

Terms of Reference

NATAE **Fostering agroecology transition in North Africa through multi-actor, evaluation, and networking**

Expert in Public Policy - focus on North Africa

1. Context

NATAE (Fostering agroecology transition in North Africa through multi-actor, evaluation, and networking) is an awarded project under the Horizon Europe programme. Set in motion in December 2022, NATAE will run for the next four years with aim to foster the adoption of science-based, locally-tailored and co-designed agroecology strategies in North Africa. This is planned by creating a comprehensive and quantitative baseline on agroecology, providing a shared understanding, multidimensional performance measures, and analyses of agroecology potential for meeting consumers demand on the market.

Coordinated by CIHEAM Montpellier, NATAE gathers 22 partners including research and education institutions from around the Mediterranean, international organisations, specialized NGOs and local associations with the participation of the private sector. The project will rely on participatory approaches to be used in 6 North African countries to identify optimal combinations of agroecological practices discuss their overall performance, and develop a replicable methodology to design evidence-based and locally-tailored strategies for agroecology transitions. Through the project's 9 Work Packages, the aims are to (i) identify, evaluate and eventually promote the best observed and experimented combinations of practices inspired by agroecology in North Africa, and (ii) to set up a Mediterranean agroecological network for knowledge exchanges and advocacy at regional level. The approach is based on Multi-Actor Labs called Living Labs, as territories that are anchored in specific agroecosystems of North Africa. To achieve such an objective, a considerable amount of data will be collected (such as by experimentation and surveys) but also generated, through the use of the modelling chain.

2. Description of the Task

Under NATAE's Work Package 6, a specific task (T.6.1) is dedicated for the **review of inter-sectoral policies** in North Africa. This task includes an analytical review of agricultural, environmental, trade, finance, health and nutrition policies in North African countries, coordinated by CIHEAM IAMM with inputs from participants including INAT, IAV, ENAM, UICN, GRDR, ENSA, CREAD, and OSS¹. This review will analyse to which extent those policies **foster or hinder agroecological transition**, identifying gaps, conflicts and inconsistencies in existing sectoral and inter-sectoral policies at local, regional, national and international level. The task will target 5 countries in North Africa specifically

¹ CIHEAM IAMM: The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier; INAT: National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia, IAV: Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II, ENAM: Meknes National School of Agriculture, IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature, GRDR: Groupe De Recherche Et De Realisations Pour Le Developpement Rural, ENSA: Ecole Nationale Superieure Agronomique, CREAD: Centre De Recherche En Economie Appliquee Pour Le Developpement, OSS: Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel.

Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. A Deliverable report (D6.3) is also expected from this task in the form of an analytical review of these policies in North African countries.

Under T6.1., an **expert in public policy** – with focus on North Africa is needed to realize an expertise in public policy analysis and to join efforts with the Task leader (CIHEAM-IAMM) and specifically with the team's internal public policy expert who will be animating the different activities between the leader, the participants, the experts and the post-doctoral researcher under this task.

3. Main tasks

The role of the Public Policy Expert will be to provide in-depth expertise in the analysis and review of the existing public policies in North Africa from the perspective of agroecology. In order to facilitate the implementation of the task, the task leader (CIHEAM-IAMM) will be coordinating with the task participants, who are local partners in the targeted North African countries, to assist in the collection of the relevant existing policies per each respective country.

The Public Policy Expert will be requested to:

1. Participate in the **elaboration of the methodology** that will be proposed to foster collective work, partners dialogue and implementation of the overall activity, under the CIHEAM-IAMM scientific coordination;
2. Assist the CIHEAM-IAMM internal public policy expert in the **animation and moderation of the discussion sessions**. CIHEAM-IAMM will facilitate the organisation of all needed online meetings with the concerned partners;
3. Contribute to an overall **analysis and comparative review of the existing sectoral public policies** in the targeted North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) from an agroecological transition perspective, in addition to relevant regional and international strategies that will be identified;
4. Provide an **in-depth focus on one or two of the abovementioned targeted countries** according to expertise and relevant past experience;
5. Contribute and review to the **production of the final deliverable**. A final deliverable report is to be submitted by 31 May 2024, mainly consolidated and refined by the task leader team with the contribution of the task participants and public policy experts. A draft will be elaborated for April 2024, based on inputs from partners to be collected throughout the overall process and organised accordingly to the defined methodology.

Duration: The overall execution of these tasks is estimated at **20 working days**.

Location: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM, France) preferably; remote work is possible if needed.

4. Confidentiality- Conflicts of Interest

The Public Policy Expert will be expected to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement and a Declaration of an absence of Conflict of Interest to warrant independence and the provision of fair ethical judgements and expertise.

The Public Policy Expert will maintain regular contact with the Project Coordinator (CIHEAM-IAMM) as the main partners bearing responsibilities for the task under NATAE. The Public Policy Expert's principal link to the task participants remains the Project Coordinator.

5. Required qualifications

The Public Policy Expert must meet the following requirements:

- A PhD degree or equivalent, in **rural sociology, economy, geography with a focus on public policy analysis preferably in the Mediterranean / North African region**;
- At least 5 years of prior experience in the field of **policy analysis and rural and agricultural development in the Mediterranean**;
- Experience in **multi-actor and interdisciplinary approaches** is highly appreciated;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in **English** (the official language of the project) and/or **French** (preferred communication language with certain task participants and local partners, and needed for most of the administrative tasks); **Arabic** knowledge is a plus.

Other appreciated skills include:

- Capacity to facilitate dialogue between different stakeholders, such as scientists, NGOs and international organisations and to moderate discussions and debates;
- An interest in agroecology;
- Organizational skills, ability to establish and maintain lasting and constructive formal relationships;
- Dynamism, reactivity and autonomy;
- Excellent writing and reporting skills (work plans, technical reports and other acts and management, ordinary correspondence, notes, messages, summary sheets);
- Teamwork, particularly in a multicultural and multi-disciplinary context;
- Ability to propose solutions to problems and critical issues that might arise during the project.

6. Submission of proposals and main criteria for evaluation

Interested applicants are invited to submit the following:

- CV detailing relevant previous experience;
- A short synopsis on the two countries proposed for in-depth analysis as a form of elaboration of the understanding of the country context and policies to be prioritised;
- A provisional budget including a breakdown of the main planned tasks.

Proposals should be submitted **in English** by email with the subject "**NATAE Public Policy Expert Proposal**" addressed to:

Rita Jalkh, NATAE Project Manager: jalkh@iamm.fr and

Melanie Requier-Desjardins, NATAE Scientific Coordinator: requier@iamm.fr

Main criteria for evaluating the proposals will be: the qualification of the candidate, relevant experience, short synopsis quality and price. The selection process may include interviews (through Zoom or phone), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

Deadline for submission: 11 June 2023 EOD

7. Contact at IAMM

For any information, please liaise with the NATAE Scientific Coordinator and Project Manager using the emails listed above.