

Terms of Reference

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

Agroecological Policy Review, Co-design and Evaluation Expert for Egypt

1. Context

NATAE (Fostering agroecology transition in North Africa through multi-actor evaluation and networking) is an awarded project under the Horizon Europe programme funded by the European Commission. 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 the 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

The tasks required under this ToR fall in the NATAE project's Work Package number 6 which focuses on **policies to foster agroecological transition in North Africa**; and specifically, under tasks T6.1 (piloted by the CIHEAM- IAMM, France), with some minor inputs to T6.2 (piloted by ZALF, Germany, the Work Package 6 leader). This Work Package 6 mainly aims to (1) identify and specify policy options for fostering agroecology transitions in a representative set of Living Labs in line with European strategies with Africa, through dedicated policy research, (ii) to advocate for science-based locally tailored policy changes on the basis of those findings.

Under these two tasks, an **expert contract for the review of policies in Egypt and their co-design** is expected to join the task team. The main focus on the expertise shall be the conducting of a review and analysis of existing policies in Egypt from an agroecological perspective (including agricultural, environmental, trade, finance, health, nutrition and other policies as relevant) in line with the methodology and analysis grid set by the lead internal project expert. 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 same approach planned for Egypt is being applied similarly in other countries in North Africa (including Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania) under the scope of the project and these are being conducted in collaboration with the relevant NATAE consortium partners (including INAT, IAV, ENAM, IUCN, GRDR, ENSA, CREAD, OSS, UTH, WUR, and SPI¹).

Other than the primary focus on the collection and evaluation of policies, the expert is expected to additionally **participate in the co-design activities** planned by the Work Package leader (ZALF) under the Task T6.2. This task encompasses the collaborative design and evaluation of policy options to drive the transition towards Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture in North African countries. This multifaceted effort aligns with the EU strategy with Africa, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The task involves designing and evaluating policy options that will facilitate the adoption of locally optimal combinations of agroecological practices identified in Task 2.3.

The expert will be working majorly along the CIHEAM-IAMM's lead internal project expert who will be coordinating the different activities between the leader, the participating partner institutions in other countries, the experts and the post-doctoral researcher under Task 6.1. A subsequent but minor participation is also expected with the ZALF. It includes formulating a list of co-designed policy options, along with support measures and key recommendations, ensuring policy options are well-aligned with the transition to Agroecological practices and prioritize coherence with the EU strategy with Africa, the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs.

3. Main tasks

The main tasks expected under this contract are:

1. Collect and conduct an **analysis of the existing sectoral public policies** in Egypt from an agroecological transition perspective according to the methodology and analysis grid developed by the CIHEAM-IAMM internal lead expert under T6.1;
2. Participate in the **discussion workshops** planned under T6.1 regarding the findings on Egypt (3 are planned so far);
3. Contribute to the formulation and review of **the policy report on Egypt** that will be included in the production of the final deliverable. A final deliverable report is to be submitted by 31 May 2024, mainly consolidated and refined by the T6.1 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.
4. Identify and engage stakeholders and experts including participation in the project task workshops and contribution to workshops that will lead to the creation of effective policy options.
5. Evaluate the feasibility and alignment of proposed policy options with local realities and goals of agroecological transition.

Duration: The overall execution of these tasks is estimated at **50 to 55 working days (40 to 45 days dedicated for T6.1)**.

Location: Egypt resident preferably; remote work is possible if needed.

¹ ZALF: Leibniz-Zentrum Fuer Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF) E.V.; CIHEAM IAMM: The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier; CARI: Centre D'Actions Et De Realisations Internationales; 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; UTH: Panepistimio Thessalias; WUR: Wageningen University; SPI: Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação - Consultadoria Empresarial e Fomento da Inovação, S.A.

4. Confidentiality- Conflicts of Interest

The Policy Expert on Egypt 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 Policy Expert on Egypt will maintain regular contact with the Project Coordinator (CIHEAM-IAMM) as the main partners bearing responsibilities for the T6.1 under.

5. Required qualifications

- A PhD degree or equivalent, in **Agro-economy specialized agri-policy analysis in Egypt or the North African region**;
- At least 7 to 10 years of prior research and/or applied experience in the field of **multi-sectoral policy analysis with focus on rural and agricultural development in Egypt**;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in **English** (the official language of the project) and **Arabic** (local language required for the collection and analysis of documentation). **French** knowledge is a plus (preferred communication language for most of the administrative tasks).

Other appreciated skills include:

- Capacity to approach and facilitate dialogue between different stakeholders, such as policymakers, public institutions, scientists, and international organisations;
- 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 correspondences);
- 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 with focus on academic history and public policy analysis;
- A short methodological proposal on how the implementation of the task is envisioned;
- A provisional budget including a breakdown of the main planned tasks.

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

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

Tahani Abdelhakim, NATAE T6.1 Lead Expert: abdelhakim@iamm.fr

Main criteria for evaluating the proposals will be: the qualification of the candidate, relevant experience, proposed methodology 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: 25 August 2023 EOD

7. Contact at IAMM

For more information, please liaise with the NATAE Project Manager using the email listed above.