensibles, tels que la mobilité, l'agriculture et les services. Sur ces sujets le CMI et CIHEAM ont récemment décidé d'unir leurs forces² et de travailler en complémentarité sur ces enjeux en Méditerranée. C'est seulement avec un tel changement d'approche que l'UE pourra véritablement soutenir les dynamiques politiques puissantes engagées par les pays arabes.

La dégradation de l'environnement menace le développement

En introduction de la table ronde sur le financement organisée le 5 juin 2015 à Marseille par le CMI dans le cadre de la conférence MEDCOP21, il a notamment été souligné qu'une des causes du conflit atroce que connaît la Syrie aujourd'hui, c'est précisément trois ans de sécheresse historique entre 2006 et 2009 qui ont fait migrer un million de personnes, qui se sont ajoutées à un million de réfugiés irakiens et ont fait exploser tous les équilibres du pays. Sans nier l'origine extrêmement complexe de cette crise, cela fait ressortir le caractère éminemment politique de cette question climatique. Le Ministre des Affaires étrangères et du développement international français, Laurent Fabius, a fait remarquer que notre génération est la première qui possède les moyens techniques de réduire sensiblement l'impact du changement climatique, mais c'est aussi la dernière qui pourra le faire, car après il sera trop tard. Ce propos, met en avant l'urgence d'agir maintenant.

² Le CIHEAM et le CMI ont signé le 17 juin 2015 un *Memorandum of Understanding*.

En décembre 2014, le Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée a contribué au débat sur le changement climatique en diffusant le rapport « *Turn Down the Heat 3* »³ sur les impacts prévisibles de celui-ci dans la région Moyen-Orient et Afrique du Nord. Cette activité est finalisée à une prise de conscience sur les enjeux spécifiques à la Méditerranée. Ce travail, basé sur les dernières connaissances scientifiques, entend mobiliser les décideurs à travers des messages forts : l'eau douce risque de manquer, la sécurité alimentaire sera bientôt menacée, les événements extrêmes risquent de se multiplier avec notamment de longues vagues de chaleur ou des inondations destructrices qui vont toucher les populations les plus pauvres. Dans ce rapport les auteurs n'hésitent pas à relayer de manière explicite l'hypothèse d'un lien de causalité entre le changement climatique et le « printemps arabe ». Un chapitre est aussi consacré aux inéluctables migrations humaines qui vont s'intensifier dans l'avenir.

Depuis 2012, le Centre a réfléchi autour du thème « *Vers une croissance verte en Méditerranée* » en mobilisant des économistes de la Banque mondiale, de l'Agence Française de Développement et de la Banque européenne d'investissement autour des experts du Plan Bleu et le réseau d'économistes du FEMISE. Il s'agissait de revisiter la question du développement durable de la région.

Malgré la volonté politique et l'action courageuse et d'envergure d'un pays comme le Maroc, qui balise la voie pour d'autres pays, il est encore difficile d'affirmer que la croissance verte est en marche dans la région méditerranéenne. Mais dans cette région du monde où un tiers de la population a moins de 15 ans, il convient de miser sur des trajectoires économiques qui permettent de valoriser la ressources humaines. La croissance verte porte en elle des valeurs de modernité, de technicité, de partage que les jeunes générations au Sud et à l'Est de la Méditerranée sauront cultiver.

Les conclusions de ce travail ont permis d'identifier quatre arguments : (i) il est urgent d'agir pour mettre en place des réformes car la dégradation de l'environnement constitue une véritable menace pour des secteurs clés dans la région (comme le tourisme par exemple mais aussi l'industrie), (ii) il convient de ne pas prendre les décisions aux conséquences irréversibles (par exemple éviter de construire en zone côtière fragile en raison de l'érosion marine car le coût de déplacement des habitations est considérable) et (iii) des opportunités de co-bénéfices des actions environnementale peuvent être substantielles (par exemple si on lutte contre la pollution, on réduira nos efforts de traitement d'eau potable, si on lutte contre la pollution de l'air les gains en terme de santé publique sont considérables). Enfin, (iv) la croissance verte est porteuse d'améliorations socio-économiques et notamment d'emplois verts (estimé à des centaines de milliers).

Mais pour aller au-delà de cette logique « d'atténuation » il est important de miser sur les énergies renouvelables. Grâce à son ensoleillement important, le Sud de la Méditerranée a un avantage comparatif évident. Pourtant, ce qu'on voit aujourd'hui c'est une Europe relativement peu ensoleillée subventionner sa propre production d'énergies renouvelables, ce qui rend plus difficile l'émergence d'une production compétitive d'énergie solaire en Afrique du Nord. Si l'Afrique du Nord pouvait produire et exporter une énergie solaire sur un marché ouvert et compétitif, il y aurait création de dizaines de milliers d'emploi au Sud de la Méditerranée, une énergie à meilleur marché pour le Nord et un gain appréciable pour l'environnement.

Il y a certainement d'autres considérations qui rentrent en jeu pour de telles décisions. Mais, c'est précisément à ce niveau que le CMI entend jouer un rôle fondamental : faire converger les points de vues à travers sa capacité de réunir autour d'une même table l'ensemble des acteurs politiques, économiques et sociaux concernés par ces décisions, partager le plus largement possible les expériences réussies, et contribuer à créer un climat de confiance qui est essentiel pour la paix et la prospérité de la région. Dans ce contexte, la prise en compte des questions climatiques dans toute activité est nécessaire. Et la COP21 qui se tiendra à Paris à partir du 30 novembre 2015 devra comporter un engagement fort au niveau mondial. Sans cela, les objectifs de développement soutenable ne pourront pas être atteints.

Conclusion

A présent, plus que jamais, en Méditerranée, la coopération internationale est essentielle pour contribuer à une intégration plus partagée et plus inclusive. Le CMI suggère une action axée sur 3 priorités :

- La diffusion des connaissances et des compétences, qui sont des biens publics par excellence, est une question clé pour réaliser la convergence de la croissance globale de la productivité et la réduction des inégalités ;
- L'implication des acteurs non étatiques, en particulier les acteurs locaux, à travers des approches ascendantes : les autorités locales, les diasporas, les réseaux d'Organisations de la Société Civile, sont des acteurs incontournables de l'intégration régionale ;
- La prise en compte de la jeunesse sera cruciale afin d'aboutir à une diffusion des connaissances et des compétences plus large, plus efficace et ayant des effets concrets et significatifs sur l'amélioration du niveau d'intégration au sein de la région Méditerranée.

³ Cette publication est disponible sur le lien suivant : <http://www.banquemonddiale.org/fr/topic/climatechange/publication/turn-down-the-heat>

Pour une relation euro-méditerranéenne revitalisée après 2015

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Depuis les indépendances nationales, les sociétés arabes ont connu de profondes mutations : l'éducation s'est généralisée – notamment pour les filles – et les niveaux de natalité ont baissé ; l'habitat, les relations sociales et le modèle patriarcal ont été profondément impactés par l'urbanisation ; l'ouverture des sociétés et les nouvelles technologies ont considérablement accru l'information et les attentes des citoyens.

Par contraste, les structures politiques issues des années 1960 sont restées en grande partie inchangées, c'est-à-dire marquées par le poids de l'Etat, les habitudes autoritaires, les liens de la rente. Cet écart manifeste entre des compositions politiques immobiles et une jeunesse en mouvement constitue l'une des causes des révolutions arabes. Depuis 2011, le jeu est plus ouvert et seul l'accompagnement de cette nouvelle dynamique permettra une stabilité pérenne de la région. Pour autant, l'histoire des révolutions arabes est loin d'être déjà écrite.

L'incontournable question de la modernisation de l'Etat

Un processus conflictuel agite et continuera d'agiter en profondeur les sociétés arabes méditerranéennes en transition. Ce processus met en scène une logique de recomposition, souvent confuse, opposant de puissantes *forces de mouvement* – la jeunesse, les couches défavorisées, les partis en révolte contre l'Etat – et de considérables *forces d'ordre* : l'armée, les classes moyennes, mais aussi certains mouvements islamiques. La situation en Libye et en Syrie montre le désordre et la violence que recèlent ces confrontations, tandis que la situation en Egypte témoigne de la puissance des logiques d'ordre. En Tunisie, la capacité de compromis montrée par les forces politiques et par la société civile apparaît comme un modèle de recomposition politique concertée ; cela fait de la révolution tunisienne une exception heureuse, mais infiniment fragile.

De fait, la contradiction entre les aspirations libérales de la jeunesse et les réflexes autoritaires des couches conservatrices rend évidemment difficile la définition d'une perspective de long terme. Cependant, les constituants se sont attachés, au-delà de la gestion des urgences, à définir les principes d'un futur contrat social en réponse aux revendications des sociétés civiles. Cet exercice a mis en lumière la difficulté de la transformation de l'Etat : d'autoritaire et identitaire, celui-ci devrait se muer en régulateur et arbitre entre les différentes aspirations sociales, religieuses et économiques de la société.

Or, la redéfinition d'un Etat crédible au service d'un contrat social partagé est essentielle pour le relèvement d'une nation et sa capacité à restaurer la confiance dans la durée. Au cœur de cette mutation se trouve la résolution de la question de la rente. Elle s'inscrit en effet au plus profond des sociétés méditerranéennes comme ayant son origine dans la forte prévalence du lien - familial ou tribal - sur le droit. La rente explique les principales difficultés des sociétés méditerranéennes et les nombreuses frustrations emmagasinées durant tant d'années avant les soulèvements populaires de 2011. L'exclusion des zones rurales est liée à la protection du pouvoir concentré dans les zones riches et les capitales ; la marginalisation des jeunes résulte de l'accès aux postes par le capital social et non par le mérite ; les hauts niveaux de corruption s'expliquent par le monopole du pouvoir politique à distribuer la richesse.

Les constituants du Partenariat euro-méditerranéen étaient bien conscients de ce point nodal de la transformation des sociétés du Sud de la Méditerranée. Portés par l'esprit positif résultant des accords d'Oslo et de la résolution de la crise des Balkans, les concepteurs des accords de Barcelone escomptaient que les effets positifs du libre-échange induiraient des transformations politiques conduisant à éroder les rentes dans ces pays. Il n'en a rien été : en l'absence de politiques structurelles assurant la répartition de la richesse entre les territoires et les générations, les rentes privées se sont substituées aux rentes publiques quand les pays ont opéré leur désarmement douanier.

La Méditerranée, bien public régional et mondial

Compte tenu de l'importance géostratégique de la Méditerranée, de sa vulnérabilité climatique, de ses insécurités humaines et de l'accumulation durable de risques telluriques, la réussite des processus de transition dans les pays du Sud devrait être regardée comme un « bien public régional et mondial » par la collectivité internationale.

C'est pourquoi la coopération internationale - de l'Union européenne en particulier - est essentielle pour accompagner ces transitions. Loin de songer à la création d'un nouvel appareil institutionnel pour la Méditerranée (dont l'histoire récente éclaire les limites et les espoirs déçus), il conviendrait de renforcer le maillage des institutions existantes autour de la politique euro-méditerranéenne qui est la seule à disposer de moyens significatifs en termes d'expertise, comme de dotations financières.

Et, afin d'assurer un appui efficace à la transition démocratique dans les pays arabes, il conviendrait de poser une dynamique d'accompagnement associant portage politique, appui financier et mutualisation des savoirs à travers des plateformes d'assistance technique de portée régionale comme celle du Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée (CMI). Créé en 2009 par la Banque mondiale et la BEI pour appuyer la modernisation des politiques publiques au Sud et à l'Est de la Méditerranée, le CMI réunit le soutien de 9 gouvernements dont 7 de pays des rives Sud et Est de la Méditerranée (www.cmimarseille.org).

Les mutations économiques des pays arabes en transition embrassent toute une série de domaines dont certains relèvent des choix de société, et d'autres de la convergence vers des standards internationaux en vue de faciliter l'insertion réussie dans une économie mondialisée.

A la catégorie des choix de société appartiennent deux nexus qui n'ont pas encore été ni pleinement analysés, ni arbitrés par les sociétés arabes en transition. Il s'agit d'une part, des priorités essentielles à l'organisation du développement humain: sécurité alimentaire/gestion des eaux/transition énergétique. Il s'agit d'autre part du nexus touchant à l'organisation sociétale: emplois/aménagement du territoire/décentralisation de la gouvernance. Sur ces questions, complexes mais incontournables, la coopération internationale ne peut qu'aider à l'arbitrage des peuples en facilitant la compilation des savoirs et leur dissémination à l'échelle régionale.

A la catégorie des points de convergence vers les standards de la mondialisation appartiennent trois axes, étroitement complémentaires: la composition progressive de chaînes de valeur euro-méditerranéennes par des co-productions entre Nord et Sud de la Méditerranée (i), l'appui au développement de l'économie de la connaissance et à la mobilité des personnes légalement installées sur l'espace commun (ii) et le soutien à l'économie rurale et au développement régional (iii).

Sur ces sujets, la coopération internationale peut être considérée comme décisive: de sa réussite dépendra un sens de l'appropriation et une vision régionale partagés entre le Nord et le Sud, gage de stabilité et mieux-vivre ensemble dans l'une des régions les plus fragiles d'un monde de plus en plus instable.

Chaînes de valeurs régionales et mobilité des savoirs

L'organisation du système productif entre les deux rives de la Méditerranée cantonne actuellement les économies du Sud sur des segments à faible valeur ajoutée autour de contrats de sous-traitance; cette organisation favorise l'expatriation ou le déclassement de la main d'œuvre qualifiée de ces pays. Or, ce modèle économique est en contradiction avec la double mutation que connaissent les appareils de production mondialisés: d'une part, le rapatriement d'activités industrielles à l'intérieur des espaces régionaux; d'autre part, la part croissante des services aux entreprises à forte valeur ajoutée (R&D, design, marketing...) dans les chaînes de valeur industrielles.

Les expériences américaine et japonaise montrent que le redéploiement de l'appareil productif sur leurs glaces méridional, intégré dans un espace régional organisé, est non seulement la garantie de conserver un appareil de production sur son propre sol mais aussi de le renforcer. C'est pourquoi les relations euro-méditerranéennes devraient favoriser des stratégies concertées de partage des chaînes de valeurs régionales, suivant la répartition de segments spécifiques capables d'offrir des opportunités d'emplois pour les jeunes qualifiés des pays du Sud. Pour réussir cette mutation, la coopération euro-méditerranéenne devrait aider les pays du Sud à investir dans le passage à la société de la connaissance et le renforcement du contenu technologique de leurs emplois. Cette transformation, qui ne peut être que graduelle, suppose d'abord la modernisation et l'ouverture internationale des appareils éducatifs par le développement des contenus pédagogiques, des normes de formation et des certifications d'enseignements qui tiennent compte des évolutions et des attentes des clientèles consommatrices des chaînes de valeurs dans lesquelles les pays du Sud auront réussi à s'insérer.

Ces transformations seraient grandement facilitées par la généralisation des échanges pédagogiques entre les deux rives de la Méditerranée favorisant la circulation des savoirs, l'appropriation de constats partagés et de solutions concertées. L'Euro-Méditerranée devrait pouvoir organiser ces mobilités des étudiants et enseignants, et financer les systèmes de convergence puis reconnaissance des formations. A cet égard, il faut reconnaître que le dispositif mis en place depuis un demi-siècle par le CIHEAM est unique dans la région.

Développement territorial et modernisation rurale

La gestion centralisée des espaces territoriaux et la méfiance des pouvoirs autoritaires envers une population rurale abondante et peu éduquée ont suscité l'exclusion de larges parties des populations, notamment des jeunes; ceux-ci n'ont souvent eu comme perspective que l'exode vers les grandes villes du littoral ou l'émigration à risque vers le Nord. La tension qui en est résultée a été un puissant facteur du soulèvement démocratique de 2010-2011 et persiste cinq années plus tard, sous forme d'une radicalisation que les récents événements de Tunisie sont venus, hélas, illustrer.

Pour autant, le modèle européen de modernisation de l'espace rural – basé sur l'exode et d'importants transferts financiers – n'est pas transposable dans les pays du Sud méditerranéen : l'abondance de la population concernée (entre 30 et 50% du total), son faible niveau d'éducation, le sous-équipement des villes peu demandeuses de main d'œuvre non qualifiée et l'absence de moyens financiers pour augmenter l'intensité capitaliste de l'activité agricole imposent un constat : le maintien de l'exploitation agricole familiale sera une nécessité.

Dès lors, si l'on tient compte des pressions qu'imposent le changement climatique et la précarité hydrique en Méditerranée, la seule option réaliste consiste à renforcer la productivité par l'amélioration des techniques familiales de culture, la prise en compte des contraintes environnementales, l'adoption de démarches qualitatives et la mise en place de circuits courts. Ces modernisations ont des implications culturelles et sociales fortes que seules les populations concernées peuvent arbitrer : développement de l'économie sociale et solidaire dans les territoires, politiques œuvrant à l'émancipation féminine dans le domaine coopératif et agricole, décentralisation de la gouvernance territoriale et de la décision bancaire du financement de l'économie, etc. La coopération de l'Union européenne peut toutefois les appuyer par la mise en place d'outils financiers spécifiques (tels que les financements à impact social, la microfinance et l'appui à l'économie sociale et solidaire) et par la valorisation de plateformes régionales d'échanges des savoirs, tous instruments qui sont relativement peu coûteux et très efficaces.

Les sociétés méditerranéennes des rives Nord et Sud sont aujourd'hui placées devant des défis collectifs : croissance et emplois durablement faibles, montée des inégalités et des crispations identitaires, modernisation défailante de l'Etat et revitalisation du « vouloir-vivre ensemble ». La transition économique et sociale à réaliser devra nécessairement s'appuyer sur une coopération euro-méditerranéenne revisitée pour appuyer trois points d'attention :

- la nécessité de poursuivre l'ouverture économique du Sud, mais en la conditionnant à la mise en place effective de politiques d'inclusion, stabilisatrices de ces sociétés ;
- un accompagnement vigilant des capacités de résilience des économies dans leurs points de faiblesse : monde rural, activités informelles, gouvernance ;
- l'élargissement des opportunités offertes aux jeunes et aux femmes par la création de chaînes de valeur incluant le Sud sur des segments de productivité industrielle et de services partagés.

Pour l'Europe comme pour les économies du Sud, le choix est de *définir ensemble* une nouvelle coopération au service d'une vision régionale et d'un avenir commun. C'est dans cette perspective qu'il convient aussi de regarder les nouveaux Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) mis en place dans le cadre de l'agenda post-2015 des Nations-Unies : des cibles globales pour atteindre des résultats sur des intérêts communs transnationaux, quand bien même les réalités nationales et locales offrent un large éventail de diversités et d'enjeux spécifiques.

La Méditerranée est riche de son hétérogénéité. Cela ne doit toutefois pas l'empêcher d'avoir des dynamiques et des visions partagées sur les défis qui dépassent les frontières mais touchent toutes les sociétés.

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Les opinions exprimées dans cet article n'engagent que la responsabilité de l'auteur

La FEMIP : bras financier de l'Euro-Méditerranée

Créée en 2002 à la demande du Conseil européen et mise en œuvre par la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI), la Facilité euro-méditerranéenne d'investissement et de partenariat (FEMIP) est l'instrument financier de la Politique européenne de voisinage Sud. Depuis sa création, elle a investi près de 18 milliards d'euros dans les 9 pays méditerranéens partenaires, dont 5 milliards signés et 4 milliards décaissés depuis le soulèvement démocratique de 2010-2011.

En réponse au Printemps Arabe, la FEMIP a substantiellement adapté ses activités :

- priorité au développement des PME et à la création d'emplois privés par l'appui au secteur bancaire local et l'apport de fonds propres aux entreprises ; mise en place d'un nouveau mécanisme de capital-risque de 300 millions en faveur des PME ;
- création d'une enveloppe à « impact social » au soutien de l'économie sociale et coopérative, ainsi qu'à la microfinance au Maroc, en Tunisie, Egypte, Jordanie, Liban ;
- appui aux programmes de logement social et à la création de villes nouvelles en Tunisie, Egypte, Maroc et Jordanie ; renforcement des financements aux structures scolaires et de formation professionnelle (Maroc, Tunisie) ;
- 30% des opérations signées consacrées au climat par la génération d'électricité renouvelable, l'amélioration de l'efficacité énergétique (notamment par les transports urbains), la distribution électrique en milieu rural, etc.

La BEI-FEMIP a également développé une assistance technique à projets (46 millions) et à modernisation des politiques publiques (37 millions). Elle est un acteur engagé des plateformes régionales d'assistance à modernisation des politiques publiques que sont le Secrétariat l'UpM, le CMI-Centre pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée et le fonds fiduciaire du Partenariat de Deauville.

Pour la période 2014-2020, le mandat de la BEI-FEMIP s'élève à près de 10 milliards d'euros.

Private sector crucial for food revival in the Arab region

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The Fertile Crescent that stretches from the Levant to Iraq has long been known as the birthplace of agriculture and the cradle of ancient civilizations which it fed and watered for thousands of years. But now the region is under serious threat from climate change, struggling to produce enough food for its growing population. Local producers are facing a dramatic reduction in natural resource, particularly land and water.

The vital importance of agriculture to the region's culture and its economy is why the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has placed such a high priority on investment in the sector since it started its work there four years ago.

EBRD in the southern and eastern Mediterranean

In response to the seismic events of the Arab Spring in 2011, the G8 powers and the European Union asked the EBRD to become part of the international response to the economic challenges facing the countries grappling with the implications of political change. In May 2011, under France's G8 Presidency, the Deauville Partnership with Arab Countries in Transition was established.

The EBRD was singled out specifically because of its emphasis on developing the private sector and attracting such expertise and financing to the development of the region. Established in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the EBRD worked initially in the eastern bloc and former Soviet Union. The EBRD's shareholders believed the skills that had been honed in Eastern Europe could be successfully applied in new geographies. In 2008 the Bank expanded its remit to Turkey where the country very quickly started to benefit from the EBRD's expertise in private sector support as well as its experience in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and its strong focus on infrastructure and agribusiness.

Despite many historical and cultural differences, the economic challenges faced by the Arab Spring countries had much in common with those countries facing transition after the collapse of communism nearly two decades earlier. In both regions, the voice of the new generation is strong, calling out for change and improvements to the basic services from local authorities and access to higher quality affordable products. Entrepreneurs want to be able to work freely with access to a reliable financial sector and in an infrastructure that functions. Both households and industries need reliable and sustainable energy resources.

With that in mind, and after the strong initial success in Turkey, the EBRD's shareholders approved an extension of the Bank's remit to the southern and eastern Mediterranean (SEMED). In 2012 the Bank approved its first projects in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The EBRD has invested strongly across various sectors in the three years it has worked in those four countries, providing finance in excess of €2 billion in some 70 different projects.

Agriculture has played a key role in these investments, including support for citrus producers in Morocco, raspberry and olive farmers in Tunisia and the poultry sector in Jordan. In Tunisia, the EBRD supported the first large-scale raspberry plantation established in the country, operated by *Sanlucar Flor'alia*. The project will introduce new varieties of the fruit which will mainly be exported to Europe and the Middle East. The plantation will operate with modern and innovative agricultural methods, allowing the farm to minimise water consumption as well as use of fertilisers and pesticides. Furthermore, the project will provide new and stable jobs for farm workers and agricultural engineers.

In Egypt, the Bank is helping to develop the logistics infrastructure for grain commodities by funding *Medsoft*, an agricultural commodity importers and supply chain managers in the country. The EBRD's investment will contribute to the improvement of a terminal's utilisation in Alexandria Port, improving efficiency and distribution, and offering better services to clients. As important as the EBRD's individual projects are, the Bank's greater role is working across the SEMED region to improve the investment climate for other investors who will make an even bigger difference to the sector.

In order to achieve this goal the EBRD has teamed up with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to work on promoting private sector investment in agribusiness. During the Private Sector Forum held earlier this year in Barcelona on Food Security in the SEMED region, the EBRD and FAO joined by Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) committed to enhance quality standards and resource-efficiency in key food chains in the region and to promote exports of higher value-added products.

This engagement in the SEMED region reflects the spirit of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Declaration) of multilateral dialogue and cooperation between countries and development partners to support economic transition and reform and promote stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean region. The Bank will also cooperate with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) sharing knowledge and expertise,

Regional Challenges

The private sector involvement is vital as the region continues to grapple with severe external challenges of feeding their fast-growing populations. The challenge of providing food across the region will only increase further as the population of 280 million continues to expand rapidly and as higher incomes and a more educated urban population lead to changing consumption patterns and demand for quality food products.

This water-scarce region, with approximately one tenth of the renewable water per capita relative to other regions, will reach one of the lowest per capita levels of renewable water arable land in the world by 2015. Many countries rely on imports to meet demand, putting pressure on their already fragile economies. Specifically, the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean region import half of their basic crops (in 2013 alone, the region imported 29 million tons of wheat). Imports of agricultural food products to the region have risen by US\$ 69 billion, or 63 per cent, between 2002 and 2013. Meanwhile, exports have risen fivefold since 2000 to US\$31 billion, including dramatic increases in fruit and vegetable shipments to the Middle Eastern and North African markets.

The region is increasingly dependent on imports for key calorie-dense staples such as grains, sugar and vegetable oil. Furthermore, moving grain from port to mill can cost up to four times more than the global standard due to slow turnaround times for vessels, storage costs and high product losses.

Key role for private sector

Agricultural policies in this region have been driven by the public sector for a very long time, leading to neglect and a lack of investment. The time has come to develop an inclusive approach that can respond to the needs of a transforming society; systems that are not only more efficient in terms of production and the use of labour and resources, but also more effective in terms of food security, job creation and environmental sustainability.

This will require productive partnerships between the public and private sectors, which will need to explore new ways of working together. The public sector has a crucial role to play in providing an environment that supports private sector investment by promoting transparency and good governance, essential tools to foster transition and promote market liberalisation.

In an environment more conducive to investment, private sector involvement in agribusiness can increase financing for infrastructure and logistics to better manage food imports and exports, reducing food waste and relieving some of the burden on national budgets. The farming sector in the region remains very fragmented, with many small producers operating in the informal sector. This adds to the difficulty of unlocking the region's potential, making it harder to gain systematic access to technology, know-how and financing. In the past, this was also the case in northern Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Portugal and Spain. There, solutions were found through efficient aggregation and the development of cooperative systems, applied research and more structured food chains.

The availability of knowledge exchange as well as more sophisticated import and export planning to match supply and demand can contribute to better use of resources and higher-value local production. Agribusiness companies need professional training to modernise and expand their businesses by applying good practices on new farming and management technologies and to improve their access to finance.

The EBRD will continue to support countries of the SEMED region as they pursue policies that will open up opportunities for increased private investment. The Bank has already provided financing in excess of €150 million and mobilised additional private investment to help develop dairy, olive oil and meat processing as well as to improve logistics in agricultural commodity trade. One of the top priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals is food security and sustainable agriculture which will be adopted in the coming United Nations Summit in September 2015.

Over the next three years, the EBRD will strengthen food security in the region by investing over €300 million in both smaller farms and larger processing companies in the agribusiness sector. This support will be an opportunity for producers to differentiate their goods on the market and could lead to further development of processing activities.

Improved food safety and quality standards linked to efficient regulation and access to finance can pave the way for these countries to increase food supply for their own populations. It can also enable them to enter European Union markets with high quality products and increase exports to neighboring regions such as the Gulf and Eastern Europe.

The role of agricultural trade in delivering sustainable food systems

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Agricultural trade plays an important role in the sustainability of global and regional food systems. Trade between countries allows food to shift from surplus to deficit areas. It helps to increase the variety of products on offer. Without trade, the pressure on local and national food systems to provide food security for citizens would be much greater and carry with it significant burdens on natural resources and on government budgets.

Since 2000 agricultural production and trade patterns have continued to shift and world price trends have changed significantly. Some countries have maintained the reform path established by the 1994 Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); others have taken a different route. These market and policy developments, and challenges related to climate change, increasing populations, and per capita income growth will place additional pressure on food systems. Further opening agricultural markets and aligning domestic policies to this new environment can help foster innovation, productivity growth, and long term sustainability of the global food system.

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A shift in the relative importance of agricultural production centres

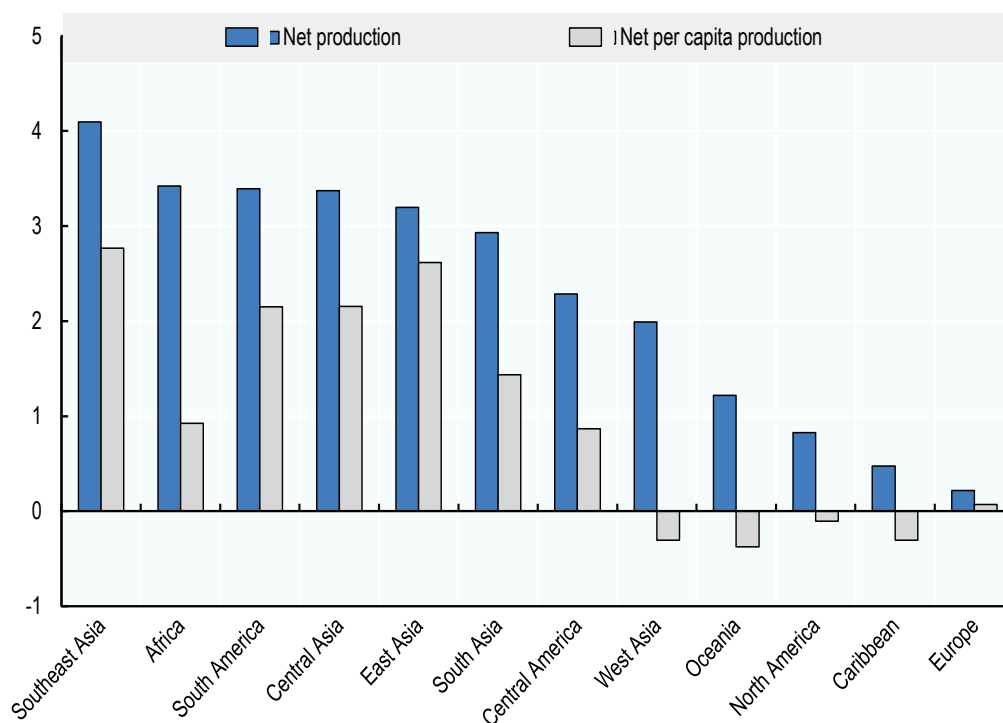
During the 2000s, global agricultural production growth was strong. Annual compound growth rates for the past decade outperformed those seen during the 1990s, returning to previous decadal growth rates of around 2.5 per cent per annum. Of particular note, the 2000s saw the fastest *per capita* agricultural production growth rates — close to twice those seen in previous decades. During this period, agricultural production growth outstripped population growth at a faster pace than had occurred over the previous 40 years.

But production growth was not uniform in agricultural producing regions across the globe. Significant differences arose between developed agricultural producing regions and emerging production centres. The 2000s saw continued strong production growth in South America and South-Eastern Asia, continuing trends from the 1990s. Other regions in Asia (excluding Western Asia) also experienced strong growth. In per capita terms, both South American and South-Eastern Asia also saw an acceleration in agricultural production volumes compared with past decadal growth rates. For Africa, while overall production growth was strong, in per capita terms growth was significantly lower than in other developing regions. Production growth in Europe and North America was significantly lower, and fell slightly in per capita terms in North America.

This paper draws on material from OECD (2015), *Issues in Agricultural Trade Policy: Proceedings of the 2014 OECD Global Forum on Agriculture*, OECD Publishing, Paris
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264233911-en>.



Figure 1.
Net agricultural production
Period compound annual growth rates (per cent) *Regional growth 2000-12*



Net production refers to total production less cereal use for livestock feed
Source: OECD estimates based on FAOSTAT (<http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>).

World trading patterns have changed

Over the longer term, the real value of agricultural and food products traded internationally has grown strongly. More countries are becoming involved in agricultural trade and a number of countries are trading more. Since the mid-1990s, growth in agro-food trade has averaged around 5 per cent per annum.¹ However, since the start of the 2000s growth rates in agro-food trade have been significantly higher – around 7% compared with 2% per annum in the period 1994-2000.

Another major development in world agricultural markets has been the increased importance of developing countries, in particular the major emerging economies.² Between 2000 and 2013, their share of world agricultural exports increased from 9.9 to 17.4 per cent, while their share of world agricultural imports increased from 6.5 to 15.6 per cent. Most of this increase represents increased trade with other emerging economies. For example, around 24 per cent of Brazil's total agricultural exports are to China. The OECD-FAO Outlook (2015) suggests that these trends will continue over the next ten years. At a regional level, the Americas will strengthen their position as the dominant export region, both in value and volume terms, while Asia and Africa will increase their net imports in order to meet growing demand.

¹ Estimates represent compound annual growth rates in the real value of reported agricultural product imports and exports respectively, based on Comtrade data for the period between 1994 and 2013.

² The major emerging economies referred to are Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, and South Africa.

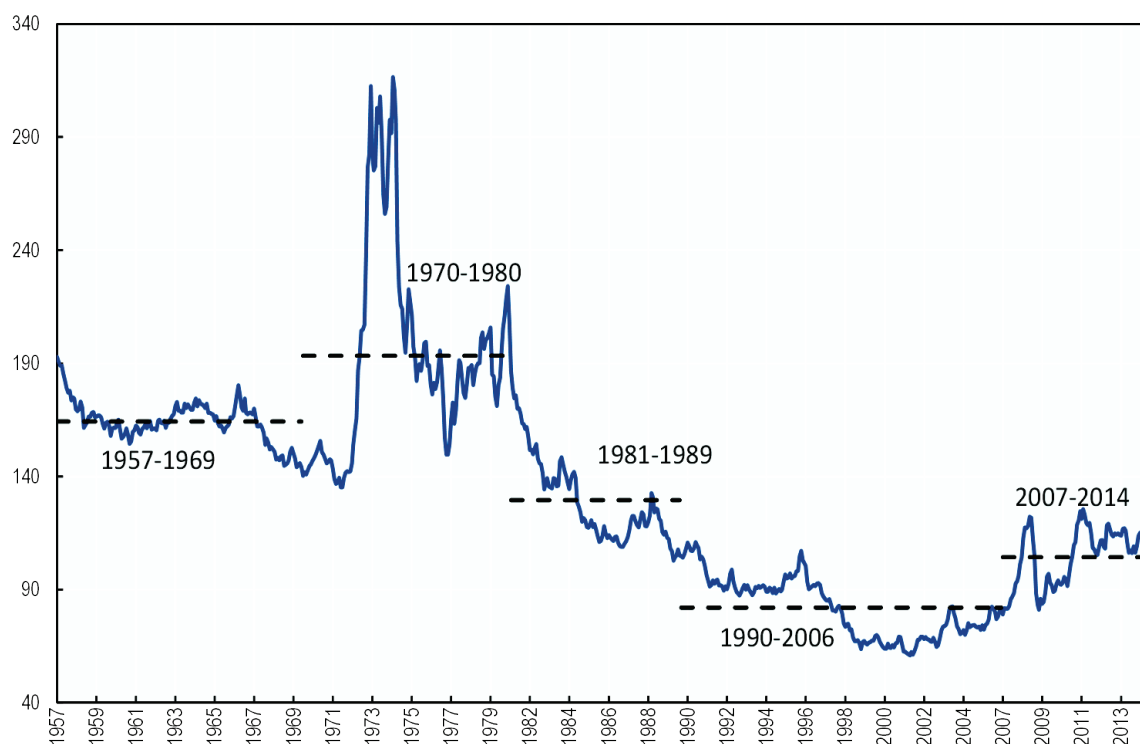
A reversal in past price trends

The sustained period of structurally declining food prices came to an end in the early-2000s, and was followed by an increase in prices and a series of food price spikes from 2007/08 to 2012 (figure 2). Since then prices have stabilised considerably, albeit at higher levels than before 2007.

Recent food price spikes were driven by a confluence of mutually re-enforcing longer term structural changes, short term market shocks, and policy responses (OECD, 2008; Piesse and Thirtle, 2009; Naylor and Falcon, 2010; Headey, 2011). On top of underlying structural changes to world agricultural markets from rising levels of food and feed demand, falling stock-to-use ratios and increasing production being channelled to biofuels production, world markets were hit by a number of short term shocks. Droughts in key grain producing regions and other weather effects, exchange rate movements, along with hoarding and panic buying by private agents helped spur already rising prices. On top of this, government policy interventions through trade restrictions, biofuels mandates, and even 'panic' purchases by some governments contributed to these price spikes.

Over the medium term, real prices for most agricultural products are projected to decline from 2014 levels (OECD-FAO, 2015). Prices for cereals are expected to decline modestly in real terms over the period from 2015 to 2024. Meat prices on the other hand are expected to see more significant real price declines over the projected period. Nevertheless, the projections suggest structurally higher prices than those seen between 1990 and 2006.

Figure 2.
Real food prices from 1957 to 2014



Nominal food prices were deflated by the US deflator. To convert to real prices, the average annual US GDP deflator was applied to each monthly observation.

The horizontal bars depict average price levels for selected periods.

Source: OECD calculations based on IMF IFS database
(<http://data.imf.org/?sk=5DABAFF2-C5AD-4D27-A175-1253419C02D1>).

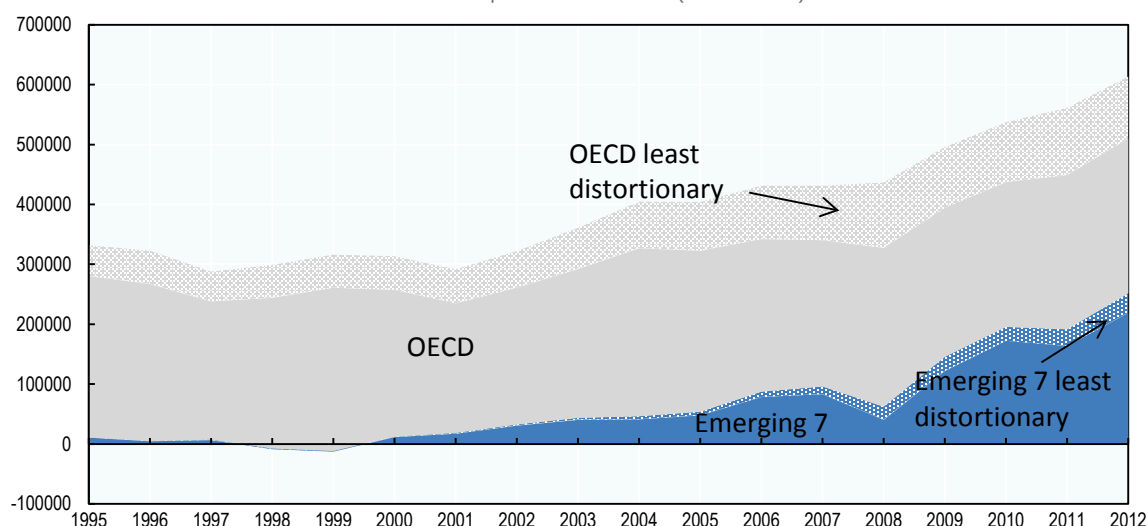
The policy landscape has evolved

Alongside developments in domestic and international agricultural markets, the extent and nature of government involvement in the sector has also changed. Market access, measured as average applied tariffs, has improved across the board including within the Mediterranean group of countries which have lowered average most-favoured nation agro-food tariffs since 2000 from around 36% to 25% in 2012.

Despite this, globally there increasingly appears to be a convergence across developed and developing countries in the use of policies that directly support individual farmers, rather than the sector as a whole. Since 1995, income transfers to individual farmers by emerging and developing countries have been increasing, driven in part by rising levels of development and incomes within these countries, and for some, a push towards policies aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in particular agricultural products. In 1995, the 7 emerging economies for which the OECD collects information on agricultural policies accounted for about 4 per cent of the total measured producer support estimates (PSE). By 2012, these same 7 countries accounted for over 45 per cent of the total (figure 3). This rising share is made up of stable nominal expenditures by OECD countries and growing expenditures in emerging countries.

The composition of the PSE within some emerging countries shows that the increase in PSE is mostly due to increases in the use of policies that are most distortionary in terms of their impact on trade — those of market price support, output based payments and input subsidies. In contrast, for most OECD countries, the share of the PSE made up of most distortionary policies has fallen since 2000, with an increase in the use of decoupled payments.

Figure 3.
Trends in PSE: OECD and emerging economies
Nominal PSE spend 1995 to 2012 (USD billions)



Source: OECD Stat (<http://stats.oecd.org>).

A contributing factor to this increase in producer support policies was the 2007/08 food price crisis. During the crisis, a number of governments imposed export restrictions and varied import duties in an attempt to insulate domestic consumers from rapidly rising international prices. For larger exporting countries, these interventions helped moderate the price increases faced by domestic consumers.

However, the use of defensive trade policy measures came at a cost. During the period of rapidly rising food prices, Anderson, Ivanic and Martin (2013) found that such policies exaggerated overall price movements. Similarly, Headey (2011) suggests that trade policy related decisions were a major driver of the observed price spikes. For rice, wheat, maize and soybeans, trade actions by countries related to export restrictions, buying to increase stockholdings and removal of import restrictions/import subsidies all contributed to the price spikes.

The effects of these policies were particularly felt by net food importing countries that already had low trade barriers. The exaggerated price movements created by the application of insulation policies in other countries created worse outcomes than what would have otherwise occurred. From a global perspective, the various individual country interventions targeted at improving food security lessened it. Anderson, Ivanic and Martin (2013) found that the trade based food price insulation policies implemented in 2007-08 could have actually increased the number of people living in poverty around the world.

In the period since, many countries have maintained a more defensive stance to international markets and increased intervention in agricultural markets. These stances are often pursued with reference to a desire to improve food security. The policy levers employed have varied, and many employ a raft of measures ranging from market price support provided by trade barriers, input subsidies and for some, through the use of public stockholding programs. However, not all policies applied have been distortionary, with many countries making significant investments in agricultural infrastructure, agriculture education and training, and research and development. There also remain pockets of very high tariff barriers for several agricultural commodities. In many cases the maximum duty for any agricultural tariff line is significantly above the average tariff level, often as high as several hundred percent. Further, potential tariff levels remain high. Many countries, developed and developing, have bound tariff levels that significantly exceed their applied levels.

In other policy areas, there have been notable improvements. Actual use of export subsidies have declined in recent years, in part as a result of high prices on international markets, but in part also due to policy reforms. Of the 18 WTO Members (counting all EU member countries as one) that had agreed non-zero export subsidy commitments in the Uruguay Round, ten countries have not used export subsidies in any year since the beginning of the Doha Round in 2001. More broadly, the WTO Secretariat has suggested that since the launch of the Doha Round there have been positive developments in other elements of the export competition pillar as well (WTO, 2014).

Further reforms are important

Growing trade volumes, the diversity of products that trade is able to deliver, and the expansion of global value chains have increased the importance of agricultural trade in delivering food and incomes to many domestic populations. Looking ahead, the agriculture and food sector will be expected to respond to rising global demand for food while using natural resources more efficiently and simultaneously coping with the uncertain impacts of climate change.

For policy makers, this means investing more in food and agriculture innovation, research & development, technology transfer, education, and extension services to enable higher productivity growth throughout the food supply chain. It means ensuring that the physical and institutional infrastructure is in place to enable farmers to use available land, water and biodiversity resources more efficiently, and to minimize losses and waste at all levels where they occur. It means harnessing the potential of trade to mitigate shocks and reduce volatility and to ensure available, accessible and stable food supplies for the most vulnerable populations.

Finally, it means rolling back the policy mechanisms that impede the structural adjustments needed for a resilient global food and agriculture system, with sometimes unintended negative impacts on sustainability and food security outcomes. Achieving such policy reforms is perhaps less difficult today than many governments imagine. As noted, average applied tariffs have already fallen in most developed and emerging countries, increasing the binding tariff overhang in many. Locking in these changes should be feasible, and would help to prevent backsliding and bring much needed predictability to international trade in food and agriculture products. This will help avoid a shift back to policies which have been consistently shown to be an ineffective way of fostering agricultural development, and to have almost exclusively negative impacts on food security, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

With prices of agricultural and food products relatively high in historic terms and demand likely to continue strong, most countries have stopped using export subsidies. However, as with market access, the possibility to use export subsidies remains in some cases progress could be made by locking in the status quo. On other dimensions of export competition, food aid has now largely been monetised and is no longer a major issue for export competition. Most of the state trading export monopolies in OECD countries have been abolished or reformed, although state trading companies charged with implementing complex market interventions have become prominent actors in some emerging countries in recent years. On the other side of the ledger, export restrictions of various kinds have become more prominent, especially during the 2007/08 food price crisis. While there may be no immediate plans to negotiate stricter multilateral disciplines on export restrictions, their ineffectiveness is well understood, as are the risks of disruption in international markets with negative consequences for the food security of importing nations.

On domestic support countries could begin to unravel provisions that are most distortionary to markets with a view to releasing resources for their longer term positive policy agenda. That agenda would favour, in particular, new investments in innovation for sustainable productivity growth. The current market environment should make this easier to do today than when WTO negotiations first started. Many countries have already begun to decouple support from production decisions, and new measures are less disruptive to markets and trade.

Others are exploring how to go to the next stage, using scarce fiscal resources to strengthen the productivity, competitiveness and profitability of the sector. Another group of countries, some of them major emerging economic powers, are already experiencing the drawbacks of market interventions which have resulted in huge stockholdings, high fiscal costs, a loss in the responsiveness of production to market demands, yet with only modest impacts on farmers' standards of living or improvements in food security. It is becoming clear that these policies will not be able to maintain farm incomes relative to rapidly growing incomes in other parts of the economy. These pressures require a different set of policies aimed at assisting those who remain in the sector to grow and become competitive producers while providing alternative economic opportunities for those who wish exit the sector.

Historically, countries have moved from taxing the farm sector, to providing market disrupting price support and border protection, to a positive reform agenda that aims to help the sector be more productive, competitive and sustainable over time. There are many country cases that can be explored and experiences that can be adapted to the situation of countries at various stages of development. Today, there is a compelling economic case for a re-orientation of policy away from distorting market and trade interventions to positive measures in favour of innovation and sustainable productivity growth. Doing so would bring significant and widespread benefits.

Conclusion

For the Mediterranean region, the Post 2015 development agenda focuses on issues related to food, water, land and climate insecurity, key challenges that agriculture and agricultural policy makers need to prepare for and adapt to. Past experience in a wide range of countries suggests that for policies makers in the Mediterranean region as well it is important that agricultural policy remains forward looking, targeting sustainable productivity growth that can improve farm competitiveness and profitability while simultaneously addressing natural resource constraints.

Mediterranean countries as a group have taken steps to reduce barriers to trade in agriculture by lowering most-favoured nation tariffs levels since 2000, but levels remain high suggesting that more can be done. Further efforts in the development of policies to drive productivity growth, sustainably, should be complimented by international commitments to more open trading in agricultural markets. For consumers, such a policy stance would also provide the best policy footing.

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Regional integration and the Post 2015 Development Agenda: *Towards a Follow up and Review Mechanism of Sustainable Development Policies in the Mediterranean Arab Countries*

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** Opinions exposed in this paper are those of the author and do not engage UN-ESCWA.*

Triumph of the multilateralism or defeat of the regionalism? As expected, the implementation of the 2030 agenda will reveal the importance of the regional dimension in achieving the 17 goals and their related 169 targets, as agreed upon by the open working group on SDGs¹ and reiterated in the New York Summit outcome document² adopted last week by the General Assembly. Nevertheless, the progress for the implementation of the new Agenda at the national level will largely depend on regional dynamics, the integration of national priorities to SDGs under national planning systems and the reporting on progress related to those priorities should be grounded in regional strategic frameworks on sustainable development to be considered as a driving force for the 2030 agenda.

Such regional strategic, as well as legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable development deserve to be reconsidered for compliance to the new agenda. This alignment will provide the legitimacy of regional preparation for Follow up and Reviews Mechanism at the global level involving Arab Mediterranean countries to the annual meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)³ and to the ECOSOC forum on financing for development. UN commissions in the region, notably ESCWA shall undertake such preparations for Arab Mediterranean countries through the Arab Sustainable Development Forum.

Against a regional strategic framework on sustainable development for the Mediterranean⁴, apparently aligned with the 2030 Agenda but reflecting regional sustainable development goals with a special focus on environmental sustainability, this group of countries would have the opportunity to contribute to the elaboration of the regional strategic sustainable development framework proposal for the Arab region⁵ and its full alignment to the new agenda profiting, hopefully, from lessons learned related to the Mediterranean experiences about mainstreaming sustainable development at the regional level.

Suffering from occupation, protracted conflicts and terrorism, peace and security issues are, with no doubt, prerequisites of any development endeavor for the future of Arab Mediterranean countries. Security and development in the region will benefit all Mediterranean peoples and could reframe the vision reflected in MEDPRO (Mediterranean Prospects) for the region in the horizon 2030 and its more optimistic scenario "The blue scenario"⁶ into evidence-based policies and results-based approaches to sustainable development. Strengthening the environmental pillar of sustainable development is key for any regional arrangement aiming at establishing new dynamics in the Mediterranean and the Arab region. Coherence of the regional strategic frameworks on sustainable development (i) should be complemented by bringing closer the legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable development for Arab states and their partners in the North of the Mediterranean (ii).

¹ Available through this link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1579SDGs%20Proposal.pdf>

² See the New York Summit Outcome Document in this link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891Transforming%20Our%20World.pdf>

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

⁴ Available from this link:

http://planbleu.org/sites/default/files/upload/files/smdd_uk.pdf

⁵ <http://css.escwa.org.lb/SDPD/3315/2.pdf>

⁶ What scenarios for the Euro-Mediterranean in 2030 in the wake of the Arab spring? Rym Ayadi and Carlo Sessa MEDPRO Policy Paper No. 2 / October 2011 (Updated 25 February 2013)

Coherence of the regional strategic frameworks on sustainable development: Alignment to the horizon and to 2030 Agenda spirit

The optimistic scenario 2030 of MEDPRO called "blue transition" toward sustainable development and involving the Arab Region, could be reconsidered to rethinking the horizon of the new strategic frameworks on sustainable development both for the Mediterranean and the Arab Region⁷.

Under a multilayered strategic framework on sustainable development from national to the global, a regional strategic framework on sustainable development is, in principle, perceived to maintain the momentum of the 2030 Agenda and to provide guidance for national priorities to sustainable development goals either under national sustainable development strategies or other adequate strategic frameworks under the national planning system for the horizon 2030.

The new strategic sustainable development framework to be aligned to the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region should pursue environmental security as the priority of the region, taking into account conventional and unconventional threats to human security. Six southern and eastern Mediterranean countries are considered currently fragile and conflict-affected countries and need to be targeted by adequate policies under this strategic framework, especially for southern and eastern Mediterranean countries where human well-being would have been harmed, economic development slowed down, and natural resources submitted to further pressures caused by humanitarian situations, refugee's movements and camping. Environmental degradation cost assessments should be added to the cost of conflicts⁸ (occupation, war, civil war and terrorism...) and their spillover impacts⁹ in order to conceive for the future responses in terms of new sustainable development strategies for resilience and alternative sustainability pathways based on the "blue scenario" as underlined above.

All these pressures are environmental in nature and related to natural capital assets. A comprehensive perception should be built upon different forms of capitals: To the natural capital, we have to add the human capital, the industrial, financial and social capital for sustainability assessment in the Mediterranean and Arab regions. Therefore, we can conclude to inequality among and between Mediterranean and Arab countries in terms of human well-being, quality of life and other socio-economic performances as an additional threat exacerbating pressures in the region beyond inequality related to natural assets¹⁰. Ways forward to enhance awareness

about the need to assess the value of ecosystems and to dispose of a natural capital accounting system in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries should be explored, especially in the context of Arab region where neither comprehensive nor thematic assessments on biodiversity and ecosystems services are available.

Current initiatives such WAVE and the involvement of other UN entities and programmes were not successful to trigger the expected change for the implementation of new UN Economic-environmental accounting framework of 2012 in the Arab region. Data revolution couldn't have true perspectives in this part of the world if such initiatives wouldn't have been implemented in the near future. Indeed, further efforts should be undertaken for strengthening the science-policy interface for decision making processes. Environmental Policies Reviews (EPR) in southern and eastern Arab Mediterranean countries should be conducted by UN commissions, notably UNECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe) and UN-ESCWA (UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)

The review of the Mediterranean sustainable development strategy and the proposal of a strategic framework for the horizon 2025 provided some useful insights for the endorsement of the regional strategic framework on sustainable development in the Arab region and especially for its expected first action plan. National strategic frameworks on sustainable development are needed for realistic options to be endorsed at the regional level and against which progress could be measured periodically through adequate monitoring system. Ideally, a reporting system should be conceived for accountability under a three-level approach for a follow up and review mechanism on sustainable development.

Moreover, a horizontal solidarity between the Mediterranean region and Arab States could build on joint programmes and new initiatives for capacity building, especially in Arab Mediterranean countries and could benefit from experiences, researches, knowledge and success stories in the North of the Mediterranean region. A joint regional initiative for strengthening sustainable development could structure a new partnership Med-Arab region, aiming at mobilizing climate finance and innovative financing mechanisms for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns and the transition to green economy in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, and renew the Euro-med process. New policies and regulations under the two regional strategic frameworks will offer a unique opportunity for revisiting the legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable development in the Arab region, and especially, in the Arab Mediterranean countries.

⁷ The proposal retained 2025 as a horizon for the Arab Strategic Framework on Sustainable Development.

⁸http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/ecri_editor/Download.asp?table_name=ecri_projects&field_name=id&FileID=48

⁹ ESCWA WORKING PAPER Beyond governance and conflict: measuring the impact of the neighborhood effect in the Arab region.
http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/ecri_editor/Download.asp?table_name=ecri_documents&field_name=id&FileID=272

¹⁰ Ways forward reducing inequality in order to boost growth as advocated recently by OECD

(<http://www.oecd.org/els/soc/Focus-Inequality-and-Growth-2014.pdf>)

Toward the harmonization of legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable development in Arab states and their partners in the North of the Mediterranean

Compliance to the international and regional legal framework and Institutional building on sustainable development should mobilize new synergies for the 2030 agenda implementation in Mediterranean countries and their neighboring Arab States. The Arab region includes five main regional marine bodies of water. Each of these seas or oceans is guided by a regional conservation organization or programme, as well as a regional fisheries management arrangement.

Each marine area is tethered to its own set of challenges in relation to the misuse and/or degradation of marine resources; this differentiation stems from a diverse set of realities but ultimately leads to similar ends, in terms of adapting to and mitigating changes. Beyond fisheries management, the Barcelona convention with its different protocols offers a comprehensive regional legal framework that could inspire other sea programmes in the Arab world for the protection of marine ecosystems to be considered as a vital interest for food security and sustainable development.

The ambition shouldn't be only the unification of the legal regimes related to the seas and oceans protection under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) but also the adoption of the spirit of Barcelona convention and its arrangements for effectiveness such the compliance mechanism and the reporting system on progress related to the implementation of the different protocols. In addition, adopting and adapting the spirit of UNECE conventions on trans-boundary environmental risks in and to the Arab region, starting by Arab Mediterranean countries, could mobilize UN actors from the two regions, EU and probably European countries through an ambitious program for the Codification of Environmental Law in Arab Mediterranean countries, highly needed for compliance to Barcelona Convention at the national level and for the effectiveness of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the regional level. The UNECE legal frameworks, especially on environmental trans-boundary issues should influence the national legal systems in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries¹¹.

Under the expected new Development Agenda, special needs for capacity building on data and Sustainable Development Indicators should be pointed out in the context of southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. The state of environment is one of reporting tool on sustainable development and should be undertaken under the integration principle of UNEP¹². However, measuring sustainable development through human well-being,

despite the fact that it would be difficult for Arab Mediterranean countries, could offer the opportunity to establish one of the data revolution prerequisites: The Economic-environmental accounting system as mentioned above, and could harmonize, national, regional and global sustainable development baselines and propose the needed measurement methodologies of sustainable development goals and targets for salience and comparability; and contribute therefore to capacity building on sustainable development statistics and accountability for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The ESCWA proposal of a comprehensive framework to monitor democratic governance with focus on the present circumstances and priorities of the Arab region ¹³should be the cornerstone of a regional monitoring system on sustainable development.

A Regional Observatory on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region is highly recommended and the League of Arab States (LAS), ESCWA and other UN entities and programmes could benefit from lessons learned from similar experiences in the Mediterranean for its design and establishment. Furthermore, the endorsement by LAS of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development as a regional multi-stakeholder platform, will prepare progressively further steps for performing the institutional framework on sustainable development in the Arab region under LAS. The transformation of the Joint Committee on environment and development (JCDAR) into a Regional Commission on Sustainable Development will contribute to coherence with the global level under the HLPF and should benefit from lessons learned from the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Commission.

Supportiveness between the two regional institutional frameworks on sustainable development needs to be recognized under an ad-hoc arrangement: A Mediterranean-Arab Council on Sustainable Development. This option will contribute to the implementation of the two strategic frameworks on sustainable development bridging institutions at all levels, ensuring coherence for country-led follow up and review to the HLPF and the role of regional institutions and especially UN regional commissions in providing support through capacity building programmes to their member countries for such reviews of sustainable development policies.

To tap its whole potential, the "blue scenario" of MEDPRO, will need strong and effective institutions on sustainable development, coherent and realistic strategic framework on sustainable development at all levels and new partnership based on an anchored conviction that since Mediterranean peoples are sharing this vital space, they are sharing common risks and burdens. The crisis of today shall be perceived as an opportunity to establish a durable peace and to sustain development.

¹¹ Reference should be made to UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

¹² For more information see the following link: <http://www.nrg4sd.org/news/unep-post-2015-briefing-notes>.

¹³ ESCWA report: From Government to Governance: How Will the Arab Region Meet the Goals of Sustainable Development in the Post 2015 Period?

Développer la chaîne du froid pour alimenter la planète : un défi méditerranéen

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Améliorer la chaîne du froid pour préserver les aliments et les produits de santé est nécessaire dans le monde entier. Malgré de nombreux équipements dans les pays développés, le nombre de maladies et de décès reste trop important. Le comportement des consommateurs doit évoluer pour éviter le gaspillage et de substantielles économies d'énergie sont possibles.

Dans les pays en développement, le manque d'infrastructures est la cause de pertes après-récoltes considérables : c'est une question de sécurité alimentaire qui va croître à l'avenir. L'IIF a lancé plusieurs initiatives pour faire face à ces défis.

Un problème clé aujourd'hui et à l'avenir

Le froid est nécessaire à la vie. Tout être vivant (bactérie, plante, animal) a une plage de température dans laquelle il peut vivre. Tout produit biologique se modifie en fonction de la température. Maintenir la température à un certain niveau pour les produits alimentaires et de santé permet de préserver leur intégrité. Quelques chiffres sont à retenir :

- 1600 décès par an (Mead, 1999) aux Etats-Unis sont dus à des pathogènes, au moins partiellement associés à un contrôle des températures insuffisant et évidemment beaucoup plus dans des pays en développement ;
- Selon un rapport de l'OMS de 2008 (WHO, 2008), le froid et une meilleure hygiène, aux Etats-Unis, ont réduit les cancers de l'estomac de 89% chez les hommes et de 92% chez les femmes depuis 1930 ;
- La population mondiale, particulièrement croissante en Afrique et en Asie du Sud, devrait atteindre 9 à 10 milliards d'habitants en 2050 dont 8 milliards dans les pays en développement (UN, 2011) ;

- 70% (50% actuellement) vivront dans des villes, avec un doublement dans les pays en développement, (UN, 2011) accroissant ainsi le besoin de chaînes du froid à cause de distances plus longues entre sites de production et marchés et de modèles d'alimentation occidentalisés ;
- 800 millions de personnes sont encore mal nourries (FAO, 2010) ;
- 23% des denrées alimentaires sont perdues du fait de l'absence de froid dans les pays en développement, vs 9% dans les pays développés (IIF, 2009) ;
- La capacité d'entreposage frigorifique dans les pays développés est dix fois la capacité d'entreposage frigorifique par habitant dans les pays en développement (IIF, 2009) (FAO-IIF, 2014).

Réduire les pertes et gaspillages alimentaires est clairement un objectif majeur de développement durable inscrit à l'agenda post 2015 des Nations-unies. Il met en revanche insuffisamment l'accent sur les moyens d'y parvenir par une meilleure conservation des denrées.

Les approches de ces questions doivent être différenciées entre pays développés et pays en développement, avec bien sûr de nombreux cas intermédiaires, en particulier dans les pays du sud de la Méditerranée.

Des améliorations indispensables dans les pays développés

Il est nécessaire d'améliorer la qualité des produits tout au long de la chaîne du froid, grâce à des technologies nouvelles ou améliorées ainsi qu'à une meilleure information et un meilleur comportement du consommateur. Les pertes finales (gaspillage chez le consommateur, chez le distributeur ou le restaurateur) sont, dans les pays développés, plus importantes qu'au long de la chaîne du froid (IIF, 2009).

Il est aussi indispensable de réduire la consommation énergétique des équipements de la chaîne du froid et de diminuer l'utilisation de frigorigènes fluorés, qui sont souvent de puissants gaz à effet de serre en cas de fuite. La consommation électrique des équipements de froid, y compris le conditionnement d'air représente plus de 17% de la consommation mondiale d'électricité. Cette proportion est supérieure à la moyenne mondiale en Afrique du Nord et au Proche-Orient (27,9%), moins en Europe (14,3%), avec un niveau par habitant toutefois très différent (539 kWh/an/hab.) contre 808 en Europe. (note d'information de l'IIF à paraître). Réduire la consommation énergétique par une meilleure efficacité est aussi un objectif du millénaire, qui concerne pleinement le secteur du froid.

L'IIF a conduit récemment plusieurs actions dans ces domaines :

- Enquêtes sur les besoins et les comportements des consommateurs et de l'industrie en matière de froid : l'IIF a participé à un projet de recherche européen, FRISBEE, fini en août 2014. Les résultats sont publiés sur le site de l'IIF (www.iifir.org);
- Développement et diffusion de stratégies pour améliorer l'efficacité énergétique dans les systèmes de froid dans le secteur de l'alimentation et des boissons : outre le projet FRISBEE, qui portait également sur les technologies d'entreposage et de transport frigorifiques et de commercialisation, l'IIF a participé à un autre projet européen, Cool-Save, sur les usines elles-mêmes, qui s'est terminé en avril 2015. Les résultats sont publiés sur le site de l'IIF et un guide a été édité (Cool-Save, 2015) ;
- Rédaction d'une note d'information en 2015 sur les produits de santé, qui nécessitent de plus en plus un maintien à température contrôlée (produits biotechnologiques). Ce « nouveau » marché du froid doit être davantage pris en compte dans la logistique du froid.

Des besoins vitaux dans les pays en développement

Le manque d'une chaîne du froid fiable et suffisante est l'une des principales causes des pertes de produits périssables, estimées en Afrique subsaharienne à environ 25-30 pour cent pour les produits d'origine animale et 40-50 pour cent pour les racines, les tubercules et les fruits et légumes (FAO, 2011). Ces pertes se traduisent non seulement par une dégradation de la sécurité alimentaire dans toutes ses dimensions, mais aussi par la perte d'opportunités de marchés, le gaspillage de ressources rares consacrées à leur production (l'eau, la terre et l'énergie) et une empreinte écologique considérable.

Or, une chaîne du froid fiable et efficace contribue non seulement à réduire ces pertes, mais aussi à améliorer l'efficacité technique et opérationnelle de la chaîne de l'alimentation. Elle favorise ainsi la conformité aux exigences de qualité et de sécurité ainsi que l'élargissement des marchés, propice au développement de la production (IIF, 2009). Le développement de la chaîne du froid pourrait donc être considéré comme un passage obligé pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

L'IIF (IIF, 2009) estimait la capacité d'entreposage frigorifique à environ 200 litres/habitant pour les pays développés (avec un niveau de 70 pour cent d'habitants urbains) et à 19 litres/habitant pour les pays en développement (avec 50 pour cent d'urbains) y compris des pays émergents comme la Chine qui se situe à un niveau intermédiaire. Des statistiques plus précises mais disparates existent pour certains pays. Une étude (IARW, 2014) chiffre à 306 litres/habitant urbain la capacité d'entreposage frigorifique dans l'Union Européenne, 95 litres en Afrique du Nord et 8 litres en Afrique sub-saharienne.

L'Afrique du Nord et le Proche-Orient sont donc dans une situation intermédiaire, de pays « émergents », grâce en particulier aux échanges agro-alimentaires avec l'Europe, à des accords en matière de normes sur la chaîne du froid (Maroc, Tunisie) ou à une industrie du froid puissante (Turquie).

Les pertes aggravent l'écart de prix entre le producteur et le consommateur. Le manque d'une chaîne du froid fiable et suffisante limite les possibilités de commercialisation, freine le développement de la production, réduit l'accessibilité pour les consommateurs et la rentabilité pour les producteurs. Le développement de la logistique du froid doit donc être un élément essentiel des stratégies d'ensemble de développement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Le coût d'une chaîne du froid fiable n'est économiquement supportable que si la production est suffisante, en quantité et en qualité. De même, la maintenance des équipements nécessite une main d'œuvre qualifiée, dont la formation n'est justifiée que si le nombre d'appareils en fonctionnement permet de lui assurer un emploi. Ces deux exemples montrent que la chaîne du froid doit être intégrée dans des stratégies de développement multisectorielles et multipartites (agriculture, logistique, formation, recherche et développement, contrôles, etc.), privilégiant la concertation interprofessionnelle et le partenariat public privé. De telles stratégies doivent résulter de constats partagés et d'objectifs convergents des acteurs publics et privés, et doivent être clairement formulées et conjointement mises en œuvre.

La nature et le poids des freins au développement de la chaîne du froid diffèrent selon les filières (viande, fruits et légumes, poisson et fruits de mer, lait et produits laitiers, etc.) et les régions (climat, réseau électrique, infrastructures de transport, proximité des marchés, pouvoir d'achat, organisation économique et sociale, habitudes alimentaires, etc.). Si les caractéristiques principales d'une chaîne du froid efficace sont partout les mêmes, les stratégies et les trajectoires de développement doivent être adaptées à cette diversité et aux capacités d'évolution et d'action des acteurs privés et publics.

Les principes d'une stratégie gagnante ont été élaborés par l'IIF et la FAO pour l'Afrique sub-saharienne dans une note d'orientation sur les agro-industries (FAO-IIF, 2014) publiée en 2014 en version française (la version anglaise sera publiée en 2015). Des travaux sont en cours pour la compléter dans le cadre d'un projet commun avec la FAO (« *Meeting Urban Food Need* ») et des travaux restent à mener en Afrique du Nord et au Proche-Orient, régions qui se trouvent dans une situation intermédiaire. L'IIF a confié à sa déléguée tunisienne le soin d'animer un groupe de travail sur la chaîne du froid dans les pays chauds dont les termes de référence ont été revus afin de lancer de nouveaux travaux à partir de la fin 2015.

Conclusion

Améliorer la chaîne du froid dans les secteurs de l'alimentation et de la santé est maintenant reconnue comme une haute priorité par d'autres organisations intergouvernementales, telles que la FAO et le CIHEAM. Néanmoins, il faut inscrire cela dans les programmes d'investissement des différentes agences et banques internationales ou régionales et en faire une priorité de chaque gouvernement: c'est une question cruciale pour la sécurité alimentaire et la santé dans chaque pays. L'IIF y participera, en partenariat avec ces autres organismes intergouvernementaux.

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Liste des Etats membres du CIHEAM qui le sont également au sein de l'IIF en 2015

Algérie, Egypte, Espagne, France, Italie, Liban, Maroc, Tunisie, Turquie.

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New Medit Journal

Based in Italy, this journal is produced under the direction of the CIHEAM-Bari. Agro-food economy, rural systems and environmental issues are the main topics addressed.

Established in 1990, *New Medit* is a quarterly publication. This peer-reviewed journal is evaluated in the "Journal Citation Reports (JCR) Science Edition". The articles are referenced in the "Web of Science Core Collection".

Its peer recognition makes it even more attractive for researchers and scientists in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. Since 2014, the editorial board of *New Medit* has opted for the free access policy by making all articles available online.

Economics, agriculture, and environment are the key words of the subjects dealt with in the review.



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20 Years of the Barcelona Process: what future for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership?

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The European Union is facing a new challenge regarding its neighbourhood policy for the coming years. Internal and external threats have arisen in the last twenty years and have disrupted the European Union strategy. These interferences have increased the distance between the inherited values and beliefs of the founding fathers and the real possibilities of action of the European Union towards its neighbours.

The history of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), created in 1989, goes hand in hand with Euro-Mediterranean Policy itself. When analysing the evolution of this twenty years, there are three major dates. These dates, worth to be highlighted, could be considered as major turning points not only in the history of the Euro-Mediterranean Policy but also regarding IEMed itself.

Three major dates for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation

The first date to bear in mind is of course 1995, the twentieth anniversary of which is being commemorated in 2015. Until that year, there had practically been no European policy on the Mediterranean region. However, the well-known pact between Felipe González and Helmut Kohl at the Cannes Summit enabled an agreement of all European leaders, which resulted in the beginning of a major European policy on the East in exchange for a major policy on the South. It was the birth of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with the start of the Barcelona Process. The Euro-Mediterranean policy proposed in 1995 focused on the development of the South and East of the Mediterranean.

However, to achieve this objective it was necessary to count on all the strength and capacities of the European Union. While German reunification and the community enlargement proposal sought to move the border between Western Europe and the Russian troops 1,000 km towards the East by incorporating those countries into the European Community world, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership proposed shifting the border of underdevelopment, poverty and instability that horizontally crosses the Mediterranean 1,000 km towards the South, integrating the Maghreb and Middle East countries, as well as Turkey and Israel, into the Euro-Mediterranean world through their partnership (or possible integration in the case of Turkey) into the European Community.

Thus, the first main turning point, the starting point in fact, was 1995 with the organisation in Barcelona of the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, whose crucial final declaration meant the launching of the Barcelona Process. In this context, and at the request of the European Commission and the Presidency, our Institute organised the first Euromed Civil Forum to enrich the process with the recommendations of civil society agents from both shores of the Mediterranean. The meeting brought together in Barcelona representatives of all civil society levels from 38 countries, which would deeply influence the entire Barcelona Process.

The second major turning point came seven years later, in 2002. The Barcelona Process managed to lay the first bricks of the institutional architecture of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, beyond ministerial or sectoral conferences and meetings of senior officials. Indeed, the Declaration from the 5th Euromed Conference held in Valencia in 2002 provided for the creation of three institutions: in the political sphere, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly; in the cultural sphere, the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures; and, finally, in the economic sphere, the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP), which, whilst not an institution per se, must be considered as such, as we continue to believe that it should ultimately be transformed into a genuine Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank. The IEMed once again adapted to these new conditions; that is why in order to more deeply participate in Euro-Mediterranean Policy, the Institute became the current European Institute of the Mediterranean consortium with the incorporation, alongside the Government of Catalonia, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Barcelona City Council.

Finally, the third turning point was in 2008, with the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean and the decision to locate its Secretariat in Barcelona as the body responsible for channelling major Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation projects. This was the beginning of a new era of the Euro-Mediterranean project in which the IEMed renewed its strengths and continued to decisively contribute to debating, defining and effectively promoting the development lines of Euro-Mediterranean policy.

Thus, the IEMed is today a highly active Institute at the service of the Euromed project, with an average in recent years of 108 annual activities in 15 Mediterranean or Euro-Mediterranean cities, along with Barcelona. Some have especially marked the evolution of the Institute and Euro-Mediterranean policy itself: the 1995 Euromed Civil Forum; the World Congress on Human Movements and Migration (MHI) that took place in the framework of the Barcelona 2004 Universal Forum of Cultures; the various editions of the North Africa Business Development Forums (NABDF); the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) held in 2010, which brought together in Barcelona 2,500 participants from America, Europe, the Arab world and Asia; the Spain-Turkey bilateral forums in Barcelona, Madrid and Istanbul; and, among many others, the Morocco-European Union series of forums and conferences, organised in Barcelona and Rabat, which were key for Morocco to achieve the Morocco/EU Advanced Status currently in force. Or, recently, the Economic Forum of the Western Mediterranean jointly organised with the co-presidencies of the 5+5 and the UfM Secretariat.

In this context, the IEMed has become a point of reference as a think-tank specialised in Euro-Mediterranean policies and development. With already 11 editions, the *IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook* publishes every year articles by over 60 authors, and a public presentation of the publication is organised every year at the European Parliament, counting on the presence of the European Commissioner in charge of External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy. The Euromed Survey, which we conduct and publish annually at the request of the European Commission, has been released four times and counts on the contribution of approximately 800 experts from all the Euro-Mediterranean countries. The quarterly journal *afkar/ideas*, which monitors and analyses the current state of the Arab and Euro-Mediterranean world, has reached issue number 45. The publication of *PapersIEMed*, the incisive and informative opinion articles in the "Focus" section, books and other monographs is also of great importance. Also the review *Quaderns de la Mediterrània*, now in its 15th year, is an outstanding biannual journal of anthropology and reflection on intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean.

Moreover, since 2010 the IEMed has hosted the Permanent Secretariat of the EuroMeSCo network, made up today by 100 institutes and research centres from 43 Euro-Mediterranean countries working on Mediterranean issues, recognised as the seventh best network of think tanks in the world, and from this year funded by the European Commission. At the same time, the IEMed is also the coordinator of the Spanish network of the Anna Lindh Foundation, which counts on 140 associations.

After two decades of history, we now have the opportunity to examine the challenges that the region is facing and propose initiatives for a better future in the Euro-Mediterranean. And we have to recognise that any of the objectives fixed in 1995 have been fulfilled; even worst, in some cases the conditions have aggravated since then. That is why we must admit that the balance of these twenty years of history is not satisfactory.

New context, new objectives

The results of the Euro-Mediterranean policies we have promoted, along with many others, are important and inadequate in equal measure. The problems we have had to face have been overwhelmingly serious. In 1995 we had hopes for peace in the Middle East that have been painfully and repeatedly dashed. Neither did we honestly expect that before the end of the 20th century we would witness in Europe serious episodes of genocide such as we have seen in the Balkans. 1990s Algeria was an inferno of terrifyingly indiscriminate terrorism. We saw the rise and suppression of the intifadas and the wars and occupations in Lebanon. We opened the new millennium with the collapse of the Twin Towers, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the attacks in London, Madrid and Casablanca. The persistence of the authoritarian regimes in some of the Southern Mediterranean countries, which had failed to observe the commitments to democratisation made in Barcelona in 1995, became unbearable for their citizens.

We must say that, given the outbreak of the Arab Springs and their diverse evolution, the countries that have most followed the path of reform, at least economic and therefore social, of the Barcelona Process (Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan) are those which, one way or another, are succeeding. The citizen revolutions of the Arab world are a cry of hope and provide great opportunities despite also involving, as we are seeing, many pitfalls and dangers.

On the other hand it should also be said that Europe's response to these many problems has clearly been insufficient over the last 25 years, although European policy was aiming in the right direction. This situation is even worst today; with the drama of the current issues throughout the Arab world, and especially in Libya, Syria and Iraq, it must be said that the European response is tragically insufficient. The European Commission allocates each year around 1,000 million euros to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the European Investment Bank around 2,000 million in soft loans. The figures double if we add Turkey and the Balkans.

The reforms put forward are appropriate, but Europe's political weight is quite inadequate. And so the efficacy of its soft power, with a much weaker budget and power of attraction towards partnership than the help and integration offered to the Eastern European countries, is poor, especially in the short and mid-term, faced with the pressing problems of a world in transformation.

The Mediterranean region needs an efficient and well-coordinated common action. As it was twenty years ago, there are many shared challenges: the fight against extremism and terrorism, the crisis of irregular migration and the humanitarian crisis we are currently facing due to regional conflicts, require an immediate answer. As this instability has direct consequences on Europe, it is clear the necessity to support the partners in the Southern Mediterranean countries in achieving peace, stability and prosperity, with our fundamental, universal values at the basis of our action.

In this context, it is of utmost importance for the EU to redefine the goals behind its cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries. The core long-term objectives of developing relations with the neighbouring countries should remain the promotion of the commonly shared values. The short-term objectives should be however much more detailed, contrary to what has been done during these last years, which has obstructed the definition of concrete steps to achieve them. Therefore, the more specific the short term goals are, the easier will be to adopt the methods to accomplish them and the milestones to reach.

Also, in order to effectively engage partner countries in cooperation, the short-term objectives should be shared and should bring equal benefits to both parties. These kind of common objectives include areas both as fostering economic growth and enhancing security, in the sense of hard security, but also energy security, water security and food security.

Twenty years ago, the Barcelona Declaration made us believe on the objective of transforming the Mediterranean region into an area of peace and stability, of shared economic progress, dialogue and understanding between the peoples and cultures around the Mediterranean Sea. However, this objective seems still to be far right now, a dramatic moment for the North and the South of the Mediterranean.

Even if it seems difficult, we must renew that enthusiasm of 1995; only with that spirit, deepening the political, economic and cultural cooperation with the Mediterranean countries it will be possible to move forward to a better future in order to build the real Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.



La sécurité alimentaire en Méditerranée : l'urgence de l'action dans le cadre d'un nouveau partenariat euro-méditerranéen

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Introduction

Nous avons pris l'habitude, dans certains pays du sud de la Méditerranée de maudire les années de sécheresse et d'imputer systématiquement aux seuls aléas climatiques les variations erratiques des niveaux de production et, partant de là, les niveaux d'insécurité alimentaire. Pourtant, ces pays sont essentiellement semi-arides. Les années de sécheresse devraient être la règle et celles de bonne pluviométrie, plutôt l'exception. L'insécurité alimentaire est structurelle en Méditerranée. Elle puise ses racines dans la coexistence de plusieurs facteurs : fortes pressions sur les ressources naturelles (terres et eau), filières agricoles peu intégrées et peu structurées, ressources humaines insuffisamment qualifiées, sous-investissements matériels et immatériels, infrastructures insuffisantes, institutions publiques et professionnelles lacunaires.

Il est aujourd'hui, largement temps de se départir des remèdes ponctuels et homéopathiques, développés un peu partout dans la région, faits d'aides parcimonieuses aux agriculteurs, d'annulations épisodiques de petits crédits contractés auprès des institutions financières publiques, de subventions aux importations, de dichotomie factice entre agriculture sociale et agriculture industrielle et de pression sur les prix à la consommation.

Il faut enfin affronter les aspects structurels, à savoir la question foncière, la répartition du revenu agricole entre agriculteurs et entre régions et enfin le développement rural ; mettre le paysan au cœur des préoccupations politiques ; réorienter la gestion des ressources naturelles d'une politique de l'offre vers une politique de la demande ; revoir l'organisation et la gouvernance du monde agricole pour plus de participation et de responsabilités ; intégrer la gestion de l'espace rural dans une approche globale d'aménagement du territoire ; retrouver les variétés endémiques et se préparer sérieusement au changement climatique.

Dans ce qui suit, s'appuyant sur les travaux développés par l'Institut de Prospective Economique du Monde Méditerranéen (IPEMED), et ceux de l'association tunisienne Action et Développement Solidaire, je souhaite développer une série de propositions susceptibles d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire dans la région dans le cadre d'un partenariat Euromed renouvelé.

L'alimentation dans les PSEM : faire face aux déficits

La Libye, la Jordanie, l'Algérie, les territoires palestiniens, Israël, la Tunisie, le Liban, le Maroc, l'Albanie, l'Egypte et la Syrie figurent toujours parmi les principaux importateurs mondiaux de céréales. Le déficit de la balance agricole des PSEM (hors Turquie) a augmenté de 60 % sur les vingt dernières années. A titre d'exemple, la Tunisie importe plus de 50% des calories consommées par sa population et l'écart s'est creusé ces cinq dernières années. La volatilité extrême des cours mondiaux des produits agricoles et des denrées alimentaires se traduit par une facture d'approvisionnement de plus en plus élevée.

Dans ce contexte, l'insécurité alimentaire risque de s'amplifier sur les prochaines années, de peser encore plus sur le pouvoir d'achat des populations pauvres et vulnérables et d'aggraver la crise économique et sociale. Au Maghreb, depuis le début de la décennie 2000, les importations de blé ont représenté en moyenne 60% des besoins, avec des écarts entre pays, imputables aux niveaux de production : 46% au Maroc, 59% en Tunisie et 74% en Algérie (IPEMED, 2009).

Les importations de céréales ne cessent de croître au fil des ans. Cette hausse est principalement due à une demande croissante de blé tendre liée à une standardisation des régimes alimentaires. Les importations de blé tendre ont été multipliées par 2 entre 2000 et 2011, tandis que celles de blé dur régressaient de 40%. Au total, les importations de blés ont progressé de 30% durant cette période, dépassant 13 millions de tonnes en 2011, dont 57% pour l'Algérie (7,5 millions de tonnes) 31% pour le Maroc (4 millions de tonnes) et 12% pour la Tunisie (1,6 million de tonnes) (IPEMED, 2014)

En raison de la hausse brutale des cours internationaux des céréales en 2008, la facture des importations du Maghreb a triplé entre 2000 et 2008, puis 2011 atteignant cette année-là 7,7 milliards de dollars dont 4,2 milliards pour l'Algérie, 2,3 milliards pour le Maroc et 1,2 milliard pour la Tunisie (IPEMED, 2014). Le marché des céréales de l'Afrique du Nord est l'un des plus importants au monde avec, en 2011, 5% des importations totales en valeur pour 1,2% de la population mondiale. Pour le blé, la part des importations de l'Afrique du Nord dans les échanges internationaux est de 9% (IPEMED, 2014).

Toujours dans la zone méditerranéenne, l'Égypte est le premier importateur mondial de blé (6% du commerce mondial pour 1,1% de la population mondiale). S'agissant de très gros volumes, les fournisseurs de blé de la région sont les plus importants producteurs mondiaux et sont peu nombreux : le top 5 des exportateurs vers cette région représente les trois-quarts des approvisionnements. La France y occupe une position de leader (1,8 milliard de dollars en 2011), suivie de près par l'Argentine (1,5 milliard) (IPEMED, 2014). L'UE et le continent américain (Sud et Nord réunis) assurent plus des deux tiers de l'approvisionnement des PSEM et se disputent le leadership en Méditerranée.

A l'horizon 2050, les besoins en produits agricoles et alimentaires exprimés en équivalents énergétiques vont croître de 80 %. Cela représente à la fois une situation préoccupante mais également une opportunité tant pour les entreprises agricoles et agroalimentaires européennes que pour celles des PSEM notamment celles spécialisées dans la production des fruits et légumes. Profiter de la proximité géographique euro-méditerranéenne et des complémentarités des productions (céréales et élevage au Nord ; fruits et légumes au Sud) est possible dans le cadre d'un partenariat renforcé et renouvelé.

Les échanges agricoles entre l'UE et les PSEM font l'objet d'une attention toute particulière en raison du processus de libéralisation en cours et des tensions que vivent les PSEM actuellement. Depuis une vingtaine d'années, la place de l'UE, en tant que principale partenaire commerciale des PSEM, s'est renforcée mais les pays émergents exercent une forte pression et participent de plus en plus à l'approvisionnement des pays méditerranéens en produits agricoles.

Les échanges entre le Nord et le Sud de la Méditerranée pourraient être caractérisés comme suit :

- Les importations des PSEM en produits agricoles et alimentaires s'accroissent de manière significative pendant que leurs exportations restent faibles. En même temps, le marché intérieur connaît une croissance forte. Telles sont les données du problème de la sécurité alimentaire à résoudre dans ces pays ;
- Quatre pays (Turquie, Maroc, Israël et Tunisie) réalisent plus de 90 % des exportations de l'ensemble des PSEM vers l'UE, en raison des caractéristiques de leurs agricultures et des préférences commerciales dont elles bénéficient avec l'UE ;
- Les échanges de produits agricoles et alimentaires (PAA) entre les PSEM et l'UE sont déséquilibrés : les PSEM exportent deux fois moins - 8 milliards de \$ - dans l'UE qu'ils n'en importent - 17 milliards de \$ et cette situation a tendance à s'aggraver ;
- Si l'on constate un commerce croisé pour les fruits et légumes entre l'UE et les PSEM, l'essentiel des échanges sont inter-branches et montrent des complémentarités Nord-Sud qui pourraient être amplifiées par des stratégies de gamme et de calendrier de production et de commercialisation ;
- Dépendant de l'UE et du commerce international pour leurs débouchés agricoles et leurs achats (plus du tiers du total dans les deux cas), le salut des PSEM passe par le développement d'une stratégie agricole et alimentaire de co-développement avec le Nord de la Méditerranée ;
- Les céréales constituent le premier poste d'achat en PAA des PSEM à l'UE avec près du tiers des importations totales.

Pour un cadre de partenariat euro-méditerranéen renouvelé

L'autosuffisance alimentaire n'étant pas envisageable à moyen terme dans les PSEM, le recours au marché international et surtout à la coopération régionale euro-méditerranéenne est inéluctable. Un partenariat agricole et agroalimentaire renouvelé entre les pays de l'UE et les PSEM, tout en contribuant à couvrir les besoins en denrées alimentaires de ces pays, pourrait les aider à augmenter leur production nationale et mettre en place des programmes de développement durable.

La mondialisation tend à se structurer autour de sous-ensembles macro-régionaux : la région euro-méditerranéenne constitue, en dépit de ses soubresauts actuels, une zone géostratégique avec les arguments essentiels de la proximité, de la complémentarité et de la solidarité.

La stratégie de construction de la région euro-méditerranéenne en matière agricole et alimentaire devrait s'articuler autour de trois piliers :

1) *Promouvoir une intégration euro-méditerranéenne en matière agricole et agro-alimentaire, avec :*

- La mutualisation des risques et le partage de la chaîne de valeur à travers des alliances stratégiques inter-entreprises entre les deux rives de la Méditerranée dans le secteur agroalimentaire ;
- L'échange de produits complémentaires: les produits échangés devraient être complémentaires et non concurrents : céréales et produits laitiers du Nord vers le Sud, fruits et légumes du Sud vers le Nord. Une plus grande solidarité devrait être instituée pour les produits concurrents, à l'instar de l'huile d'olive, par un relèvement significatif des quotas actuels ;
- Un partenariat commercial euro-méditerranéen structuré autour de l'organisation de filières agricoles territorialisées pour le développement des zones rurales.

2) *Encourager la mise en place d'une politique alimentaire et agricole commune pour les PSEM (PAAC-PSEM)*

- La PAAC-PSEM aurait pour objectif d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire quantitative et qualitative des populations à travers l'augmentation de la production agricole et alimentaire des PSEM, l'amélioration des rendements et de la compétitivité de leurs productions locales. Le coût de cette PAAC-PSEM serait tout à fait raisonnable, en comparaison avec le coût de la PAC : au total, le volet agricole de la PAAC-PSEM coûterait moins de 13 € par personne et par an, soit 5 € par citoyen européen et 8 € par habitant des PSEM (IPEMED, 2010) ;
- La PAAC-PSEM devra s'inscrire dans le cadre d'un partenariat euro-méditerranéen conçu comme un volet spécifique de la politique de voisinage de l'UE.

3) *Promouvoir le concept de filières territorialisées pour aider les PSEM à mieux lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire*

- Il s'agit de concevoir des actions avec une vision circulaire à la fois verticale et horizontale. Une approche fragmentée des filières ne peut que retarder les progrès nécessaires tant du point de vue des consommateurs que des producteurs. La verticalité s'applique aux filières qui doivent être organisées et coordonnées dans un double objectif de qualité des produits et de partage équitable de la valeur créée.
- L'horizontalité est spatiale et doit ambitionner la production de synergies entre filières agroalimentaires d'une part (en améliorant simultanément la biodiversité et la productivité des ressources), et d'autre part, entre les filières agroalimentaires et non-agroalimentaires (éco-tourisme, artisanat rural et services), dans un triple objectif de développement territorial social, économique et environnemental.
- L'espace considéré est à la fois national et régional (maghrébin et euro-méditerranéen), ce qui donne tout son sens à la notion de co-développement par la co-localisation des activités. La circularité signifie que l'on prend en compte l'ensemble du cycle de vie des biens et services en optimisant l'utilisation des ressources et en minimisant les pertes, les gaspillages et les pollutions.

De la conception à l'action

Dès lors, une conception à la fois normative, incitative et dissuasive, avec des mécanismes de mesure et d'orientation des jeux d'acteurs et des marchés s'avère indispensable. On pourrait en tracer les lignes de force :

- Crédibiliser l'Euro-Méditerranée comme zone de solidarité économique préoccupée de sécurité alimentaire régionale (nécessaire communication politique et professionnelle) ;
- Déployer les synergies intra-régionales par la création d'un marché commun agricole et alimentaire maghrébin ;
- Améliorer la connaissance des filières et des marchés (observatoire par pays des dynamiques de l'offre et de la demande) ;
- Définir des normes et des labels de qualité compatibles avec les produits locaux et les standards internationaux ;

- Concevoir des programmes nationaux d'information et de formation des consommateurs en vue d'améliorer les profils nutritionnels par la réhabilitation de la diète méditerranéenne et de réduire ainsi la pandémie des maladies chroniques d'origine alimentaire ;
- Concevoir des programmes nationaux de formation de grande ampleur des petits agriculteurs, dans les pays du sud de la Méditerranée afin de les former à une meilleure maîtrise de la technologie et des normes et à une utilisation plus rationnelle des intrants industriels ;
- Mettre en place des programmes nationaux de grande envergure pour rationaliser la gestion des ressources hydrauliques et orienter l'usage de l'eau vers les spéculations à haute valeur ajoutée ;
- Renouveler les modèles de production agricole sur la base des ressources locales et des produits d'origine (diversification par agro-sylvo-pastoralisme, itinéraires, techniques, consolidation de filières semencières performantes, gestion de l'eau, etc.) ;
- Renforcer les organisations professionnelles (agrofourmure, agriculture, industries agroalimentaires) et les interprofessions ;
- Mener des actions-pilotes locales concrètes associant des filières territorialisées (céréales, oléo protéagineux) par jumelages entre professionnels européens et maghrébins (échanges croisés Nord-Sud sur des questions techniques et économiques avec un objectif d'amélioration de la productivité et de la qualité des produits) ;
- Réaliser des investissements conjoints dans les filières, la logistique (stockage, transport), la chaîne des savoirs (R&D, formation) en vue de sécuriser l'offre nationale.

La mise en œuvre d'une telle approche globale est strictement politique. Elle devrait traduire la conviction de décideurs clairvoyants du nord et du sud de la Méditerranée de l'inéluctable communauté de destin des pays de la région, mais aussi leur capacité à transcender les contingences actuelles, les peurs qu'elles suscitent et les incompréhensions qu'elles génèrent. La rénovation des rapports de coopération entre le nord et le sud et leur approfondissement restent tributaires de la pacification des tensions régionales (Maroc-Algérie-Tunisie-Libye-Egypte etc.) et d'une plus grande intégration sud-sud. Le propre de véritables Hommes d'Etat que la région appelle de tous ses vœux serait d'accélérer le cours de l'histoire plutôt que de tenter vainement de s'y opposer.

L'instabilité politique au Sud est alimentée par la mauvaise gouvernance du passé, mais aussi par la gestion brouillonne du présent. Elle traduit le désarroi de populations livrées à elles-mêmes, sans espoir ni perspective. Les exigences des populations des pays du Sud de la Méditerranée: plus grandes opportunités économiques et meilleures conditions sociales ne pourraient être satisfaites sans de véritables politiques communes entre les deux rives, faites de solidarité, de proximité et de complémentarité et sans une pacification des rapports de voisinage et un approfondissement de la coopération sud-sud.

L'agriculture et l'alimentation présentent à cet effet un champ privilégié pour la rénovation des relations entre les deux rives dans un souci de meilleure réponse aux besoins des populations, de sécurisation solidaire et de développement partagé.

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Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in the New Sustainable Development Goals

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The advent of agriculture was, in many ways, the advent of civilization as we know it. It was also the beginning of human manipulation of natural systems at large scales. The adoption of agriculture led to increased population growth, the consolidation of people into city-states where power was held in the hands of a few elites, and the harnessing of land and water resources to serve the needs of humanity.

It is from this transformation, occurring gradually over thousands of years, that many of our modern challenges originate. What is needed to address these challenges is an equally dramatic transition in how mankind produces, processes, and consumes food and other agricultural products, but on a significantly shorter time frame than ever before.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a striking step in the right direction. Societies have always struggled to create a more just, prosperous, and beautiful world. However, until the MDGs, we had not come together at the global level to voice our commitment to a unified agenda that would promote economic development, food security, health (especially of mothers and children), education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. The MDGs are a laudable milestone, and they have seen several successes. In 1990, over a third (36%) of the global population was living on less than US \$1.25 a day. By 2010, that number had declined by 50% to 18%.¹ From 1990 to 2013 the percentage of underweight children declined from 25% to 15% and stunting fell from 40% to 25%.²

However, progress has been uneven. The majority of improvements took place in Asia, while Africa saw increases in the number of stunted children.³ Further, despite being a broad and ambitious agenda for the 2000 to 2015 period, the MDGs left significant gaps and only focused on less developed countries. A new sustainable development agenda needs to cover climate change, biodiversity loss, and other environmental issues, while simultaneously promoting health, education, economic empowerment, and equal access to services to all people, in all countries. We also desire an agenda that will spur rapid progress with an even emphasis on social, economic, and environmental issues. We look for an agenda that is transformative and will encourage new ways of thinking and models of development, rather than business-as-usual. It must be ambitious and it must inspire people of all ages and at all levels to act.



¹ United Nations, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014, accessed 31 July 2015 at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>.

² World Health Organization, *MDG 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*, accessed 31 July 2015 at http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/hunger/en.

³ World Health Organization, *MDG 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*, accessed 31 July 2015 at http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/hunger/en.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address many of the weaknesses of the MDGs; they push the envelope by expanding the agenda dramatically and bringing together a greater diversity of issues. This strengthens the new agenda, as a growing body of evidence supports the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate issues. The SDGs are also ground-breaking as they are the most inclusive agenda that the UN has delivered to-date, with millions of people submitting input from around the globe. The box below highlights some areas where the SDGs differ from the MDGs, and encourage a transformation of agricultural systems to be both environmentally sustainable and supportive of vibrant rural communities.

Box 1

How do the SDGs expand on the MDGs and support an agricultural transformation?

Besides the need to increase agricultural productivity for food security and better nutrition, the SDGs will place significant emphasis on issues such as:

- Healthier diets to also address under- as well as over-nutrition
- Reducing food losses and waste
- Increasing the resilience of agricultural systems
- Preserving crop and livestock genetic diversity
- Ensuring rural communities have access to infrastructure, water and sanitation, modern energy, and more
- Addressing inequalities in access to markets, financial services, land tenure, and more
- Reducing trade distortions
- Increasing resource use efficiency and sustainable use of resources
- Reducing nutrient losses
- Restoring degraded land and halting future degradation

For more information see

United Nations, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, accessed 3 August 2015 at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891TRANSFORMING%20OUR%20WORLD.pdf>

Both the MDGs and SDGs place hunger at the front of the agenda, and the SDGs build on the MDG agenda by taking a more human-centered and complete view of hunger and nutrition. For example, they will continue the fight against both insufficient caloric consumption as well as micronutrient deficiencies, but also address overconsumption through the targets on non-communicable diseases. They also contain language on reducing food loss and waste across the food chain, from production to consumption. They apply to all countries, not just poor countries, and emphasize that there are both challenges and solutions equally in all nations. Finally, the great deal of attention put on ensuring that all sub-populations benefit from the SDGs, and that inequalities are addressed rather than exacerbated should make a big difference.

However, the SDGs could be more ambitious in supporting the kind of rural prosperity that is needed to both support agriculture as a provider of critical human resources and a dignified profession for many. There is much emphasis on sustainable cities and urban communities, but we should think in a similar way about building and supporting sustainable, flourishing rural communities. A transformation of the global food system will largely depend on whether rural places can become attractive places to live and work, particularly for entrepreneurial and technologically savvy younger generations.

Achieving a transformation of agriculture and food systems at the global scale is a massive challenge because of the huge diversity of agriculture. It will require a menu of solutions, good choices that are tailored to the specific environmental and socioeconomic conditions. Today, over one third of the Earth's land is used in food production.⁴ There is a growing consensus that agriculture will need to be transformed to address a diverse array of threats, including climate change, unsustainable consumption of water resources, inefficient use of fertilizers, the overuse of herbicides and pesticides, degradation of soils, and a number of other issues. In addition, there is a social transformation that must occur. Farmers, both men and women, need equal access to farm inputs, banking services, secure land tenure, education, healthcare, and more. Agroecological systems need to produce safe, nutritious, high-quality, and culturally-desirable food; take a holistic approach to nutrition and food security; and address the twin issues of over- and under-nutrition.

In the coming decades, we need to see a shift towards a sustainable agricultural intensification (SAI). In brief, SAI is producing more food and other agricultural products on the same amount of land, while also using natural resources efficiently and preventing their degradation. As the world population grows, we will need to produce a greater volume of food, as well as more nutritious food, and we also need to explore new opportunities for how agriculture can contribute to growing the bioeconomy as a whole. We also need to limit the expansion of agriculture into forests, wetlands, and grasslands, and halt the loss of farmland to urbanization. We cannot continue current practices of overusing inputs like water and pesticides, and must reverse soil degradation and make agriculture more resilient to climate shocks. We need to ensure that generations of farmers will be able to carry out their fundamental role feeding humanity, while also supporting their own families and communities. Solutions to accomplish these multiple goals exist, and include practices such as using cover crops to improve soil, using improved seed, and the precise use of fertilizers to increase efficiency. However, as agroecological systems are so diverse, each farming community will need a customized set of solutions tailored to their specific contexts. The SDGs were an immense opportunity to raise awareness of this need, set national targets for sustainable ecological intensification, and kick-start a new green revolution. Unfortunately, it appears we have missed this opportunity.

⁴ AO, FAOSTAT, accessed 31 July 2015 at <http://faostat3.fao.org/browse/R/RL/E>.

The real test of the SDGs will be in their implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders need to be pragmatic about how to implement policy and monitor progress. Agreement on global goals and targets, as with all policy decisions, is inevitably a political as well as technical process, even with input from a diverse group of stakeholders (NGOs, academia, the private sector, communities, and governments). The tension between the political and technical has to be managed for goals and targets to become implementable and for it to be possible to track and monitor implementation across all UN Member States. Further, there is a communication challenge, as all stakeholders need to understand their role in implementing the new agenda, and how to work together.

It is possible that by setting good indicators and tracking their achievement, we will encourage improvements in agricultural systems and rural communities. Fifteen years of targeted investments could move us away from business-as-usual, and support the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty. Discussion of the indicators to be used and how to finance the SDGs is ongoing. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN, www.unsdsn.org) has proposed a framework of indicators for the SDGs.⁵ Indicators need to be clear and straightforward, selected with consensus from a diverse group of stakeholders, and pull from existing data sources. They should measure outcomes as much as possible, and be disaggregated by a wide range of socioeconomic variables, including age, gender, urban/rural, etc., to ensure equal achievements across populations.

In addition, governments should support calls for a “data revolution” and move as much as possible toward annual reporting and making data publicly available. New technologies such as mobile phones and remote sensing make it increasingly easy to rapidly collect and analyze robust data, and the post-2015 agenda must take advantage. It is also important to find ways to integrate data from non-traditional sources, including academia and the private sector, into the data that national statistical offices collect and report. Efficient, result-oriented multi-stakeholder processes will need to determine how these kinds of data should be used to protect both intellectual property and the privacy of individuals, but unlocking how to use this data could revolutionize monitoring and evaluation.

We have been given an opportunity to establish an ambitious, equitable development agenda for the next 15 years. Global political processes are on track to deliver a meaningful outcome, which could also be transformative for agriculture and food security. This will require that countries develop their own roadmaps for setting and achieving targets that are directly linked to the new global goals. The SDSN will continue to provide strong support to the implementation of the new SDGs, including new initiatives such as a recently launched project on National Transformation Pathways for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. This initiative aims to provide support to countries in two important methodological areas: (i) choosing realistic targets that are congruent with the new SDGs and (ii) developing technology and policy roadmaps for the agricultural sector that provide sound choices to countries for implementing a sustainable development strategy and meeting selected targets.

Box 2

Selected Indicators Proposed by the SDSN

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

- Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49) with anemia
- Prevalence of stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age
- Percentage of infants under 6 months who are exclusively breast fed
- Percentage of women, 15-49 years of age, who consume at least 5 out of 10 defined food groups
- Crop yield gap (actual yield as % of potential or water-limited potential yield)
- Number of agricultural extension workers per 1000 farmers [or share of farmers covered by agricultural extension programs and services]
- Nitrogen use efficiency in food systems
- [Crop water productivity (tons of harvested product per unit irrigation water)] – to be developed

For more information see www.unsdsn.org/indicators

⁵ To learn more about the SDSN's work on indicators, visit www.unsdsn.org/indicators. For more information on the SDSN's work on financing the SDGs, visit www.unsdsn.org/financing. Launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in August 2012, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales.

Towards a more sustainable Mediterranean Area: PRIMA initiative and the role of Agri-food businesses

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Agri-food Sector in the Mediterranean area: the main challenges

During recent years, agriculture and food have become two of the most debated themes within the field of sustainability research. Traditional agricultural paradigms¹, in fact, have proved to have devastating effects on natural environment, such as land degradation², water depletion, pollution, increased greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss³. Moreover, environmental damage caused by agricultural practices made impossible for food systems to provide adequate nutrition to a large part of world population⁴.

Such debate has not spared the Mediterranean. And it could not be otherwise: the Mediterranean basin represents one of the most culturally significant areas in the world. There, many great empires and rich civilizations beginning in antiquity arose and lived their zenith, and for millennia the region has played a leading role in the diffusion of knowledge and world trade. Unfortunately, the Mediterranean region is also one of the most vulnerable areas in the world. Its almost unique range of natural environments, as well as its exceptional diversity of its endemic species are always more exposed to serious environmental and social threats, such as climate change, overexploitation and scarcity of natural resources and, more generally, unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

Such issues are particularly relevant for Agri-food sector, which represents a fundamental pillar of the majority of Mediterranean economies. Many are the challenges that the sector is called to face. Food systems and water resources, in particular, represent two of the most pressing socio-economic problems affecting the sector⁵. From a side, in fact, the degradation of ecosystems, climate change and the reduction in available farming land and water resources are showing to have serious repercussions on food production potential. From the opposite side, water scarcity, deteriorated water quality and overexploitation of resources often results in deficiency in food production, and increased pollution is threatening both terrestrial and coastal environment, potentially affecting health.

These issues, joint with discouraging demographic trends, strong socio-economic disparities, high vulnerability to markets stocks for the food commodities prices, lack of investments in agriculture and rural territories, as well as inefficiency of logistics systems and agro-food chains, are more than ever undermining the future of the entire area (PRIMA, 2014).

Given the extreme severity of the main trends of the sector, sustainable development should be the key objective to be pursued in order to guarantee a future not only to Agri-food sector, but also to the entire Mediterranean basin. Ensuring food and water security in an ecologically sustainable way, in fact, has the potential to guarantee long-term impact on human well-being, stable societies, job creation, good health and welfare in the area, building, ultimately, inclusive well-being and socio-economic development.

¹ The label 'traditional agricultural models' embraces both extensive lower-yield and intensive higher-yield agricultural systems.

² Land degradation directly affects 1.5 billion people globally; in other, an estimated 24 billion tonnes of fertile soil are lost each year (UN 2012)

³ According to UN (2012), some 75% of crop diversity has been lost from farmers' fields since 1900s.

⁴ According to FAO, WFP and IFAD (2012), there are about 870 million people who still lack sufficient caloric intake, 1 billion or more suffering from micronutrient deficiencies, and another 1.4 billion suffering from overweight or obesity.

⁵ As highlighted by UNEP - MAP - Plan Bleu (2008), during the second half of the 20th century water demand has doubled, reaching 280 km³/year in all riparian countries (2005), with an expected increase of a further 18% by 2025, especially in Southern (28%) and Eastern (33%) countries. Such trends in water demand may significantly hinder agricultural development and food production, considering that agriculture represents the main water-consuming sector (180 km³/year to irrigate 24 million hectares), accounting for 64% of total water demand (45% in the North and 82% in the South and East) (UNEP - MAP - Plan Bleu, 2008).

A sustainable development path for food systems requires significant transformative changes in technologies, policies and behavior of all actors along the whole food chain, with multiple and complex interventions that must be undertaken, from changing diets towards more healthy, less resource-intensive food to increasing of production on existing crop land by closing yield and efficiency gaps and thus utilizing water and natural resources more efficiently, meeting consumer demands for safe, high-quality food (SDSN, 2013). The effects of such kind of interventions, unfortunately, often represent the output of a slow and uneven process. Moreover, interventions cannot all be done at once and in every country.

Certainly, growing awareness that agriculture and food will play a prominent role in the post-2015 agenda should guarantee that transformative changes in food and water systems for sustainable development would receive the deserved attention. From a side, in fact, events such as the introduction of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the following 21st Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP21) to be held in Paris in December 2015 will help civil society, policy makers, communities and enterprises to better understand and define priorities and paths to tackle regional and local challenges. From the other side, however, it must be underlined that the effective tackling of sustainable development challenges of the Mediterranean region will necessarily have to pass through further and massive efforts in shifting from the identification of sustainable development key objectives and solutions to their practical implementation and adoption.

Alongside the individuation of proposals to sustainable development problems, in fact, a particular attention should be placed on how proposals become real solutions, as well as on how the process from research to innovation and to adoption of solutions by society could be facilitated. In this sense, SDGs and, more generally, post-2015 agenda will be able to foster such crucial transition only if it will be able to approach sustainable development in a more synergic way, by considering the interdependence between its three dimensions, as well as by putting at the center people and their needs. It is only through the full development of human ability to invent solutions, accumulate knowledge and practically implement it, in fact, that challenges of adaptation to change will be successfully addressed (Lacirignola and Abis, 2015).

Tackling Sustainable development challenges of the Mediterranean Agri-food sector: the key steps

In order to succeed in the tackling of Mediterranean Agri-food sustainable development challenges, many steps have to be taken. First of all, strengthening cooperation among Mediterranean Countries is crucial. A more cooperative approach to sustainable development, in fact, is the only way to identify relevant solutions to sustainable development problems of the area.

In this sense, institutions such as CIHEAM, representing the point of reference on Mediterranean agri-food research, could play a crucial role in fostering cooperation and discussion on sustainable development issues among Mediterranean countries and, more generally, among key actors of Mediterranean sustainable development.

Secondly, Joint Research initiatives should be at the basis of the development of solutions to sustainable development problems of Agri-food sector. Developing innovative solutions for improving sustainable development of Agri-food sector within the context of a more integrated framework of research cooperation among Countries, in fact, represents a *conditio sine qua non* for the effective tackling of Mediterranean sustainable development challenges. Within this context, universities must play a pivotal role in tackling Mediterranean Agri-Food sector challenges, not only through research and promotion of solutions, but also through education.

They should provide students with sustainable development knowledge and skills useful for promoting principles and tools of integrated sustainability, rising awareness on the meaning and role of SDGs and sustainable development research and execution. In this, sense, for example, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (hereafter SDSN) has recently introduced Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on sustainable development to be delivered through its dedicated platform, aimed at educating young generations on key sustainability concepts and issues.

Thirdly, the induction of technological, social and organisational innovation must be finalized to the implementation, execution and management of effective solutions to sustainability problems. This last aspect is of particular importance for the Mediterranean Agri-food Businesses, which represent key actors of the transition towards more sustainable pathways, but which often suffer from a serious lack in expertise and knowledge on sustainable development principles and practices.

Implementing Sustainable Development in Mediterranean Agri-food businesses

It is always more recognized that sustainability represents a driver of development not only at system level, but also at single business one. As showed by a growing number of academics and practitioners, in fact, attention paid by businesses to sustainable development issues does not only represent a duty or ethical imperative which can contribute to the tackle of sustainable development challenges at a larger scale, but it may also constitute a possible source of competitive advantage in terms of, for example:

- Reduction of both reputational, operational and market risks;
- Internal efficiency;
- Business growth and size;
- Job creation;
- Improvement of quality of life of workers and citizens of businesses' operating areas.

With reference to Agri-food businesses, in particular, it has been pointed out that many can be the benefits of adopting sustainability initiatives at business level (Pulina, 2010):

- Better connection of business with local communities;
- Promotion of the multifunctional role assigned by society to the Agri-food sector;
- Strengthening of the relationships of trust with consumers;
- More equitable sharing mechanisms of earnings among operators along the supply chain;
- Triggering of control mechanisms over the supply chain;
- Reinforcement of both business' image and customer loyalty.

Such benefits regard not only large Agri-food businesses. On the contrary, also Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) could significantly benefit from effective attention to sustainability issues, and therefore should be included among the key subjects of the process of transformational change towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. SMEs, in fact, have proved to have enormous potential in terms of (Altieri, 2008):

- Greater production and efficiency levels;
- Greater natural resource conservation and lesser negative environmental impact;
- Greater capability to maintain specificities of landscapes and territories in which activities are carried out;
- Greater capability to satisfy changing needs of consumers, who are increasingly attentive to the quality and healthiness of goods.

In the light of considerations just exposed, it is clear that Mediterranean Agri-food businesses have a crucial role in the tackling of sustainable development challenges. As above mentioned, recent data and statistics highlighted once again the leading role of the Agri-food sector in Mediterranean economies, as well as on employment⁶.

⁶ Rural population in the Mediterranean region represents from 5% to 42% of total population in the countries of northern shore, from 27% to 57% in those of the southern one, and from 13% to 44% in those of the eastern one (www.worldbank.org). Number of agricultural workers remains high, ranging from 1% to 42% of total employment in the countries of northern shore, from 12% to 40% in those of southern shore, and from 2% to 24% in those of the eastern shore (<http://faostat.fao.org/>). Agriculture makes a considerable contribution to the national economies of the Mediterranean countries. The share of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ranges from 2% to 20% in the Northern countries, while in southern and eastern shores it ranges, respectively, from 8% to 15% and from 3% to 10% (<http://faostat.fao.org/>). Agricultural products account for from 4% to 16% of total imports in the Northern countries, for from 0, 5% to 17% in the Southern countries and for from 10 to 11% in the eastern countries. Agricultural exports are also of strategic importance to the national economies of many countries, ranging from 11% to 18% of total exports in northern countries and, respectively, from 7% to 16% and from 14% to 24% in eastern and southern countries (www.wto.org).

Moreover, Mediterranean Agri-food sector is still dominated by SMEs⁷. Therefore, relying on sustainable development of SMEs to foster sustainable development of Mediterranean agri-food sector should represent the key to promote and achieve more sustainable patterns of consumption and production at a system level.

It is important to underline, however, that despite it is always more recognized that sustainable development can provide businesses (especially SMEs) with significant opportunities, benefits deriving from attention paid to sustainable development aspects represent just mere potentialities, which are not readily obtainable, but that constitute a mediated consequence of the ways in which sustainable development solutions and initiatives are concretely operationalized and managed within organizations as a whole. In other words, the extent to which businesses will transform potential benefits of sustainable development in concrete advantages will depend on their ability in concretely implement sustainable development initiatives into the core business of organization (*Sustainability Execution*).

Sustainability Execution, in turn, lies in the adoption of radically different approach of businesses to sustainability. Businesses, in particular, should learn to approach sustainability in a more strategic and structured way, and not only through the unwitting adoption of activities often inspired by philanthropic reasons or simply as a moral obligation. An effective execution of sustainability at business level must necessarily pass through the clear definition of specific sustainability goals, management mechanisms, operative procedures and internal measurement and reporting systems, as well as new governance systems and even business models capable to embed sustainable development aspects within all the organizational levels, encouraging, at the same time, the adoption of more responsible purchasing behaviors among consumers.

Alongside the need for a more factual approach to sustainability issue, in fact, the crisis of traditional agricultural archetypes made emerge the necessity for businesses operating in the agro-food sector to radically change their business models in order to respond effectively to sustainability challenges (Jolink and Niesten, 2013) by modifying both the principles according to which economic activities are carried out and the logic underpinning value generation (Stubbs and Cocklin, 2008; Wells, 2008). Such transformations, of course, should take place within a context of profound changes in public policies, which must be properly designed in order to promote the adoption of sustainability business practices, as well as to sensitize citizens and consumers on the importance of pursuing sustainable production and consumption patterns.

⁷ CIHEAM (2009)

In a more formalized way, three are the dimensions according to which sustainability execution should be carried out, which are strictly related among them:

- Technological (regarding products / services or business processes);
- Organizational (related to strategies, organizational structures, business models, operational mechanisms and accounting tools);
- Cultural (tending to identify more and new learning processes and organizational change).

Such dimensions, and more generally sustainability execution, acquire particular relevance with reference to SMEs. Despite, as above mentioned, SMEs have both and they have a significant weight in the Mediterranean economies (not only with reference to Agri-food sector) and a great sustainability potential, they often suffer serious lack of profitability, which made impossible for them to survive over time and, as a consequence, to turn their potential into effective contribution to social and environmental sustainability at a system level. Therefore, a more strategic and formalized approach to sustainability may represent the chance for SMEs to increase their profitability and give their contribution to the struggle of sustainability issues improving, at the same time, the sustainability of territories and communities in which they operate.

Conclusions

During recent years, agriculture and food have become two of the most debated themes within the field of sustainability research, also with reference to Mediterranean basin, one of the most vulnerable areas in the world from a social and environmental point of view. The Mediterranean Agri-food sector, in particular, is severely affected by socio-economic problems related to food systems and water resources.

Given the potential repercussions of such issues on the future of the sector and the entire area, sustainable development of Mediterranean Agri-food sector should be put at the center of political and institutional agenda, with complex transformations and interventions to be carried out. Such transformations, however, are far from being easily achievable. Despite events of 2015 (first of all the launch of SDGs and the COP21) should guarantee that transformative changes in food and water systems for sustainable development will receive the deserved attention, in fact, greater efforts in shifting from the identification of sustainable development solutions to their practical adoption (*Sustainability Execution*) will have to be carried out.

Sustainability Execution is of particular relevance for SMEs, which have enormous potential in terms of sustainability, but that often lack in that profitability needed to survive over time and turn their potential into effective contribution to sustainable development at a system level.

Sustainability Execution, of course, should be undertaken within the context of a strong cooperation among Mediterranean Countries, based on Joint Research initiatives. A more cooperative approach to sustainable development, in fact, is the only way to identify relevant solutions to sustainable development problems of the area and, in turn, to effectively tackle Mediterranean sustainable development challenges. Many initiatives have recognized the importance to reinforce cooperation in the Mediterranean, focus on food and water issues and rely on a radical change in how businesses relate to sustainability.

Among the others, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) represents an integrated programme on food systems and water resources aimed at the development of *"innovative solutions and promote their adoption for improving the efficiency and sustainability of food productions and water provision, in order to support an inclusive well-being and socio-economic development in the Mediterranean Area, within the framework of a reinforced Euro-Mediterranean co-operation"* (PRIMA, 2014, p. 34).

The initiative underlines an aspect already highlighted during recent years also at EU Commission level⁸, i.e. the importance of shifting from the individuation of solutions to sustainability problems to their effective implementation within a context of strengthen cooperation. In doing this, however, it recognizes that diversity in cultures characterizing the Mediterranean area represents is a great resource to sustainable development. By sharing a common history and a common future, in fact, Mediterranean cultures offer proper solutions to tackle sustainability challenges of Mediterranean Agriculture and Food systems, promoting peculiarities of different geographical areas and integrating different perspectives with sustainable development values.

In this sense, the PRIMA initiative can represent a powerful means to strengthen long-term euro-Mediterranean cooperation. Research and innovation on which PRIMA focuses, in fact, constitute the key elements of a shared process able to foster political dialogue, economic cooperation and cultural exchanges, as well as to promote the so called *scientific diplomacy*. Such process can also enable the development of human capital, facilitating the creation of scientific collaborations based on a common language that overcomes cultural and geographical differences among countries (Rossetti di Valdalbero et al. 2013).

⁸ European Commission (2010) "Euro-Med 2030: Long term challenges for the Mediterranean area – Report of an Expert Group - "

Moreover, given the peculiar strong integration among participating countries characterizing it, the PRIMA initiative is in no way a competitor or a repetition of several other EU initiatives of research and innovation concerning food and water. On the contrary, it opens important spaces for creating fruitful synergies among EU initiatives able to furtherly reinforce cooperation among Mediterranean countries.

With such considerations, we are not trying to argue that the PRIMA initiative and, more generally, research and innovation will solve all the problems of the Mediterranean reason. Rather, we would like to underline that in the year of the celebration of 20th anniversary of the Barcelona declaration, the Mediterranean region has the chance to lay the bases for that process of change aimed at the overcoming the socio-political crisis affecting it, and research and innovation can represent the cornerstone of such process.

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ENPARD South: the beginning of a long story?

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A very strong link exists between the European Union and the southern Mediterranean countries. Their institutional relationship started in the 1950s, when a series of agreements were signed between the Community and individual Mediterranean countries. These have been reviewed several times and today they are encompassed by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Cooperation in the fields of agriculture and rural development is varied and fragmented, dominated by measures aimed to facilitate trade between the two shores. The rural population, with small farmers in the forefront (who represent the majority in these countries) has always been considered the "poor relative" of this cooperation.

ENPARD - "The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development" - is a new initiative that can help redress the balance and aid in overcoming the multiple challenges these countries are currently facing.



This article is CIHEAM-Montpellier contribution to the ongoing debate on the future of the European Neighbourhood Policy. It describes current initiatives in support of agriculture and rural development in the Southern Mediterranean countries and explains why ENPARD should have a primary role in the new ENP that the EU is working to define.

Agricultural and rural cooperation under the Neighbourhood Policies

The Mediterranean countries have a long tradition of relations with the EU. They date back to the 1950s, when a series of agreements, in various forms, were signed between the Community and individual Mediterranean countries. In 1995, with the Barcelona Process, these agreements were incorporated in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and in 2004 they became an integral part of the bilateral relations under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Liberalisation and trade were always considered the main drivers towards integration and economic growth¹ and made up the bulk of the bilateral cooperation between the individual Southern countries and the EU, within the framework of the ENP.

Currently there is duty free access to the EU market for manufactured goods; whereas, due to their sensitive nature, a number of agricultural and agri-food products are excluded from free trade and remain subject to quantitative restrictions.

¹ http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/publications/closer_en.pdf

The economic and social cost of these agreements, in particular to the agricultural sector, have been widely analysed in recent years. The conclusion seems to be that, globally, they have not led to the desired results. Progress in expanding trade, fostering investment in the region and accelerating convergence in living standards has been limited and has not lived up to expectations. In addition, opening up commerce to the outside world and liberalizing markets has led to speculation and the unequal distribution of resources, which has benefited big commercial farms but left aside the small-scale holdings that represent the majority.²

Over the years, the European Neighbourhood Policy has been funded by a variety of geographical and thematic programmes, as well as the MEDA programme until 2006, ENPI from 2007 and now ENI (European Neighbourhood Instrument). While agriculture and rural development was one of its stated fields of cooperation, for lack of visibility, it is difficult to say exactly what ENPI financed over the period 2007-2013 on these specific issues.³ Some estimates indicate⁴ that just a very small percentage of the whole allocation has been for agricultural or rural actions.

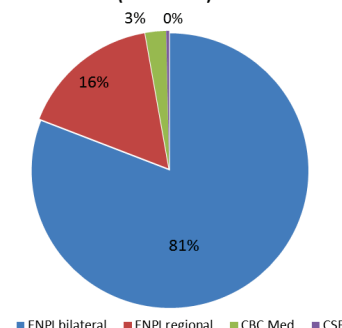
With regard to the agriculture and rural development the initiatives covered by bilateral cooperation are mainly of three types

1. Food safety issues - through the reform and modernisation of the sector, to be achieved by harmonisation of SPS standards and bringing regulations more into line, where the idea of facilitating trade is still evident ;
2. Environmental - to fight against desertification and natural resource degradation ;
3. Regional socio-economic cohesion - to reduce the economic gap between regions and improve the development of local capacities.

Regional cooperation, which is increasingly framed by the Union for Mediterranean agenda, is an important complement to bilateral cooperation programmes, enabling countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region to cooperate around themes of shared interest that cannot be addressed successfully by individual countries.

Other initiatives are included under the Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Mediterranean programme, which has more than 80 projects, mainly in the areas of irrigation and environmental protection and the CBC Italy-Tunisia programme.

Breakdown of ENPI funds for the South (2007-2013)



Another initiative worth mentioning is the Civil Society Facility, a mix of bilateral and regional ENI funds, co-financed by the European Commission, which has been launched to strengthen the capacity of civil societies in partner countries. It also seeks to increase civil society's involvement in the programming, implementation and monitoring of EU assistance and policies in the region, as well as in the policy dialogue. Agriculture and rural development are among the main areas of intervention. This instrument has an initial allocation of 33 million euros and a first assessment will be carried out in 2017.

The ENPARD initiative

In 2011, the rapid escalation of events linked with the Arab Spring led the European Commission to review its approach towards its Southern neighbours.

Two European Commission Communications, both published in 2011, "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity"⁵ and "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood"⁶ emphasised the mutual importance of the EU-Mediterranean relationship. They highlighted the challenging times experienced by the countries of the South and proposed a set of initiatives to help face the new difficulties. One of these initiatives was ENPARD, "The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development", which became operational in 2012. CIHEAM-IAMM, with its extensive experience working with the southern Mediterranean countries, was contracted to develop a first programme of actions.

ENPARD adds a new dimension to the EU's traditional relations with the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean by focusing specifically on agriculture and rural development; not with the aim of developing trade opportunities but with the more complex ambition of responding to the needs of small-scale farms and the rural world as a whole.

² EU-Mediterranean Relations in the field of Agriculture. The example of Morocco and Turkey, Notre Europe, 18 April 2013

³ Mainly due to the lack of a headline duly assigned to agricultural and rural development projects.

⁴ Le rôle du principe de différenciation et des stratégies nationales dans la PEV en Méditerranée : quelles implications pour le volet « agriculture et développement rural ? », Marion Péronnet, 1, July, 2012, CIHEAM»

⁵ COM(2011)200 FINAL

⁶ COM(2011)303

With ENPARD the EU Commission offers support to its neighbours in defining participative, inclusive and locally-based public policies that can fight effectively against food insecurity, help diversify their rural economies and bring about structural improvements in the agricultural sector. It is based on three pillars: improving livelihoods in rural areas (the rural dimension); improving sustainable productivity, food safety and quality standards (the agricultural dimension); and enhancing the organisational and institutional capacity for a better governance of the sector (institutional dimension).

Within the framework agreed in 2011, it was decided that ENPARD should focus on two broad types of activity: the promotion of a broader dialogue with the partner countries on the development of sound, sustainable and integrated agricultural and rural development policies, and the formulation of pilot projects anchored to local realities, inspired by the EU's LEADER approach and financed by the bilateral cooperation programmes.

Over the first three years the EU offer under ENPARD resulted in CIHEAM mobilising 2.8 million euros from the EU budget to foster the political dialogue at several levels. A further 64 million euros was formally approved in 2013 to finance under the bilateral Neighbourhood Instrument four pilot action programmes that have a strong territorial dimension.

For the current programming period (2014-2017) the EU Commission has allocated 4 million euros to consolidate and enrich the ENPARD regional dialogue. Although none of the Southern Mediterranean countries has identified agriculture and rural development as priority sectors for their cooperation with Europe, the possibility of financing agricultural and rural development projects keeps open under other areas of intervention, such as diversification of the economy, local development, natural resource management and inclusive growth.

Looking ahead

Why are agriculture and rural development important ?

Today the Mediterranean region is subject to a wide range of pressures. Aside from the obvious political issues, it is faced with problems of land availability, and a scarcity and degradation of natural resources, aggravated by climate change.

The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector and food systems is under pressure from demographic growth, changing consumption models and poor productivity, which makes the region dependent on external markets for basics such as wheat, sugar, maize and dairy products.

Rural areas remain an important component of Mediterranean society. They concentrate a very high proportion of the population (around 38% of the entire southern neighbourhood population – 87 million)⁷ but are often marginalized, with poor access to basic infrastructure. The rural economy is mainly based on agriculture, which is carried out by small-scale, uncompetitive farms, with a low productivity. The share of holdings with less than 5 ha is very high: varying from 55% in Algeria and Tunisia to 98% in Egypt.

Agriculture and rural population in the Mediterranean Region

	Agriculture, Value Added	Labour force in agriculture		Rural population		Rural Population	
	% of GDP	% of total labour force		% of total population		Million	
	2013	2004	2014	2004	2014	2004	2014
Algeria	11%	23%	20%	34%	25%	11,53	9,79
Morocco	17%	30%	23%	45%	42%	13,54	14,02
Tunisia	9%	23%	19%	35%	33%	3,49	3,68
Lebanon	7%	3%	14%	14%	12%	0,52	0,53
Egypt	15%	29%	23%	57%	56%	40,25	46,71
Jordan	3%	8%	5%	19%	17%	0,97	1,24
Lybia	..	4%	2%	23%	22%	1,28	1,36
Syria	..	22%	18%	47%	43%	8,24	9,40
Israel	..	2%	1%	0.9%	0.8%	0,15	0,27

Source: FAO, Faostat and World Bank Indicators

Poor living conditions, unemployment, poor infrastructure and the lack of social services all make life in the rural areas extremely difficult and offer few prospects for young people, who often migrate to the cities, or provoke unrest, as was the case in the Arab spring. Attempts to diversify run up against the lack of infrastructure (roads, buildings) as well as over-centralization, a lack of local governance and participation by local entities in the construction of territorial policies.

In view of this, it is of primary importance that investments are made in agriculture and rural development in these countries, which are still dominated by the agricultural sector and depend on their rural economies. Agriculture has the potential to make an even greater contribution than at present to the economic and social development of the southern Neighbourhood countries.

The agricultural sector is already a major source of employment and income for all of them, except Jordan and Lebanon. In Tunisia, agriculture accounts for 9% of GDP and even more in Morocco (17%), Egypt (15%) and Algeria (11%). In the same time, more than 22% of Morocco and Egypt's active population works in the primary sector, while the figure is 19% in Tunisia and Algeria. Regarding the share of agriculture in the GDP, this could be read as a lack of productivity but it also shows the significant social role of this sector across the region in a general context of high unemployment.

⁷ The figure may be even higher because of the criteria normally used to classify municipalities.

What kind of approach?

If the importance of the agricultural and rural economies for these countries is undeniable, the approach to be used to help their development is perhaps more open to debate.

In these countries, dominated by small farms and marginalised rural areas, cooperation based on free trade agreements cannot be the only answer. As evidence has shown, they represent an incomplete partnership. Even though they stimulate economic activity and encourage better quality production and improved competitiveness they are, at least initially, addressed to the most responsive and economically successful fringe of society.

Small-scale farms are excluded from this process and are often adversely affected by liberalisation, due simply to the fact that they do not have the means to take advantage of it. They have difficulties in accessing the necessary information, input and output markets; they are not financially or materially equipped to compete on external markets.

The support programmes put in place as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy have not done enough to correct this. They have been conceived to accompany the process of liberalisation and improve product access to the export market, which is addressed first and foremost to larger farms.

The rural development component has been virtually absent from these programmes. It has often been treated in a composite and fragmented way through "local development" programmes, with a wide variety of objectives and actions, while a systematic and holistic approach to rural areas has been missing. The same could be said of the more recent Civil Society Facility which opens the cooperation to civil actors but still offers a very fragmented response to the challenges.

The context and the emergencies that the Mediterranean area is experiencing call for more innovative, structured and radical solutions. EU action should primarily target small farms and the development of the rural areas where they are mainly located.

The balanced and sustainable development of the rural environment would enable small farms retain their important social role but make it possible for them, in the longer term, to participate in the opportunities offered by trade liberalisation. Their development and the improvement of the rural areas where they operate would increase domestic agricultural production and reduce their country's dependence on imports. A holistic and integrated approach to rural development could help diversify rural economies and provide work for more young people, so reducing the current exodus and the temptation of drifting into extremism as the only perceived options for them.

Rural development should thus be viewed as an important part of a global process to achieve sustainable development and social stability. This is even more valid in this period of tension and uncertainty.

After years and years of research into rural development and its practical application, the benefits that proactive policies centered on rural development can bring, not only for rural areas but also for urban centres, are well accepted.

Across Europe, rural areas are recognised today as places of innovation, know-how and traditions that can truly contribute to the prosperity and economic development of a country. They can be places to live and work, with equal opportunities for all the population regardless of status, gender and income.

In the southern Mediterranean, however, rural areas are still considered as secondary spaces, obsolete relics of an economy centered on agricultural production, whose function is only to serve as a labour force reservoir for the rest of the economy. To realise a shift in perception, it is necessary to point to the potential competitiveness of these areas, the valorisation of local assets and the exploitation of unused resources.

All this calls for specific attention to be paid to agriculture and rural territories. It could be said that the ENPARD initiative is well placed to address the challenge.

Europe's extensive experience, with the Common Agricultural Policy and the Regional and Cohesion Policies, as well as programmes such as Leader and Sapard, offers important and useful references points for the southern countries, particularly regarding the mobilisation of social forces and resources at local level. Similarly, following the examples already set, the ENPARD initiative can help its partners identify projects that diversify opportunities in rural areas, increase productivity and provide new employment opportunities at local level. Through dialogue, exchange, partnerships and training, it can help promote, at national and regional levels, inclusive agriculture and rural policies based on a real participatory and bottom-up approach.

ENPARD: turning an initiative into an instrument for cooperation and partnership?

The ENPARD initiative is a specific and long term process initiated with the southern Mediterranean countries. What lessons can we learn from three years of implementation that could prepare us for the future?

First, all the countries concerned have responded very positively to the ENPARD offer, demonstrating their huge interest in agricultural and rural issues. At the same time, none of them have selected these issues as a priority for cooperation with the EU. This shows that the bilateral process, put in place by the Commission, to define cooperation priorities with our Neighbourhood partners, does not always allow the emergence of such issues, for various reasons that we will not go into here.

This leads us to say that, in addition to the institutional dialogue, promoted by the EU and run by the EU Delegations, an oriented offer implemented on a voluntary basis, can be fully relevant and should be pursued with the southern countries. This is what happened with the ENPARD initiative which was put forward by the Commission without waiting for the Neighborhood's request and has already achieved very encouraging results. Looking at European history, we can find the same with the Leader initiative which was set up and firmly promoted by the European Commission. However, this initiative was quickly to become the heart of the second pillar of the CAP and a twenty five years success story!

Among the panoply of initiatives that make up the European Neighbourhood Policy, ENPARD risks being unfinished and it could well disappear, like "ad hoc" projects financed by the EU.

Today the policy momentum is supported by the regional programme entrusted to CIHEAM. However, the national support programmes that must accompany the policy dialogues can only be built under the bilateral neighborhood instrument... driven by the cooperation priorities, which never focus on agriculture and rural development! To fully comply with its goals, the ENPARD initiative must be specifically funded.

If this happens, ENPARD will gain the status of a real political initiative, becoming part of Europe's diplomacy with the southern Mediterranean countries, as a structural and operative response to fight against migration and terrorism.

As experience has shown, no country has succeeded in developing its rural environment without a proactive policy designed to create suitable, enabling conditions for this to happen. And we are all witnessing the growing urgency of stabilising the southern Mediterranean's rural territories, which have been neglected for far too long. The revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy offers the opportunity for the EU to be the architect of such an ambitious initiative, which could be highly engaging for other bilateral support, first and foremost the EU Member States, and foster Europe as a responsible and key actor in the transition of this region.

Transformation pathways for the food and agriculture sector: a necessary debate for the post 2015 agenda

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Sustainable development as a universal and not only a global challenge

2015 global negotiations on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and on Climate change are particularly crucial for Mediterranean countries. Both negotiations are converging towards the common understanding that sustainable development issues are critical challenges necessitating international cooperation, but that they cannot be solved by solutions decided at the global scale, because each national situation is very specific.

In both the SDG and in the climate discussion, 2015 is a very important milestone because in each case there is a recognition of the universality of the challenges : each country has to invent a new development pathway to face jointly all the challenges of the 17 SDGs (from access for all to health, education, sustainable energy and food to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and to preserving biodiversity and ecosystems); each country also has to reflect on a development pathway to face jointly the objective of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Even if common but differentiated responsibility concerning global environmental degradation, as stated in Rio 1992, is still at the heart of UN discussions, there is a common understanding that action to reduce environmental degradation and greenhouse gases emissions is necessary not only in Northern but also in Southern countries, and that adaptation to climate change, access to health, food and energy as well as fighting poverty and inequalities are not challenges only in Southern countries but also in Northern countries.

This is why every country has agreed to produce for the Climate negotiation their specific *Intended Nationally Determined Contribution* (INDC), accounting for national objectives and strategies to 2030 both for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, as a response to both national and global challenges. Based on these declared national efforts, whose cumulated impact on global greenhouse gases emissions is still insufficient to reach the objective to stay under a +2°C increase in global average temperature in 2100 compared to preindustrial levels, international cooperation will have a key role to play to engage a collective learning process and address other needs for cooperation (financial transfers, capacity building, innovation...) to make these policies effective and rapidly more ambitious. In the SDG framework agreed at the UN General Assembly on September 25th, each country will also have to account for their efforts and achievements in reaching the SDGs. The critical assumption behind these two international processes is that the international arena and its processes of accountability will help support national policy debates addressing what will be in many cases the need for a deep transformation of development pathways.

Transforming food and agriculture systems: a necessity for sustainable development in the Mediterranean area

The Mediterranean context is particularly illustrative of the fact that attaining the Sustainable Development Goals will not be possible without a deep transformation of the development pathways, and in particular, the transformation of food and agriculture systems. First, the impact of climate changes will be particularly important in the Mediterranean basin, amplifying the frequency and magnitude of extreme events of droughts, heat waves, storms and floods, while at the same time reducing the average availability of water. Already existing phenomena of water scarcity, soil erosion and degradation will therefore be foreseen to be even more acute.

Adapting to these changes will therefore be a key challenges for many of the agricultural systems in the Mediterranean, and in some cases it could mean a complete reconversion of specialised supply chains to other crop types, which could mean, inter alia, changing cropping patterns and choices, developing new markets and new partnerships with processing industries and retailers, renegotiating contracts and value shares in supply chains... Given the role and place of the agriculture and food sector in national economies and particularly its share in the national workforce, such reconversion challenges clearly call for a debate on the social, economic and environmental orientations of the sector, in each of the Mediterranean countries.

Of course, many of the challenges faced by agriculture and food systems in Mediterranean countries are already very acute in the shorter term. Therefore, to some extent, having climate change and sustainable development so high on the international agenda in 2015 can be considered mainly as a political window of opportunity to put the systemic challenges concerning agriculture and food at the heart of national debates; as stated before, international processes could also be useful to help the structuration of such national policy debates, with deadlines, a set of objectives, targets and indicators; these international processes might also constitute a legitimate reference statement for civil society organizations, private sector or other stakeholders to ask for a debate on long term transformations of the food and agriculture sector in order to prepare innovative public policies.

The scarcity and vulnerability of water and soil resources are of course at the heart of this sustainable development challenge, but technical solutions to improve water efficiency or soil management practices will not be solving the problem if the economic, social and political dimension is not taken into account. First of all, employment and decent incomes is a critical issue for all Mediterranean societies, and not reducing or even increasing the amount of jobs in the agriculture and food sector will probably be necessary in a variety of national contexts where the other sectors of the economy also struggle a lot to offer jobs to a growing and young population. But what are the trends of change in the number and structure of farms, and their labor intensity, driving the level of employment in agriculture? These trends are influenced by international and internal competition, changes in land tenure regulations, but also by choices in terms of techniques and technologies (choices made to preserve the environment or to increase productivity, substituting capital to labor,...), or by the changes in markets and supply chains for different products. Solutions for sustainable development in this sector therefore have to address jointly all economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Moreover, managing the scarcity of water or land resources will also mean not just to develop resource efficient practices, but also to make politically very difficult choices of allocation of resources between users, therefore allocating development opportunities for the future between sectors and between regions. In this case, managing the scarcity of resources means to make stringent political choices, with some sectors of agriculture and some regions being favored, while others will be the losers of such arbitrages. Such political choices can not be accepted politically at the national scale if they are not made within a larger framework of a vision for the transformation of the whole agrifood sector and its role in the national economy, as well as its role for regional development of different regions. Such radical transformations of development pathways and their differentiation between sectors and regions need to be prepared and debated, and the SDG process offers a very good opportunity to open such a difficult debate in the proper systemic and long term framework.

Based on national long term transformation pathways, a renewed debate on the need for international cooperation

If the 2015 global negotiation processes put very much at the centre the role of national domestic policy debates, this "bottom-up" perspective is also a way to reconstruct on a sounder basis the motivations for international cooperation. Once we know what transformation every country would need to accomplish, what are the needs for international cooperation in order for these national transformation to be made possible or even more ambitious? These processes are in that regard also an opportunity to identify with a new lens the crucial needs for cooperation between Mediterranean countries, based on what countries need to achieve their own specific transformation towards sustainability.

Among the needs for international cooperation, the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 tackled the priority question of international financial transfer, if we are to implement the very ambitious post 2015 agenda. And it put the focus on the role of public international financial transfers in order to catalyze private investments. For many Southern Mediterranean countries, having a clearer vision of the longer term transformation of the economy is in this regard a key factor to succeed in attracting and making the best use of those financial transfers, either from public or private sources.

But there are also other dimensions for which international cooperation will be crucial. First, international policy dialogues at the Mediterranean scale would be very useful to serve as learning processes for policy making, in a context where these policies will need to rely on sound institutional frameworks, able to anticipate future resources scarcities, deal with critical political decisions to face necessary reconversions or reallocations, all processes where the impact of political choices for losers and for winners will be very important, necessitating both transparency and deliberation, and the design of compensation mechanisms.

Second, all these transformations in national agrifood sectors will have to be made consistent with one another, because of the interdependency between these countries and regions, either through shared resources, through common markets, or through the mobility of people. The capacity of countries to adjust, and negotiate with one another will be critical, in times of rapid economic and social changes for the agrifood sector in every of the countries. Preparing jointly for the reconversions of the agrifood sector should be a priority project for the Mediterranean international institutions.

Lastly, one of the earliest drivers of radical change in the agrifood sectors in the Mediterranean region will be linked to the liberalization of trade between countries. These crucial negotiation processes between the European Union and other countries of the region, or between these countries, need to be assessed with the clearest vision in mind of the necessary transformation in each country, particularly given the stringency of the employment challenge in a region with limited natural resources. While sustainable development is often considered a secondary or annex chapter in trade liberalization, the SDG and Climate processes could be an opportunity to question the very soundness of proposed free trade agreements when referred to the systemic challenges addressed under the SDGs.

Because of the criticality of the sustainable development challenge faced by many Mediterranean countries, national debates on transformation pathways in agriculture and food systems are necessary. But, as they particularly will deal with the issue of employment, these visions of the transformation should also be used as necessary building blocks of a broader analysis of possible pathways of sustainable development for the whole Mediterranean region. Building common markets, sharing and jointly managing resources, are considered unavoidable dimensions of international cooperation at the regional scale. The SDG process, because of its systemic nature, necessarily questions the possibility that such neighborhood cooperation could avoid properly addressing also the mobility of the workforce and migrations, that might be made necessary in some countries because of the transformation of the structure of the economy and of the unavoidable reconversions in some sectors, even if national policy debates are not yet prepared to accept it. It is urgent to pave the way for such discussions.



What Agenda 2030 can do about climate change!

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Introduction

On August 2, after a final marathon negotiating session that went into the small hours, 193 countries agreed the new global Sustainable Development Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Called "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"¹, it is the world's new to-do list for the next 15 years. If implemented, this ambitious agenda will help eradicate extreme poverty, reduce inequality and address the root causes of our current social, economic and environmental challenges. It is the first agenda coming from the UN that looks at cross-cutting issues related to development and the first one negotiated by all countries involving civil society, academia and the private sector.

The success of this agenda will depend on how it is implemented but it is an ambitious agenda that intends to "free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet"². The 17 goals are framed as integrated and indivisible, and seek to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. It is a major challenge but this new Agenda enjoys a high level of ownership by the countries and civil society organisations (CSOs) that have been involved in shaping it. The process that led to this agreement is considered by many to be the most open and transparent process in UN history. Now it's time for us to recognise this opportunity and ensure that we're using Agenda 2030 to its full potential to shape how we pursue a sustainable future and solve the challenges the world faces today.

Whether social injustice, gender inequality, migration, corruption, food waste, or climate disasters, we need to see today's world problems – and the solutions – in a holistic way and address the root causes. Agenda 2030 is one useful tool to help us with this work.

What exactly is Agenda 2030?

Agenda 2030 has 5 chapters: preamble, declaration, the 17 SDGs and 169 targets at the core of the agenda, a chapter on means of implementation and the global partnership, and recommendations on follow up and review. In March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission will also announce a set of indicators to measure these targets.

This Agenda came as a framework to replace the MDGs and as a follow of the Rio+20 Earth Summit. The 8 MDGs, appended to the Millennium Declaration in 2000, covered a range of human development outcomes including halving extreme poverty, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, and providing universal primary education by 2015. Together, they formed a blueprint for the global development community. While progress across different goals and in different countries has been mixed, together they galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. In the UK, for example, 40% of the government's total overseas development budget is directed towards the MDGs. Some of the issues they focused on have seen real improvement, from reducing the number of people living on very low incomes – although much is due to China's economic growth – to increasing people's access to medicines for HIV.

However, the MDGs have also been criticised, among other things, for being created through a top-down, closed-door process that did not engage people living in poverty. CAFOD's partners have highlighted that the goals were of limited relevance to grassroots work or poor citizens themselves, as they failed to respond to the needs and priorities of people on the ground.³ A further critique is that the MDGs represent the vision and priorities of donor countries, and have in fact distracted from the structural causes of poverty.⁴ CAFOD has been pushing for a new development agenda that better reflects the priorities and experiences defined by our partners and the communities they work with. While the MDGs mainly focused on poverty in developing countries, the new Agenda is both broader and universal, meaning it will be equally applicable to all countries, including all 13 CIHEAM Member Countries.

¹ http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf
² Preamble

³ 100 Voices (2011), CAFOD

⁴ 100 Voices

A new agenda for new challenges

"The little improvement we gained with hard work over the years was again back to zero because of the flooding" (Celia, F, farmer, Mapulong, Philippines⁵).

Despite some improvements through the MDGs, over the past 15 years the wellbeing of many people living in poverty has deteriorated as a result of other processes in the global context. These include environmental degradation, violent conflict, rapid changes in the prices paid to farmers, lack of access to energy, climate change impacts, and political and economic crisis among others. They displace people's livelihoods, severely impairing their ability to make a decent living.

A clear example is the effects of climate change. CAFOD's partners have told us that even when small-scale, natural disasters can destroy years of hard-won progress and undermine wellbeing for years to come. But some of these impacts can be prevented and mitigated by building resilience and preparedness, something that the new Agenda could do (see Targets 1.5⁶ or 2.4⁷).

In our globally interconnected world, people living in poverty are aware that their wellbeing is dependent on decisions and situations they have no opportunity to influence or control. In 2011 CAFOD did a piece with 104 of its partners across developing countries⁸ to find out if the MDGs were useful for them and whether they wanted an overarching, internationally agreed framework for development after 2015.

The answer was that overwhelmingly our partners viewed the MDGs as useful and recognised the importance for a new global development agenda post-2015. But they also stressed that this new agenda had to better respond to national contexts, address environmental issues and climate change and that it should be created through an open, inclusive and participatory practice.

That is why CAFOD, together with partners from civil society, have been advocating for Agenda 2030 and the SDGs to include the perspectives of those living in poverty. CAFOD helped setting up Beyond 2015⁹, a global civil society campaign calling for an over-arching, cross-thematic development framework to succeed the MDGs, created through an open and inclusive process. The campaign, which now has nearly 1,500 participating organisations in more than 130 countries, has been instrumental in bringing civil society's voices into the UN Agenda 2030 process.

The new set of 17 SDGs that have been agreed as part of the new sustainable development agenda will be formally adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015. They cover a wide range of issues, continuing 'traditional' MDG areas such as poverty, hunger, health, education and gender inequality, but add important new areas such as energy, infrastructure, economic development and employment, inequality, cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, forests, oceans, peace and security, and means of implementation. This breadth of scope is ambitious but many have recognised that it is impossible to make progress on poverty eradication and sustainable development without addressing the root causes of problems.

Climate change in Agenda 2030

"The environment has changed. Now stronger rains come, the land collapses, and just stones are left behind. It is now three years that we have had this bad weather. Before there were just showers and the rain did not destroy the crops. Now it comes with hailstones and it takes the land away. It brings all kinds of diseases for the plants and does not let them produce well. There are more thunderstorms now and that kills sheep, men... before, this was not happening." (Artisan workshops, Yamparáez, Bolivia, COMPASS 2015)

The global context has significantly changed during the last 15 years. CAFOD and other development practitioners have seen a range of factors that have displaced the livelihoods of people living in poverty, often resulting in a deterioration of wellbeing experienced by the poorest and most vulnerable people. While some of these, such as environmental degradation and climate change can affect us all, people living in poverty are often impacted first and hardest. Climate change is an example of how interconnected the world is, where actions, decisions and behaviours in one country can have global implications. People experiencing poverty are aware of this interconnectedness and that we all share just one world finite in resources.¹⁰

⁵ COMPASS 2015 (2013): Setting the post-2015 development compass: voices from the ground. http://www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/11319/89078/file/CF-Compass_report.pdf

⁶ 1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

⁷ 2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

⁸ 100 Voices

⁹ See www.beyond2015.org

¹⁰ COMPASS 2015

"If we don't confront climate change, we won't end poverty" (Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank)

In recent years there has been growing global recognition that climate change is a critical development challenge, capable of undermining sustainable development and poverty eradication. The sustainable development pathways that we choose today to deal with hunger, poverty, provide energy access or resilient infrastructure will also determine how well we address the mitigation and adaptation challenges of climate change so both must be considered together.

During early discussions around Agenda 2030, there was fear that including climate change could either undermine the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as the UNFCCC is the main body in charge of leading climate negotiations towards a legally binding agreement. Worse, there were fears it could import some of the tensions and entrenched divisions from the UNFCCC talks into the post-2015 process. However, negotiators finally agreed that addressing climate change had to be part of the new sustainable development agenda because it is not possible to achieve sustainable development without tackling one of the greatest challenges of our times.

Agenda 2030 includes SDG 13 to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, with a range of targets covering resilience, adaptive capacity, and resource mobilisation. It also includes SDG 7 on ensuring access to sustainable energy¹¹ that calls for more renewable energies and increased energy efficiency by 2030, which could contribute to action for climate mitigation. It also includes several climate-relevant targets across other goal areas such as building resilience and reduce exposure to climate extreme events, strengthen adaptation to climate change when producing food, or phase down fossil fuel subsidies. So, it offers a significant opportunity for more and better-coordinated climate action vis-à-vis poverty reduction within and beyond the UNFCCC. This is crucial for many reasons: it will ensure that development is done in a more climate-compatible way and it will help create a common narrative framing both climate change and development as inherently interconnected.

However, the Agenda also addresses climate change on other important levels: the Preamble reaffirms the need for urgent action on climate change over the next fifteen years. The Declaration highlights the need for climate-compatible development and urges us to consider climate change as one of the biggest challenges to the achievement of the whole agenda¹². It outlines a *supremely ambitious and transformational vision*¹³ that envisages a world in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive and resilient¹⁴.

All of these send a strong message to governments, UN agencies, development banks and civil society to ensure that climate change is adequately incorporated when planning and implementing development projects. For instance, projects focusing on sustainable cities, transport, production and consumption will now be more likely to do so while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate and building resilience.

The most recent assessments of climate change science prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reconfirmed that climate change is real and happening now, that greenhouse gas emissions released by human activities are the primary cause, and that the world is on a pathway towards global warming of 4°C. While we hope for a global climate deal to be agreed under the UNFCCC this year in Paris, to enter into force in 2020, we also look for all available opportunities that increase our likelihood to stay below a 2°C future.

Agenda 2030 has the potential to contribute to that. It calls for climate action that is consistent with holding the increase in temperatures below 2°C or 1.5°C and it urges us to start before 2020¹⁵. So this agenda opens up the possibility to increase further action in a new area and to add momentum to the fight against climate change beyond the UNFCCC. We must embrace it and make the most out of it.

¹¹ SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

¹² Para. 14

¹³ Para. 7

¹⁴ Para. 9

¹⁵ Para. 30

Scientific challenges posted by the water-energy-food nexus in the Mediterranean

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The EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation (European Commission, 2014), targets an early identification of cooperation initiatives at an appropriate scale and scope, as well as initiatives to develop a post-2015 agenda including Sustainable Development Goals. Regarding the EU-Mediterranean Partners Countries cooperation agenda, several initiatives are being promoted to this end, notably those regarding the challenges of securing affordable food, managing scarce water resources and promoting the use of renewable energies. These actions are included in the INCo.Net Project MEDSPRING and the ERA.Net MED, both coordinated by CIHEAM-Bari, which also include an intellectual support to the setting of a permanent instrument of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in research and innovation based in Article 185 of the Treaties, the PRIMA initiative which is at this moment under impact evaluation.

The water-Energy-Food NEXUS describes the complex and inter-related nature of our global resources systems. It is about balancing different resource user goals and interests, while maintaining the integrity of ecosystems (FAO, 2011). The NEXUS approach is a scientific, technical and political question. The scientific approach to the NEXUS is yet an open question about how an integrated approach to the challenges identified within the NEXUS could be addressed from a heuristic scientific point of view. FAO has identified three working areas as part of a broader process of stakeholder dialogue addressing the NEXUS: a) Data and analysis; b) Scenario development; c) Response options. These are complemented by a continuous process of stakeholder dialogues.

Facts and Social and Economic Challenges

About one billion people live in the EU and in the neighboring countries. Of this total roughly half live in the EU-27; slightly less than 30% live in the countries of the South and East Mediterranean (SEMCs), including Turkey.

Some 40 per cent of the population in the Southern Mediterranean area lives in rural areas, and the population of the SEMCs will increase by some 25 % to 370 million in the next 20 years; in the EU-27, the population will increase only very slowly, by less than 2% over the entire period. In the EU-27, the population in the age group from 15 to 64 will fall by 6.5%, from about 330 million in 2010 to 310 in 2030. This decline contrasts with an increase in the comparable age group in the SEMCs by more than 31%; the total in this cohort will increase from 195 million to 250 million over the period. A consequence is that about 55 million more people will be looking for work (European Commission, 2011).

Much of the Mediterranean basin is arid and as the climate changes it becomes still drier; water resources are scarce and reducing. Rates of water use in the SEMCs often exceed the capabilities of the natural water resources, and it is worsened by the difficulties to monitor individual withdrawals of underground waters (FAO, 2015). The 'water exploitation index' measures this stress. If the index is below 25 %, water exploitation is negligible, and above 75 % water resources are overexploited. Countries such as Libya, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Malta have a Water Exploitation Index (WEI) (Fig. of 2003) of 100%, Tunisia has an WEI of 60%, Algeria of 55% and Morocco of 45%. From a total World water withdrawal of 3752 Km³, Northern Africa extracts 202 Km³ and the Middle East 276 Km³, where only 5 and 7 % are used by the industry. The regional fresh water availability is respectively 0.1% and 1.1% of the total world resources.

The rapid increase in population and in urbanization over the past 40 years has stimulated high growth in demand for energy, water and food. Much of the net growth in the global population by 2050, estimated in 9 to 10 billion people, will occur in cities of developing countries, so reinforcing the urban demand for these resources (FAO and WWF, 2015). Water and energy are closely linked: water use for energy generation represented 15 percent of world water withdrawals in 2010, and can compete with food production (FAO 2015).

Renewable energy and especially solar energy has great potential to improve security and new industrial development as the region has impressive resources of renewable energy. The German aerospace Centre (DLR) has estimated that, by using less than 0.3 % of the entire desert area of the MENA region, enough electricity and desalinated seawater can be produced to meet their own growing demands along with 100 GW of export to Europe by 2050.

However, the high subsidized prices of energy in the MENA countries, the cumbersome bureaucratic barriers to investments in this sector, and the lack of public perception of the long term benefits of RE could represent, paradoxically, a threat to the water and food production and prices (BETTER Project, 2014).

Recent studies have shown that more than half of the food calories consumed in the SEMC region is imported and would increase to 64% over the next two decades (World Bank, 2009). An older study in the mid-1990s showed that the food imports of the region were equivalent to 83 billion m³ of virtual water, or about 12% of the region's annual renewable water resources. Food security has long been a political concern in the Mediterranean region.

Originally the cause of the anxiety was not so much availability as declining self-sufficiency. More recently, the concern has widened; it is now a matter of access for populations to foodstuffs and inevitably it is the poor who suffer. In the SEMC countries, with the exception of Turkey, supplies are provided to a large extent through trade and even in some cases through food aid. The North African countries (from Morocco to Egypt) absorbed in 2007- 2008 almost 20 % of world wheat imports, whereas they account for only 2 % of the world population. Farming output cannot keep pace with the needs of a rapidly growing population, so that the deficits in the South and East are growing (Al-Zubari, 2014). Globally, rain-fed agriculture is the primary source of food production. In many regions, there is still an important yield gap, and potential to improve yields and water productivities without irrigation. Rainwater harvesting, as well as supplemental irrigation, can also substantially improve rain-fed agriculture (FAO, 2015).

In the Middle East, the roles of the branches of government in setting national priorities and addressing them are not clearly drawn. Soft security, such as security of water, energy, and food, is probably more important to a country's development than hard security, which emphasizes the military and defense. Science-based policies will be needed to meet the challenges of developing water, energy, and food security, simply because they are likely to promote development that is both effective and efficient. While research will be needed to potentially shape future policies, it is important to ensure that initially, policy development makes full use of existing science (Vaux and Dooley, 2014).

The NEXUS Scientific challenges

A survey of the literature dealing with the Water-Energy-Food NEXUS allow us to identify some unsolved key questions that could make part of a EU-MPC common research agenda to engage the scientific and innovation communities.

The recent paper of the FAO High Level Panel of Experts (FAO, 2015) makes concrete recommendations to the scientific community about the scientific challenges of the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), particularly in developing countries, asking for methodological and institutional innovations for the participatory co-construction, co-validation and dissemination of knowledge appropriate for risk prone, diverse and complex environments, such as arid and semi-arid regions, wetlands, deltas, and mountains.

Moreover, investments in research and innovation for water and FSN, with due attention to neglected areas, must increase. The following key areas should be addressed: impacts of climate change on run off, aquifer recharge, water quality and plant water use, and means to address them; incentive instruments and pricing structures for energy and water to reduce water waste or over-utilization; monitoring and evaluation of the water-related impacts, at different geo-spatial and temporal scales, of large-scale land acquisitions and foreign direct investments impacting water availability, access, quality and stability of supply, as well as on policies, interventions and institutional innovation to regulate their negative effects on FSN; establish and manage open data systems to provide evidence for decision making and monitoring; facilitate knowledge exchange on best practices for the management and governance of water systems for FSN.

There is no blueprint for overcoming institutional disconnection and power imbalances between sectors and different sectoral goals, policies and strategies in regard to water, energy and food in terms of resource use efficiency and productivity, planned investments, reforms, and large-scale infrastructures (FAO, 2014). There are serious gaps in science communication strategies.

Other significant issues have also been identified from other papers and Conferences dealing with the challenging and, may be, contradictory demands of the NEXUS Water-Energy-Food sectors. This issue should be addressed by considering that the interactions between water, energy and food systems should incorporate full life-cycle assessments in terms of the mutual interaction between the three components of the full nexus. Moreover, resources policies and regulations are frequently based in social and economic demands and not in the scientific evidence or warnings related to their use and the natural or man-induced impacts.

The current state of pressures on natural and human resources systems, and the expected demands, trends and drivers on resources are not well understood (FAO, 2014; Hoff, 2011). Climate change is deeply embedded within the water and soils cycles and food production, but there are not yet reliable models of such impact (Al-Zubari, 2014), or the impact of solar activity on the local climate change effects. Diffuse soil and aquifers non-point source contamination by traditional (fertilizers, insecticides, etc.) and new contaminants and its impact on water availability is not well studied, while in some places this contamination is more important than point source pollution, easier to control.

The increasing urban and industrial water consumption should be coupled with plans to recover nitrogen and phosphorous from the waste water, to be used as nutrients in agriculture (Wichelns, 2015). More data are needed on sustainably available water resources, in particular on safe aquifer yields and for so-called 'economically water scarce' regions. Water accounting and water balances between water availability and water consumptions and losses are needed (Hoff, 2011). Observations from satellite or in-situ are a unique source of consistent information about the natural environment, on which we rely to produce water, energy and food. Such observations are necessary to begin understanding the complex feed-back processes between the natural environment and human activities and provide arguments for adaptive management of resources based in the new evidences (FAO, 2014). There are scarce data on consumptive water use in the energy sector, compared to withdrawal data. Existing data are scattered and not consistently traced throughout the full lifecycle ('from the well to the wheel'). The water use intensity of the several varieties of energy production systems must be assessed (Halstead, Kober and van der Zwann, 2014).

Water productivity in agriculture is mostly calculated per kilogram of product, sometimes also per kilocalorie, but rarely takes into account the nutritional content of food products. Energy productivity in water availability and agriculture requires further research; there is conflicting evidence about the positive or negative energy balance of different biofuels. There is a lack of consistent and agreed quality standards upon water and energy for different crops and production systems, which would promote wastewater reuse and hence increase water and energy use efficiency. Uniformly applicable 'water footprint' or water cycle accounting systems are not yet available to allow comparison of water use efficiency for different forms of energy or food production. Irrigated agriculture accounts for some 20% of the cultivated area worldwide, while it generates about 40% of crop productions (FAO and WWC, 2015). Currently, about 0.25 to 1.5 million hectares of irrigated land are estimated to be lost annually because of salinization due to bad irrigation practices. Globally 34 million hectares are now impacted by salinity representing 11 percent of the total irrigation equipped area (FAO, 2015).

The Meeting organized by INCO.Net Project MEDSPRING (MEDSPRING Project, 2015) gathering several dozens of EU-Financed projects dealing with one or more components of the NEXUS, was a good opportunity to assess from the ground the perception of the scientific community of the challenges faced by the NEXUS. The main agreed conclusions was, perhaps, the perception that the research environment on the challenges posted by the NEXUS (and in general in any other challenge) must be handle incorporating externalities such as communication, measures to guarantee exploitation of possible results, provisions to perform short and long term technological impact assessment, as well as political and social impacts.

Other conclusions were the need for the aggregation of knowledge processes around the challenges. Moreover, actions based in Projects dimensions are not enough to guarantee sustainability of the effort; a clear engagement of Institutions and funding agencies around the challenges is needed. A common wish was to explore means to present the results of the effort of the scientific community to the society, and reach the political level of decision on funding and continuity in actions. It was acknowledged the need to be present in the forums where the concerns are exposed, and be closer to the end users of the research effort, notably consumers and young generations. Good quality data sharing is a must if common North-South problems are to be jointly addresses.

Conclusion

There is a general agreement within the scientific community about the need to create a permanent instrument to frame the EU-MPC cooperation in research and innovation. The NEXUS approach is a challenge, where the difficulties and benefits of such cooperation can be tested and communicated to the general public and the decision makers. However, this target must be addressed in a holistic way and adapting the scientific environment.

There are several open questions that hinder an efficient use of the scientific effort and provoke a slow pace of knowledge transfer from the scientific and technical communities between themselves and to political, administrative and industrial and agricultural producers and users of water, energy and food: Which is the degree of coordination between policies and regulations? How can the challenges of the NEXUS be presented to the large public? Where are the public benefits of this approach? Where are the industrial benefits of this approach?

There is no yet a harmonized 'nexus database' or analytical framework that could be used for monitoring or trade-off analyses between the three components. Hence the effects of increasing energy or water scarcity on food and water or energy security, as well as potential synergies between land, water and energy management, are not well understood. Questions include to what extent can higher availability of one resource sustainably reduce scarcity of another, and how might this work at different spatial scales? There is a lack of policy coherence (Al-Zubari, 2014). We need to listen other's opinions, as warnings use to be listened too late...

Acknowledgements

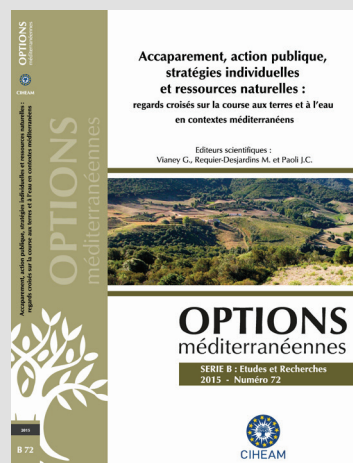
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MED-Amin: une initiative multilatérale de suivi des marchés pour la sécurité alimentaire en Méditerranée

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La crise alimentaire, associée aux crises financière et économique, en 2007-2008 a fait prendre conscience au monde, et en particulier aux pays dépendant pour se nourrir du commerce extérieur, de la fragilité des stratégies nationales de sécurité alimentaire appuyées principalement sur les marchés internationaux. Les pics de prix enregistrés ces années-là sur les denrées agricoles de base ont engendré de fortes hausses des factures d'importation, des pics de prix sur certains marchés domestiques, et parfois des difficultés, réelles ou surjouées, à se procurer des approvisionnements en produits de base. Les émeutes contre la vie chère qui en ont résulté ont contribué dans certains pays à l'instabilité politique.

En 2011, le G20 a réuni les ministres de l'agriculture pour élaborer un Plan d'action sur la volatilité des prix alimentaires et sur l'agriculture fondé sur cinq piliers : réinvestir dans l'agriculture mondiale pour "produire plus et mieux" (i) ; « accroître la transparence des marchés » (ii) ; « améliorer la coordination internationale pour prévenir et gérer les crises » (iii) ; « développer des outils de gestion du risque lié à la volatilité des prix agricoles » (iv) ; « réguler les marchés de dérivés de matières premières agricoles » (v). Un système d'information sur les marchés internationaux, baptisé AMIS, a été mis en place avec l'aide d'une dizaine d'organisations internationales à partir de 2011. Quatre ans après la première ministérielle agricole organisée par la France en 2011, la Présidence turque du G20 a choisi en 2015 de replacer l'agriculture en haut de l'agenda pour discuter de la durabilité des systèmes alimentaires et de lutte contre les pertes et gaspillages.

En parallèle d'AMIS, initiative à vocation mondiale, des pays partageant des intérêts au niveau régional se sont par ailleurs également rapprochés pour réfléchir à la mise en place de systèmes d'information partagée sur les marchés agricoles. MED-Amin pour la Méditerranée et AFSIS pour l'Asie en sont deux exemples, que nous présenterons en juxtaposition d'AMIS (figure 1). Nous nous proposons donc dans cet article de présenter l'organisation fonctionnelle générique des initiatives d'information de marché, de présenter les trois initiatives majeures les illustrant (MED-Amin, AMIS, AFSIS), dont le poids dans les productions céréalières mondiales est différent (figure 2) et de nous interroger sur les axes de complémentarité et de convergence de ces différentes initiatives. Nous concluons en dessinant quelques pistes d'évolution potentielle, notamment pour MED-Amin.



Pour obtenir plus d'informations sur le réseau et ses activités, vous pouvez consulter le site www.med-amin.org, mais également vous abonnez à la Newsletter de MED-Amin

Figure 1
AMIS, MED-AMIN, AFSIS : trois initiatives, trois cartographies

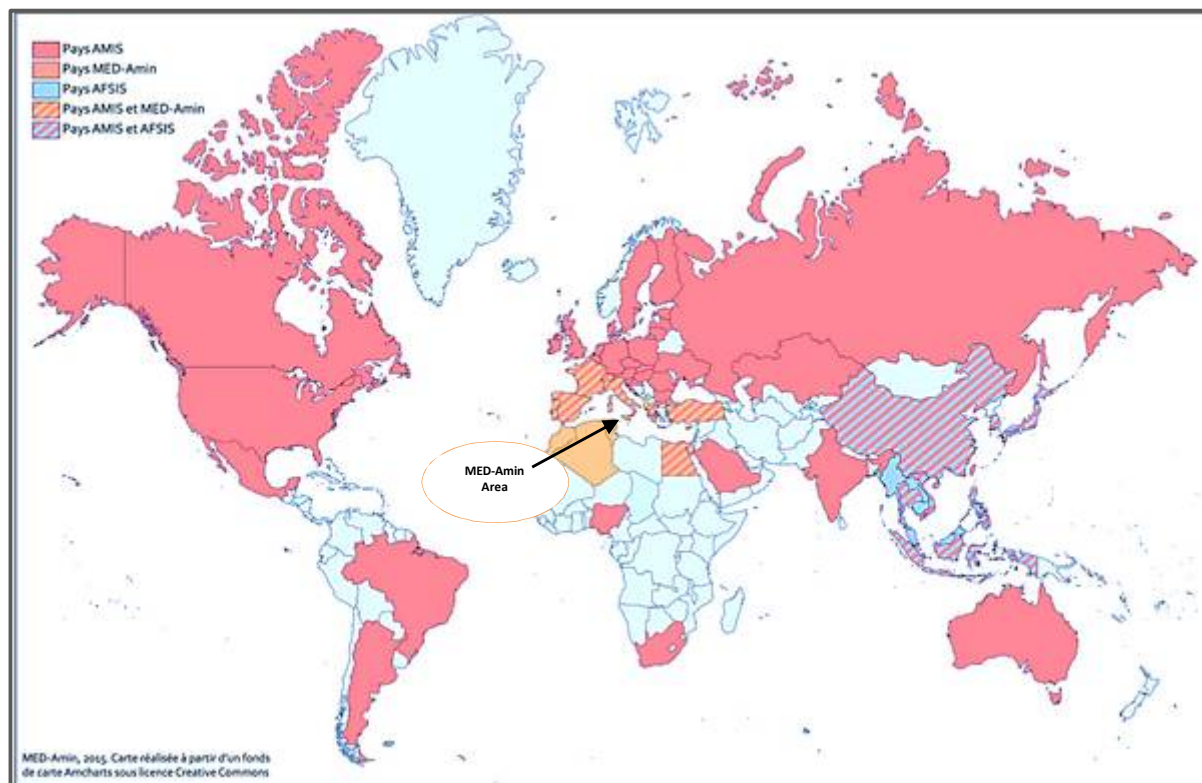
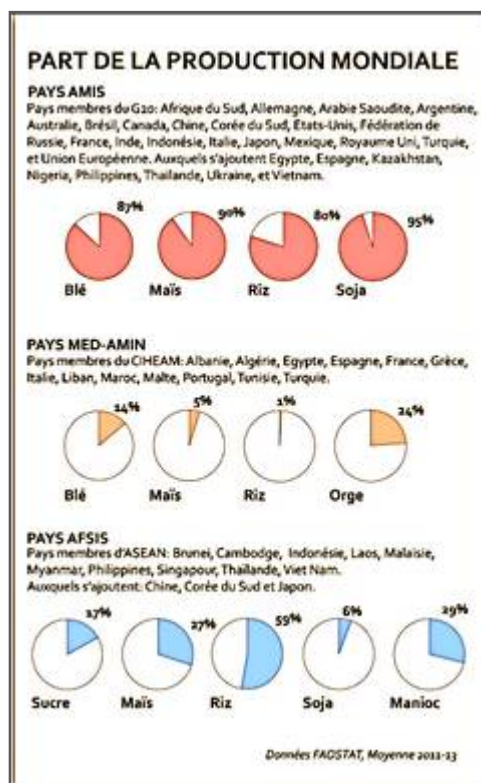


Figure 2
AMIS, MED-AMIN, AFSIS : trois réalités céréalières spécifiques



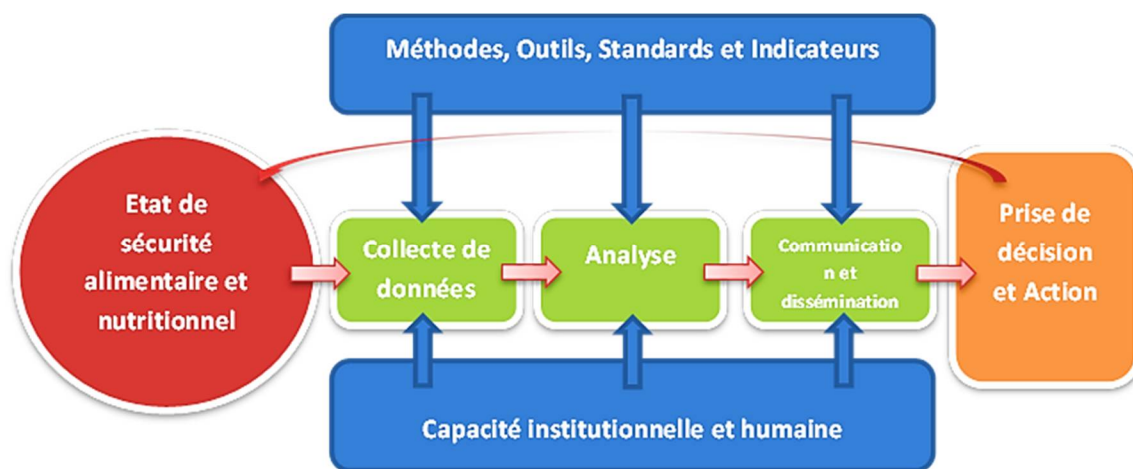
Fournir une information de qualité sur l'évolution des marchés céréaliers : une nécessité partagée

L'intérêt d'une collaboration pour accroître la transparence des marchés des produits stratégiques que sont les céréales ne fait aucun doute. Ainsi, en Asie, le riz est l'élément central de la diète de millions de personnes. En Méditerranée, le blé constitue la base de l'alimentation de la plupart des pays. La région Afrique du Nord – Moyen Orient est la première région importatrice au monde de ce produit (environ 30% des imports mondiaux actuellement). Les céréales constituent également des produits sujets aux échanges : la part de la production qui se retrouve dans le commerce international va de 8% pour le riz, à 10% pour le maïs, 15% pour l'orge et jusqu'à 20% pour le blé. Il est ainsi de première importance pour les pouvoirs publics d'être informés le mieux possible sur les marchés de ces produits vitaux pour leurs populations et pour la stabilité des pays (Abis, 2015).

Krylov (UNCTAD, 2010), citant FAO (1997), définit la fonction d'information de marché (« Market information ») comme un service « habituellement géré par une entité du secteur public, impliquant la collecte régulière d'information sur les prix, et dans certains cas, sur les volumes de marchandises échangés massivement sur les marchés. Cette mission inclut également la dissémination d'information régulière et réactive sur des médias divers, à l'attention des fermiers, traders, décideurs, ou tout autre public concerné, y compris les consommateurs. »

Dans le même esprit, le rapport intitulé « Panorama des Acteurs Clés de la production et l'échange d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle » publié en mars 2014 par le Food Security Information Network (FSIN)¹ propose un cycle de l'information pour la prise de décision en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle qui montre tout l'intérêt d'une bonne base d'information pour agir en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire (figure 3).

Figure 3
Cycle de l'information pour la prise de décision en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle
(Repris et traduit librement de FSIN, 2014).



¹ Le FSIN est une initiative lancée en collaboration par la FAO, l'IFPRI et le PAM et ayant pour objectif la mise en place d'une communauté de pratiques, la mise en place d'un ensemble de méthodologies, outils, standards et indicateurs orientés acteurs et le renforcement des capacités nationales et régionales autour de la collecte, l'analyse et la prise de décision autour de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. Pour plus d'information : <http://www.fsincop.net/about/>

Pourquoi suivre les marchés agricoles ?

Selon Krylov, l'information sur les marchés céréaliers reste trop souvent concentrée dans les mains d'une poignée d'acteurs (notamment les acteurs les plus importants dans le secteur du trading de commodités), la majorité des parties prenantes n'ayant que peu ou pas d'information sur les marchés. Le problème inverse peut parfois se poser, l'information étant trop importante ou trop dispersée : son analyse est alors rendue difficile par le temps nécessaire à sa compilation et sa vérification.

Cette situation peut créer des délais dans la prise de décision ou amener à l'inverse à des prises de décision « de crise » peu ou mal informées. Les sources d'information, quand elles existent, ne sont pas toujours organisées. De plus, des biais d'interprétation et un certain manque d'objectivité peuvent parfois être relevés dans la manière dont elles sont présentées par les différents acteurs impliqués dans la chaîne de production et de commerce.

En conséquence, la mission d'information publique sur les marchés à laquelle s'attachent les réseaux et systèmes d'information présentés dans cet article peut permettre de favoriser la transparence, c'est-à-dire, la connaissance, par toutes les parties prenantes, des prix de marchés ainsi que toute autre information pertinente à leur analyse. Cette transparence permet une allocation des ressources productives plus efficace, une amélioration de la position de négociation des parties, la réduction des coûts de transaction via la réduction des risques, la réduction des incertitudes de marchés liées au manque d'information. Elle améliore la connaissance des opportunités de marchés et doit s'attacher à fournir des informations utiles pour les parties impliquées dans les échanges, au bon moment. Elle permet enfin d'élaborer des stratégies de sécurité alimentaire informées et d'anticiper l'offre et la demande, les besoins et les difficultés à venir, à court ou long terme.

Cette mission d'information de marché peut se diviser en quatre fonctions successives :

- La collecte d'information
- La transmission, le traitement (conversion, harmonisation) et le traitement des données
- La dissémination de l'information
- L'utilisation de l'information

Le renforcement de ces quatre fonctions successives s'appuie en priorité sur la définition de méthodes d'analyse et d'indicateurs communs et sur le renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et humaines susceptibles de porter ce cycle d'information. Dans un second temps, la mise en place de systèmes d'information adaptés peut faciliter tout à la fois la dissémination des résultats et la collecte harmonisée au sein des différents pays participants.

Les décideurs sont les premiers bénéficiaires d'un meilleur cycle d'information sur les marchés céréaliers

L'information collectée et le processus d'harmonisation des données se veulent résolument orientés vers les décideurs. Le but des systèmes d'information est de leur permettre de détecter rapidement les modifications dans la structure des marchés, afin d'adapter efficacement leurs politiques (politiques d'échange, de soutien interne, fiscales, etc.). Ce cadre théorique pouvant se réaliser sous différentes configurations, nous présentons à la suite, trois exemples d'initiatives contrastées ayant pour fonction l'amélioration du cycle d'information de marchés à l'usage des décideurs.

Trois initiatives récentes de suivi des marchés céréaliers

Le tableau ci-dessous présente une vue synthétique comparative des trois initiatives qui sont développées ci-après.

Caractérisations des systèmes d'informations agricoles régionaux/mondiaux				
		AMIS	MED-Amin	AFSIS
Objectifs	* Promouvoir la transparence des marchés céréaliers	x	x	x
	* Améliorer les capacités de prévisions	x		x
	* Améliorer la compréhension du fonctionnement des marchés	x	x	x
	* Aider à l'analyse économique des marchés	x	x	x
	* Collecter des données pour construire une base de données cohérente et objective	x	x	x
	* Améliorer la capacité des pays à collecter des données	x	x	x
	* Agir comme animateur de réseau pour faciliter l'échange d'information et de pratiques	x	x	x
Données collectées	* Balances cérésières annuelles au niveau national (Production, Imports, Exports, Utilisations, Stocks, etc.)	x	x	x
	* Prévisions nationales pour la prochaine campagne mises à jour mensuellement	x		x
	* Calendriers de récolte	x		
	* Taux d'extraction nationaux		x	
	* Données sur les produits de première transformation (Farine, Semoule, etc.)		x	
	* Estimations statistiques par échantillon			x
Information & services fournis	* Données socio-économiques (Emploi dans le secteur agricoles, PIB, utilisation des terres, coûts de			x
	* Base de données d'accès public / Statistiques nationales	x		x
	* Lettres d'informations régulières	x	x	
	* Etudes & Expertises	x		
	* Fil d'actualité sur les marchés		x	
	* Cours et indices mensuels, notamment sur les marchés futures	x		
	* Bases de données des politiques publiques (subventions, droits de douanes, contrôle des imports/exports, etc.)	x		
	* Visualisation interactive des données et cartographie des prévisions de récolte	x		x
	* Système d'alerte précoce/réponse coordonnée précoce	x		
	* Programme d'échange/Formation	x		x
Type de données collectées	- Information Quantitative-			
	* Prix	x	x	x
	* Coûts			x
	* Quantités échangées par type/qualité			
	- Information qualitative -			
	* Normes de qualités			
	* Liste des importateurs/exportateurs impliqués sur les marchés			
Couverture	* Taux d'intérêts et niveaux de prix sur la chaîne de valeur (devises, prix du fret, stockage, pétrole..)	x		
	* Pratiques agricoles			
Couverture	* Nombre de pays couverts	28	13	13
	* Commodités couvertes	Blé Maïs Soja Riz	Blé Maïs Orge Riz	Manioc Maïs Soja Riz Sucre

MED-Amin (Mediterranean Agricultural Information Network)

L'initiative a vu le jour grâce à l'impulsion politique des ministres de l'agriculture du CIHEAM qui ont réclamé la création de ce réseau régional en 2012. Sa concrétisation s'est faite début 2014 : le réseau MED-Amin a été lancé officiellement par les ministres de l'agriculture des 13 Etats membres du CIHEAM lors de la 10ème réunion ministérielle tenue à Alger en février 2014.

MED-Amin vise à développer la compréhension mutuelle des pays méditerranéens, afin de fournir une plus grande transparence et une information de plus grande qualité sur les marchés alimentaires méditerranéens pour relever le défi de la sécurité alimentaire. L'intitulé de ce réseau est un signal fort lancé par les pays, car l'adjectif amin en arabe renvoie à la notion de « confiance ».

MED-AMIN, coordonné par le CIHEAM, vise à favoriser la coopération et le partage d'expériences entre les systèmes d'information nationaux sur les marchés agricoles des 13 pays membres du CIHEAM pour lesquels des points focaux ont été nommés. Ce réseau est dédié dans un premier temps aux céréales (blé, maïs, orge et riz), stratégiques pour la sécurité alimentaire des pays méditerranéens. L'évolution des prix, les échanges et la stabilité de l'offre de ces produits vitaux constituent en effet des préoccupations majeures pour les populations et les autorités publiques.

L'activité de MED-Amin se caractérise par :

- des réunions présentes régulières permettant d'instaurer la connaissance réciproque et la confiance et d'améliorer la coopération et l'échange entre les membres ;
- la collecte de données autour des céréales couvertes par le réseau, la connaissance des méthodologies et des bases statistiques ;
- des analyses de ces données de base et leur publication destinée en priorité aux décideurs ;
- une veille permettant d'améliorer la connaissance des marchés céréaliers, et le renforcement des capacités auprès des membres en exprimant le besoin.

Ces activités doivent permettre de poser les bases d'un meilleur suivi de la sécurité alimentaire dans la région Méditerranée et pourrait mener à terme à l'établissement d'une base de données, d'un système d'alerte précoce et plus généralement d'une meilleure coordination entre les pays.

Faisant le bilan de sa première année d'activité, le réseau a publié en avril 2015 un rapport d'activités retraçant les grandes lignes de ses premières réalisations de 2014. La collaboration a pris corps à travers deux réunions à Paris et à Izmir, et s'est concrétisée par une première collecte de données statistiques sur le blé tendre et le blé dur sur les six dernières années calendaires. Un ensemble d'outils de communication a également vu le jour à l'usage des membres du réseau et du grand public (site web, newsletter, fil d'actualité, brochures, présence sur les réseaux sociaux). Le rapport dégage les constats, lacunes et pistes d'améliorations qui doivent permettre au réseau d'approfondir la portée de ses actions et met ainsi en avant quatre axes de travail :

1. Améliorer la complétude des données recueillies : il est possible d'améliorer la mise à jour des données (année en cours ou année achevée), et le recueil de données sur les stocks, les utilisations (humaines, animales, etc.), les pertes ou les prix notamment (rarement reportés et souvent non harmonisés entre les différents pays) ;
2. Dépasser les disparités entre les méthodologies de collecte de données des pays membres : en 2015, le réseau a ainsi mis en place, dans le cadre d'une seconde collecte de données plus complète, des formulaires adaptés ainsi qu'un manuel en français et en anglais visant à guider les points focaux dans la collecte et la vérification de la cohérence des données transmises ;
3. Valider les données : à cette fin, un dialogue bilatéral a été initié avec les points focaux, afin d'approfondir la compréhension du contexte de collecte des données et de mettre en place les corrections nécessaires, le cas échéant. MED-Amin travaille en collaboration étroite avec AMIS, avec les services de l'Union européenne (CE, CCR/ MARS, GLOBSTAT...) et s'inscrit en complémentarité des initiatives existantes au plan mondial (CIC, USDA, FAOSTAT, etc.) ;
4. Harmoniser les données recueillies pour leur analyse, comparaison et agrégation : MED-Amin réalise en 2015 des bilans céréaliers sur la base des années commerciales nationales en équivalent grains, requérant notamment la collecte de données sur les taux d'extraction relatifs au différents produits de transformation (farine, semoule, malt, riz usiné, etc.) couverts par le réseau.

En 2015, une collecte de données sur les cinq commodités a donc été effectuée, dont les résultats seront discutés lors d'une réunion à Rome début octobre. Une publication de type « Policy brief » à destination des décideurs devrait être diffusée à l'automne 2015.

AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System)

Créé en 2011 à la demande du G20, l'initiative AMIS est une plateforme interinstitutionnelle dont l'objectif est d'accroître la transparence des marchés alimentaires internationaux et de favoriser une meilleure coordination des politiques visant à répondre aux incertitudes sur ces marchés. AMIS répond ainsi à l'absence de base de données de référence fournissant une information régulière et adaptée sur les grandes séries statistiques nécessaires au suivi efficace des marchés mondiaux : demande, offre, stocks et disponibilités à l'export. Il répond ensuite aux faiblesses dans la production de données nationales précises, harmonisées et mises en perspective, pouvant être délivrées dans un horizon temporel adapté à une prise de décision rapide par les décideurs (contrairement aux statistiques). Sa création a donc été fondée sur la reconnaissance d'un manque d'information adaptée sur les stocks, les prix domestiques, et la transmission des mouvements de prix entre marchés internationaux et domestiques, ainsi que sur les risques afférents de réponses inappropriées ou non-coordonnées face aux crises de marché.

AMIS est caractérisé par un double mécanisme. Sa première composante, technique, est portée par un groupe d'experts (le Groupe d'information sur le marché alimentaire mondial) se réunissant deux fois par an et produisant une analyse sur quatre produits de base (blé, maïs, riz, soja) nourrissant le second mécanisme. Celui-ci, politique, est incarné par une présidence tournante, élue par les pays membres, un comité de pilotage représentant les organisations internationales, et un Forum de réaction rapide, comité de décideurs de haut niveau se réunissant au minimum une fois par an pour coordonner les éventuelles réponses aux crises sur les marchés. Une partie importante de l'activité AMIS consiste en l'harmonisation des méthodologies permettant d'intégrer les statistiques nationales. De plus, AMIS a su installer son « Market Monitor » comme une publication mensuelle de référence sur les marchés céréaliers, intégrant analyses, synthèse des tendances et des prix, et représentations cartographiques des prévisions de culture, grâce à sa collaboration avec GEOGLAM (*Group on Earth Observation Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative*).

CEOGLAM est une initiative du G20 qui produit notamment le « Crop Monitor », synthèse cartographique mensuelle reflétant les conditions de culture à la fin de chaque mois, et développe le « Crop assessment tool », un système de base de données et de visualisation des données satellitaires couvrant l'avancée et les conditions des récoltes. L'initiative vise à constituer un système de suivi et d'alerte mondial à partir de données satellitaires.

AMIS a par ailleurs mis en place une activité de recherche en pilotant la mise en place d'études de cas ayant permis d'analyser les méthodes à adopter pour une estimation plus précise des céréales utilisées dans l'alimentation animale, d'étudier les mécanismes de transmission des prix entre l'échelle mondiale et le niveau local, les liens entre alimentation et énergie et d'explorer les connaissances mondiales en matière d'estimation des stocks. AMIS organise des ateliers thématiques techniques, développe un programme d'échange permettant à des points focaux de se former au cours de séjours intensifs au sein de l'équipe d'AMIS, localisée dans les locaux de la FAO à Rome et s'attache enfin à une activité de renforcement des capacités initialement avec cinq pays cibles : Bangladesh, Inde, Nigéria, Philippines et Thaïlande. Comme l'ont souhaité les ministres du G20 et du CIHEAM, les liens entre AMIS et MED-Amin sont solides, les experts d'AMIS intervenant régulièrement pour informer ou conseiller les membres de MED-Amin et les duplications étant évitées autant que possible.

AFSIS (Asean Food Security Information System)

Lancée en 2003, AFSIS est une initiative ASEAN+3 (l'organisation régionale « Association des Nations du Sud-Est Asiatique ») à laquelle participent par ailleurs la Chine, le Japon et la République de Corée. Les objectifs d'AFSIS incluent la facilitation de la planification face aux problématiques de sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que leur suivi et évaluation de cette planification par la mise en place d'un processus de collecte, analyse et dissémination systématique des données et informations liées à la sécurité alimentaire. Historiquement, son action s'est concentrée autour de deux axes stratégiques : le développement des capacités et un système d'information spécifique. La première phase du projet a été achevée avec le lancement du site web et de la base de données AFSIS recueillant des informations sur la production, les imports et exports, prix de marchés, utilisations et stocks pour chacune des commodités suivies (riz, maïs, soja, canne à sucre, manioc).

La phase 2 du projet, initiée en 2008, s'est caractérisée par le renforcement des activités de la phase 1, auxquelles se sont ajoutés le développement d'un système d'alerte précoce (Early Warning Information Report), une publication prospective sur l'évolution des commodités suivies (Agricultural Commodity Outlook), un processus de coopération technique inter-pays (par binômes). En 2008-2009, AFSIS a réalisé 7 sessions de formation de deux semaines sur des thèmes divers (« Systèmes d'information de sécurité alimentaire AFSIS », « Collecte de données de statistiques agricoles, Analyse et dissémination d'information », « Techniques de prévisions et développement d'étude prospective agricole », « Introduction aux Techniques et connaissances nécessaires à la planification statistique agricole », etc.). S'appuyant sur l'expertise de JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), AFSIS a commandité par ailleurs le développement de JASMIN (JAXA's Satellite-based Monitoring Network), un système de suivi satellitaire des avancées de récoltes pour le riz. Achevée en 2012, la phase 2 a fait place à une réflexion visant à rendre l'initiative AFSIS pérenne, à travers la signature d'un accord multilatéral engageant les pays à cette fin. En septembre 2014, les ministres assemblés au Myanmar ont noté les progrès réalisés dans ce processus et la nécessité de procéder selon une approche graduelle, nécessitant en priorité le renforcement des capacités au niveau local.

Les 16 ministres de l'agriculture de l'ASEAN+3 se réuniront le 12 septembre 2015 à l'International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Cette réunion sera une nouvelle occasion de renforcer AFSIS. Dans ce cadre, un plan d'action stratégique pour la sécurité alimentaire régionale a été conçu, intégrant un plan de développement agricole à long terme d'une part et la facilitation du commerce d'autre part. En effet, les pays ont une situation contrastée en matière de production agricole : ainsi pour le riz, certains pays, tels que le Vietnam ou la Thaïlande, sont exportateurs, tandis que d'autres comme les Philippines ou l'Indonésie, en sont importateurs. Un programme national est développé pour chaque pays de l'ASEAN+3 pour renforcer ses capacités de production durable, et un agenda régional est également élaboré, les deux échelles d'action étant reliées par le développement du commerce inter-pays dans la région et par le soutien de la compétitivité export vers les marchés européen et africain.

Quelles convergences entre les trois initiatives ?

Les trois initiatives présentent des dynamiques propres reflétant notamment les objectifs gouvernant leur mise en place ainsi que la culture spécifique de leur institution d'accueil, de leurs membres et secrétariat. Ainsi, le réseau AMIS se distingue par exemple par l'accent particulier mis sur les marchés internationaux et leur dynamique, le réseau MED-Amin par les spécificités propres aux échanges méditerranéens, AFSIS par la mise en place programmée d'un système informatique spécifique de suivi des indicateurs de sécurité alimentaires. Malgré ces spécificités, trois axes sont a minima communs à l'ensemble des approches présentées. D'une part, le nécessaire travail d'harmonisation des méthodologies spécifiques de collecte de données des différents pays participants. Deuxièmement, la nécessité d'une compréhension plus fine des marchés agricoles, et des dynamiques de transmission des prix entre les différents niveaux (local, international, etc.). Enfin, l'utilité de soutenir la transparence sur l'information et le renforcement des capacités en matière d'analyse de l'évolution des marchés (accès aux données, publicité, objectivité des éléments d'analyse proposés, etc.).

Ces trois axes doivent être combinés pour permettre qu'à terme, les pays importateurs puissent réduire leur facture d'importation. Cet objectif requiert une meilleure compréhension des besoins d'importations des pays dépendants et doit aussi pouvoir s'appuyer sur une analyse fine des prix obtenus lors des négociations d'achats sur les marchés internationaux. En termes de collaboration, un axe de mutualisation des ressources, tel que recommandé par le FSIN (FSIN 2015), devrait être développé, notamment autour de la diffusion régulière d'information sur l'évolution des grands indicateurs (cours du pétrole, taux de change, ...) et cours de références céréalières, et ce à l'usage tant des analystes privés que des instances gouvernementales membres des différents réseaux. Un second axe de collaboration peut se dessiner avec les institutions pratiquant une analyse plus micro-économique, permettant de nourrir l'analyse macroéconomique et de mettre en perspective les statistiques fournies par les pays, notamment en termes d'utilisations (humaines, animales, etc.), de pertes, ou de prix observés au niveau local.

Conclusion

Créées initialement comme un mécanisme de renforcement des capacités (AFSIS), comme un outil de coordination des réponses politiques (AMIS), ou comme le véhicule d'une coopération renforcée entre les pays d'une même zone (MED-Amin), les trois initiatives présentées font avancer progressivement la transparence des marchés céréaliers, la coopération multilatérale et la connaissance des problématiques céréalières ; elles contribuent en cela à l'objectif d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire tel qu'identifié dans les futurs Objectifs de Développement Durable de l'agenda international post-2015 (objectif n°2). Elles partagent des défis communs de travail en coopération en confiance et d'harmonisation des données, mais aussi des questionnements. Les prochaines étapes du développement de ces initiatives ouvrent différentes alternatives : utilisation de données géo-satellitaires (plutôt orientée vers des prévisions de production) , utilisation de données micro collectées directement auprès des agriculteurs, des intermédiaires ou des consommateurs (permettant de s'interroger sur les problématiques de résilience), amélioration de l'information douanière (permettant de mieux suivre les questions logistiques et commerciales), recherches d'options politiques permettant de réduire la dépendance alimentaire de manière soutenable, etc. Nul doute que de nombreuses avancées sont possibles dans ces domaines.

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Activities in the 4 CIHEAM Institutes



News from CIHEAM Bari

READYMEDFISH: supporting Fishermen's Organizations

In the framework of "READYMEDFISH project" training courses to experts of fishermen's organizations were organized by CIHEAM-Bari. The courses were aimed to train experienced staff qualified to train young fishermen in relation to the new professional profiles and supporting them in the start-up of multi-functional activities.

20 participants from Lebanon, Tunisia and Italy attended in the first course addressed to the start-up of new activities like Fishing Tourism, Ichthyo-tourism and Direct Selling (from Monday 27 to Friday, July 31). The second course (from Tuesday 7 to Saturday, September 12) was addressed to train the Egyptian experts on marine aquaculture sector, specifically on the new technologies and production cycle of fish cages (sea Bass and sea Bream) and molluscs (mussels and oysters).

The training activity is carried out under the "Project READYMEDFISH: *Requalification of Employment and diversification for youth in the Mediterranean fisheries sector*" (project co-funded by the ENPI CBC MED 2007-2013), which aims to enhance the professionalization of young fishery operators for boosting the private entrepreneurship and the improvement in the regulatory framework of the fishery sector multi-functionality.

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Ge.Mai.Sa: Gender Mainstreaming

CIHEAM-Bari is currently starting a new Programme, Ge.Mai.Sa, financed by the Italian Cooperation aiming at including gender mainstreaming in policies addressing rural development and food security in the Mediterranean area, and at promoting women's empowerment in three pilot countries (Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia).

The Programme involves relevant Ministries (Ministries of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs), as well as the representatives of national (Women, Social Local Affairs, Economic Development, etc.) and local institutions (Provinces, Municipalities, etc.), Universities, the civil society, women's associations and the private sector.

The pursuit of the primary gender mainstreaming objective of promoting equity between women and men thus needs to be strengthened in target areas where the proposed programmes and measures have to be assessed on the basis of the effects they can produce in concrete circumstances.

Ge.Mai.Sa intends to apply a gender mainstreaming approach in rural development that may support women's agency, so as to convey to national institutions and civil societies the ability for dialogue and for bringing about significant changes in the traditional structures of economic production and social reproduction. Following the inception phase of the Ge.Mai.Sa Programme, the Technical Scientific Committee (CTS) and the Steering Committee (SC) were convened on 1st - 2nd July, 2015.

On July 1st, the Technical Scientific Committee (CST) group, made of International Gender and Development Experts, gathered together to provide support to the analysis and follow up capacities of Ge.Mai.Sa Programme, contributing to define a women empowerment and gender mainstreaming approach that could be applied to food security and rural development initiatives in the South Mediterranean Countries.

The International experts brought to the table their view on the proposed General Work plan and the framework under which the Programme progress should be evaluated. Useful inputs to the programme implementation were made, not only at the general level but also concerning single targeted countries.

The reference persons of the Programme activities in the three targeted Countries Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia discussed the successes and failures they faced in the projects they had been/are involved in, and how it could be usefully applied to the Ge.Mai.Sa Project. Suggestions were made on how to deepen the understanding of issues in ongoing activities at the general level and for the single targeted countries; suggestions on potential obstacles that may be met and alternative solutions were also discussed. Finally contributions were made on the most effective approach to be undertaken at the assessment stage, during project implementation and for post-project evaluation.

On July 2nd, the Steering Committee (SC) approved the General Work Plan of the project and monitored ongoing activities.

More information : quagliariello@iamb.it



News from CIHEAM Chania

First Alumni Meet Report

On the 21st of August 2015, CIHEAM Chania, Greece had its first Alumni Meet. The initiative was taken by CIHEAM Chania Conference Centre which undertook the responsibility of inviting different batches of students since its inception in 1985-1986 up to the present academic year.

The ceremony took place in the Poseidon auditorium in the Conference Center. The spirit of the event was the revival of memories, the creation of an official network and the strengthening of CIHEAM Chania relationships with its alumni students. All were welcomed with a gift of a t-shirt with the alumni logo.

The final count was approximately 140 alumni students from Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, FYR Macedonia, Moldavia, Hungary, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, many of whom hold academic, research and senior positions in the public and private sector in Greece, the central administration of the European Union, USA, Canada, Australia and their countries of origin.

The Director of CIHEAM Chania, Dr G. Baourakis, gave a welcome speech which was followed by short speeches by the Member of Parliament for Chania, Mrs V. Vayonaki, the Mayor of Chania, Mr. Tasos Vamvoukas, the Mayor of Platanias, Mr. Y. Malandrakis, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr Spyros Mamalis and the Director of Financial Engineering Laboratory-Technical University of Crete, Prof. C. Zopounidis.

Then, the former Director of the Institute, Mr. A. Nikolaidis, who is currently the Delegate of Greece at the CIHEAM Governing Board, shared his thoughts tracing the humble beginnings of the Institute and the initial hardships. He stated that such Alumni Meets should be held annually so that former students are able to revisit their alma mater and see the changes that have taken place.

It was then time for some of the former students to share their thoughts. The President of the Students Union of the current Final Year students also spoke about their experiences in the Institute.

Graduates of CIHEAM Chania also spoke as representatives of the following institutions: European Union of Agri-cooperatives, Aristotle University / University of Thessaloniki, University / of Patra, TEI of Western Macedonia, Region of Crete, AARHUS University, Denmark. The Lebanese Alumni gave a presentation of their time spent at the Institute through a selection of photographs, after which they presented the Institute with a gift. It was initially suggested that the Alumni Meets take place every four years, but the overwhelming response to this by the Alumni themselves was to make it an annual event.

OPEN GIS Summer School and Symposium 2015

The summer school and symposium on OPEN GIS took place between 20th and 24th of July 2015 in Chania, Greece. It was organized by the University of the Aegean and the CIHEAM-Chania, with the support of Unesco and its MEDFriend program. A total of 23 students from 6 countries attended the summer school including students from Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, Indonesia, Nigeria and Slovakia.

A one-day symposium was held during the first day of the week, with key note presentations from experts on the use of GIS data on a range of environmental and coastal applications, as well as innovations on GIS development. During the symposium the participants had the opportunity to present their recent work in a poster session, exhibiting their background and field of interest their colleagues.

The summer school included sessions on Introduction to GIS and coordinate/projection systems, presentation of the open QGIS software and modules such as QSWAT and XBEACH and their applications on the environmental, social and economic development of the European coasts. The students were trained in the use of this software through hands-on practicals and were given the opportunity to experience the manner that this software can be utilized in their line of work.

An excursion took place on the third day of the summer school including visits to the Polytechnic school of Crete, the Preservation of Flora and Fauna Park, the City Hall, accompanied by a presentation on the municipalities' actions on coastal zone management and the botanic museum of the Orthodox Academy. During the excursion field work was conducted on a coastal zone, exhibiting methods of data collection.

Following a week of intense work and full of experiences, the students have returned home with new knowledge and tools that will hopefully help them in their future careers.

News from CIHEAM Montpellier

Formation professionnelle au Liban

L'Institut renforce sa collaboration avec le Ministère de l'Agriculture (MoA) libanais pour la formation professionnelle. Sept sessions de « formation intensive » seront organisées entre septembre et octobre 2015 à Beyrouth pour le compte des cadres et personnel technique du MoA.

Cette opération, réalisée à la demande et avec le soutien du MoA, s'inscrit dans le prolongement du partenariat entre Montpellier et la Faculté d'agronomie de l'Université Libanaise (via le Master Ingénierie de Développement des Territoires et Environnement (IDTE) ayant pour objectif de former les futurs cadres du Ministère).

Le programme de formation (destiné en particulier aux personnels des Centres agricoles des régions) a été élaboré en concertation avec la direction générale du Ministère, pour répondre à des besoins spécifiques et apporter des outils méthodologiques et techniques concernant quatre grandes thématiques :

- la gestion des risques et pratiques phytosanitaires ;
- l'analyse et la gestion de la diversité des systèmes de production agricole ;
- l'analyse des filières et chaînes de valeurs et la gestion des acteurs ;
- la gestion multi-usage de l'espace forestier.

Ces thématiques seront déclinées en une à deux sessions de formation abordant les thèmes suivants: produits phytosanitaires : caractérisation et évaluation des risques ; gestion des pratiques phytosanitaires de la parcelle au territoire ; diversité des régions rurales et gestion de la politique agricole ; analyse socio-économique des systèmes de production agricole (base de données, pratique et étude de cas) ; filières et chaînes de valeur agricole et agroalimentaire ; organisation des acteurs dans les territoires et développement stratégique des filières ; forêt et élevage, multi-usages et gestion des conflits.

Les enseignants-chercheurs du CIHEAM-Montpellier assureront cette opération de renforcement de capacités, en collaboration avec des chercheurs de l'INAT et le personnel technique du Centre d'Etudes et de Réalisation Pastorale Alpes Méditerranée (CERPAM).

Plus d'informations : cobacho@iamm.fr

Reconfiguration du projet BiodivBalkans

Le programme BiodivBalkans est un programme de recherche embarquée et de développement rural financé par le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), avec un co-financement du CIHEAM-Montpellier et de l'Agence de développement albanais des zones de montagne (MADA).

Son objectif central est de croiser dans une démarche agro-écologique les injonctions de protection de la biodiversité et celles du développement rural des zones marginales. L'outil principal est la mise en place d'indication géographiques (IG) et de signes de qualité conçus comme des outils d'apprentissage à la fois dans le processus d'adhésion à l'Union européenne et pour un développement rural durable valorisant les ressources naturelles et l'agro-biodiversité.

Au cours de son dernier comité de pilotage qui s'est tenu à Paris en juillet 2015, il a été décidé que le programme reconfigurerait sa dernière phase en :

- étendant son exécution d'une année, en 2016 (la période initiale prévue était 2012-2015) ;
- en créant une nouvelle zone d'application de la méthode mise au point dans un terroir du sud de l'Albanie ;
- en chargeant le CIHEAM-Montpellier d'une part de conduire l'opération prévue dans le programme de conception et d'organisation d'une grande réunion régionale sur les indications géographiques, l'adhésion à l'Union Européenne et le développement rural durable ;
- et, d'autre part, de trouver les moyens de plateforme et de forum, pour diffuser et capitaliser les résultats et le processus d'apprentissage de ce programme.

Plus d'informations : lerin@iamm.fr

News from CIHEAM Zaragoza

New Director

Mr Javier Sierra is the new director of the CIHEAM-Zaragoza since 1st September 2015. He holds a degree in Veterinary and a MSc in Rural Development from the University of Zaragoza, and Executive MBA from the Instituto de Empresa (Madrid), and several postgraduate diplomas in rural and local development and in Economic and Business in East Asia.

Javier Sierra started his professional career as director of the Local Development Agency of the Somontano county (in Aragon, Spain), managing several projects within the LEADER II and INTERREG Programmes of the EU. He contributed to the foundation of the Spanish and the Aragonese Networks of Rural Development. In 2001 he obtained the highest score in the official examination to join the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, earning a post there. He worked at the General Secretariats of Fisheries and of Agriculture and at the cabinet of the General Secretary for Agriculture and Food. In 2004 he was appointed Deputy Director General of Economic Planning and Institutional Coordination, and then Deputy Director General of Analysis, Projection and Coordination.

From 2009 to 2014 he was Counselor of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the Embassy of Spain at China; his main tasks were to promote the entry of agro-food and the presence of Spanish water cycle companies in the Chinese market. Since returning from China and before joining CIHEAM, he has been Head of Unit at AICA, the Spanish Agency for Food Information and Control.

FORESTERRA project final conference

The FORESTERRA International Project "Enhancing FOREst RESearch in the MediTERRanean through improved coordination and integration" is organizing its final Conference in Lisbon (Portugal) on 24-25 November 2015 under the title "Key questions for future research on Mediterranean Forests".

The main objectives of the FORESTERRA's final Conference are to disseminate FORESTERRA's results and achievements and to become a forum for perspectives on and challenges faced by the Mediterranean forest sector and research. FORESTERRA members, officials from forest administrations and research bodies, private sector representatives and other stakeholders are expected to participate in this event. Registration is now open and can be processed through the conference website.

FORESTERRA (www.foresterra.eu) is part of the ERA-NET initiative, financed by the EU 7th Research Framework Programme. FORESTERRA aims to reinforce the scientific coordination and integration of Mediterranean forest research programmes as well as scientific cooperation with Mediterranean-area countries (including EU and non-EU member states) and with countries from other Mediterranean climate areas (Australia, South Africa, Chile and California).

The project Consortium, coordinated by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, comprises 17 partners from 12 countries (Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Tunisia, Morocco, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece and Algeria), as well as two international institutions, the European Forest Institute (EFI) and CIHEAM.

In its 5 years duration, FORESTERRA has carried out a set of activities within seven Workpackages, that have yielded significant results as:

- A mapping and a database on forest research funding and resources throughout the Mediterranean partner countries.
- The development of a coherent strategic scientific framework and operational plan for the implementation of joint activities and transnational research.
- The joint call for proposals on forest research actions, that funded two joint projects at Mediterranean level: Informed and MedWildFireLab.
- A number of events (meetings, workshops and conferences) to discuss approaches to the coordination of forest research in the Mediterranean basin and with other Mediterranean climate areas in the world.
- Project information dissemination materials (including the comprehensive project website where these results can be consulted), and publications.

More information on the Conference
<http://www.foresterra.eu/lisbon2015/index.html>

Watch Letters published

2007

1. Water Resources and Agriculture
2. Identity and Quality of Mediterranean Products
3. Zoonoses and Emerging Diseases

2008

4. Aquaculture Sector
5. Sociopolitical Impacts of the Rising Food Prices
6. Forest Fires
7. Organic Farming

2009

8. Agro-Business
9. Drought Management and Desertification
10. Agricultural Policies Outlook
11. Agriculture and Fisheries in the Islands

2010

12. Climate Change and Agriculture
13. Food, Nutrition and Health
14. Women in Agriculture
15. Agricultural Trade and Liberalization

2011

16. Olive Growing
17. Financing Agricultural and Rural Development
18. Urban Agriculture
19. Labelling Mediterranean Products

2012

20. Agri-Food Chain and Logistics
21. Enhancing Research
22. Education and Training
23. Cereals Trade and Markets

2013

24. Rural Development
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26. Farmer's Trade Union
27. EU CAP Reform and the Mediterranean

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28. Land Issues in the Mediterranean
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31. The Mediterranean Sea: Fisheries and Beyond

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32. Feeding Expo Milano with Mediterranean Perspectives
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34. Agenda post 2015 and Mediterranean Futures

Next Issues

35. Milk and Dairy products in the Mediterranean

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Communication Policy

The Watch Letter is dispatched electronically to more than **20,000 recipients** in the Euro-Mediterranean World (decision makers, ministers, journalists, researchers, students, documentation and research centres, universities, etc.).

Constant efforts are made to ensure a wide variety of contributor profiles in both geographic and professional terms. In the 34 issues published so far, we have published **259 articles** involving **431 authors**.

Contributing to the Watch Letter

We invite persons who have relevant expertise in Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Areas (teachers, researchers, students, decision makers, etc.) and wish to contribute to the Watch Letter to contact us at the following email: abis@ciheam.org





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