

## Project FFEM – SupMed – Project N° CZZ 2476.01G

Collective and contextualized strategies to promote resilient and sustainable agricultural production in rural Mediterranean areas

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### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF A POST-DOCTORAL POSITION AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPMED PROJECT IN MONTPELLIER

#### 1. Context/Background and objectives of the SupMed project

The SupMed project is funded by the French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM, or *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial*) and coordinated by the CIHEAM-IAMM. It aims to support farmers in Lebanon and Egypt in the implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change (CC).

It concerns the Luxor Governorate in Egypt and the Beqaa valley in Lebanon, two areas marked by significant levels of poverty, public agricultural advisory systems undergoing restructuring and a risk of natural resource overexploitation (water and soil) aggravated by climate uncertainty. In Lebanon as in Egypt, private and public agricultural advisory services significantly rely on capacity development as well as a frame of reference in connection with the implementation of strategies to deal with climate change.

The SupMed project aims to structurally and sustainably reduce the overexploitation of water resources and improve the income of farm households. For that purpose, it will put forward, implement and assess integrated, agronomic and socio-economic initiatives based on agro-ecology in order to reduce water dependency in each of the project territories. These initiatives will be jointly developed with local stakeholders and adapted to the context of the two territories involved: the Beqaa valley and the Luxor Governorate. In total, the project aims to have at least 400 farmers per territory subscribe to a voluntary charter for the implementation of adaptation strategies based on agro-ecological practices.

Beyond local experiments, the project will also contribute to the development of national strategies to fight climate change by capitalizing on the results obtained and promoting the sharing of experience between the territories of the two countries concerned and institutional stakeholders.

The project is divided into 6 stages i) raising awareness among local stakeholders regarding the effects of climate change and agro-ecological practices, and improving the irrigation infrastructure ; ii) the joint development and the selection of adaptation and mitigation strategies to better manage water demand, diversify production and improve the income of farm households in the context of climate change ; iii) the use of a contextualized decision support tool based on bioeconomic modelling ; iv) the concrete implementation of strategies resulting from the model by volunteer farmers ; v) the promotion and dissemination of SubMed results; vi) project coordination and governance arrangements with local partners.

#### 2. Expected objectives and results of the project

- **The preservation of water resources:** the project aims to renovate and strengthen irrigation infrastructure and its local governance. Such development will be carried out via the creation of hill lakes and pressurized networks in Lebanon, and irrigation canals and pumping stations in Egypt. In both countries, the involvement of irrigation associations will be at the heart of the project activities.

- **The adoption by farmers of new sustainable farming practices that help reduce water demand and improve the income of producers.** This objective will be broken down into several phases : i) training local stakeholders to deal with CC issues as well as training farmers, ii) identifying contextualized adaptation strategies co-developed with farmers using a bioeconomic modelling tool iii) technical training in agro-ecological practices for volunteer farmers and the implementation of

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field experiments (volunteer farmers), iv) the adoption of a charter of best practices and the creation of a nursery, v) the creation of new innovative sectors, vi) strengthening the skills of farm service centres and regional agricultural directorates regarding the development of contextualized CC adaptation strategies.

**- A contribution to national strategies linked to CC :** i) support to universities and research centres for the development of contextualized adaptation strategies (training, user and reference guide), ii) strengthening ministries for the development of territorial and national adaptation strategies (Lebanese-Egyptian network, experience-sharing seminars, etc.), iii) the dissemination and promotion of the project results (popularisation documents and guidelines)

The project is expected to last 4 years, starting in spring 2021.

### **3. The missions of the post-doctoral position**

The post-doctoral student will work under the direct supervision of the project director at CIHEAM-IAMM and his/her collaborators. He/she will collaborate with the institutional partners of the project in Lebanon and Egypt and will be in direct contact with the engineers in charge of the implementation of the SupMed project with farmers in both countries. He/she will carry out a dual mission by supporting the creation and adaptation of bio-economic models, and will also contribute to the coordination and management of the project, by offering logistical and administrative support:

- Supporting the referencing of the farmers targeted by the project: identifying the criteria for choosing the most representative farmers for the implementation of project activities
- Defining and building bio-economic models of farm households in the two study areas
- Contributing to the development of the technical training content for the bioeconomic modelling tool and dealing with its logistical aspects in collaboration with engineers from both countries
- Regularly updating the indicators of the monitoring dashboards for the chosen adaptation strategies with the technical data relating to the referenced farmers, monitoring the dashboards and contributing to the necessary technical adaptations.
- Contributing to the development of the specifications of the charter of best agricultural practices
- Participating in workshops related to the definition of adaptation strategies and activities to promote these strategies
- Supporting the administrative management of the project with local partners, as well as the monitoring of activities: support for the logistical preparation of events in the countries involved (organization of meetings, workshops, training programmes, etc.), support for the preparation of technical and financial reports (drafting of reports, transfer to the administrative coordinator)
- Taking part in national and international experience-sharing seminars and meetings

### **4. Required qualifications and skills**

- Doctor of agricultural science or agro-economics.
- At least 2 to 3 years of experience in projects related to the development of adaptation strategies in limiting climatic conditions.
- Excellent knowledge of the agricultural sector in the Middle East and of climate change issues in the Mediterranean area
- Excellent skills in agronomic and agro-economic modelling techniques and simulation software

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- Knowledge and skills in agro-ecological practices and water-saving irrigation techniques
- Fluency in English and French and writing skills in both languages, knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage.
- Soft skills:
  - Leadership abilities and a taste for international teamwork
  - Ability to synthesize information, availability, rigour and ability to work independently

### **5. Work conditions and organisation**

- The post-doctoral student will be under the direct responsibility of the SupMed project director and the CIHEAM-IAMM team, which is in charge of managing the project.
- He/she will be working in close collaboration with the institutional partners of the project, and more specifically the engineers recruited by the SupMed project in the two countries: engineers from Hermel Farm Service Centre and the EASD NGO in Egypt, the 2 focal points of the EACD and the Green Plan, the Lebanese University Faculty of Agronomy and the University of Cairo Faculty of Agriculture.
- Workplace: CIHEAM-IAMM at Montpellier with frequent trips to countries involved
- Duration of the contract: one-year fixed-term contract renewable until the end of the project (4 contracts)
- Working time: full-time work on the basis of 37.5 hours/week according to CIHEAM-IAMM staff regulations
- He/she will have to provide CIHEAM-IAMM with a timesheet and a detailed report of the activities carried out for the SupMed project on a monthly basis.
- Salary: the salary will be defined in accordance with the CIHEAM-IAMM salary grid, depending on the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate. Living and travel expenses when travelling abroad will also be covered.

### **6. Application and selection process**

He/she must send a detailed CV and cover letter **written in French or English** to the following address: **Belhouchette@iamm.fr** ; and specify the name and number of the project (SupMed FFEM Project - CZZ 2476.01G).

### **7. Selection process**

Applications will be submitted to a selection committee, made up of members of the project coordination team.

The successful application will be subject to final approval by the FFEM secretariat.

**Deadline for submitting applications: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, effective start date as soon as possible.**