Year of CfP: 2007 **07042**

Project title: The varietal diversification process in fig and olive in Morocco: an ethnobiological and genetic interdisciplinary approach.

Unit managing the project: DAP (Plant Development and Breeding) (CNRS, INRA, IRD, SupAgro, UMII)

Project leader: Françoise Dosba (dosbaf@supagro.inra.fr)

Country involved in the project: Morocco

Subthematic axes: IPB-1 (Integrative Plant Biology 1: *Genetics and genomics, plant breeding, ecophysiology*), STDI-3 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 3: *Innovation processes, social management of innovations*)

Objectives:
The aim of the project is the identification of the varietal diversification processes in two Mediterranean fruit species with strong emblematic, cultural, social and economic value—fig and olive. Cultivation of the two species is very ancient around the Mediterranean but their situation is very contrasted in Morocco as regards genetic structure, functions and uses. This unique, paradoxical feature leads us to questioning firstly the biological and genetic foundations and secondly the historical, social and cultural bases that have resulted in this contrasted situation. We address the question using a combined genetic and ethnobiological interdisciplinary approach. A common field for the work undertaken in the Rif region in Morocco will make a solid contribution to enriching the combined use of the two disciplines.

Two initial actions are planned for fig to establish solid foundations for knowledge:
1) verification of the hypothesis of the existence in Morocco of multiple centres of local domestication of fig using a genetic approach;
2) identification of the social and cultural factors in the Rif fig diversification process.

Total Agropolis Fondation funding: 80 000 € (salary for two PhD students, travel expenses, running costs)

Funding categorie(s): Agropolis Fondation doctoral fellowship

Project duration: January 2 2008 – December 31 2009

Keywords: crops – olive tree – fig tree – Méditerranée – diversity