

Year of CfP: 2009

Project No 0901-007

Project title: Men and Fruit trees around the Mediterranean: from domestication to present varietal and genetic diversities, from local management practices over time to contemporary international trading (FruitMed)

Unit managing the project: AGAP (Genetic improvement and Plant adaptation) (CIRAD, INRA, Montpellier SupAgro)

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Research units from the Foundation's scientific network involved: GALF, MOISA

Sub-thematic axes: IPB-1 (Integrative Plant Biology 1: *Genetics and genomics, plant breeding, ecophysiology*) and STDI-2 (STDI-2 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 2: *Agrifood innovations, food and non-food use of plant crops*))

Objectives:

The objectives of the project are (1) to understand the social and biological processes that have led to the present distribution and importance, for Mediterranean societies, of the diversity of almond and olive ; (2) to understand the role of interactions between tree species biology, human practices and social representations in shaping intra-specific genetic diversity ; (3) to understand how social, cultural and economic values and uses pertaining to tree agro diversity relate to changes and development of local rural societies and (4) to analyze how contemporary evolution of rural societies and globalization of markets affect the distribution and use of varieties in order to evaluate risks of genetic erosion.

The implementation of this project is expected to shed light on the following:

1- Environmental issues:

- The preservation of wild relatives of cultivated species in Mediterranean countries where evolution of rural societies and urbanization or forest progression put wild relatives and old varieties at risks ;
- The development of almond varieties that take into account cross pollination of species in order to prevent diffusion of alleles to landraces and wild relatives ;

2- Climatic change: Development and selection of new olive and almond drought resistant varieties.

Total Agropolis Fondation funding: €87,200 (allocations for a doctoral fellow, pre-doctoral students and senior scientist, travel expenses, running costs)

Funding category(ies): Agropolis Fondation small grants (support for small exploratory, risky and innovative projects, « proof of concept », new frontier research; support to pre-doctoral students; support to prepare applications for national or international calls for proposal (e.g. ANR and EU FPs), Support for publication and dissemination of research results, Visiting scientist fellowship for short period of stay, Support for the organization of high-level scientific events (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc))

Project duration: 01 September 2009 - 31 January 2013

Keywords: Domestication – diffusion – management practices – diversity – genetic – Mediterranean