

ANzAr

ANzAr Colloquium : Agroecology in North Africa

ABSTRACT

The agroecological transition of agricultural production systems is often seen as the pathway forward to develop sustainable food systems. There however still exist numerous cognitive and technical lock-ins of different orders in order to achieve this, in particular in the Southern Mediterranean. To strengthen agroecology, Wezel et al. (2018) recommend key actions that include knowledge exchange, strengthening communication, alliances and skills.

The objective of this project is to organize a multi-actor colloquium on agroecology in Tunisia in 2022, pertaining to “Responsible Production in Irrigated Agriculture in North Africa”. The aims of the encounter are first to build a network at a regional scale of actors interested in alternative forms of irrigated agriculture; second - on a more cognitive basis - evaluate how such an encounter can impact stakeholders’ perceptions of agroecology, networks and praxis. The Forum will offer multiple activities based on co-learning processes that will favor active participation, and small group exchanges to allow network constitutions, through collective diagnoses of main stakes and issues within a “world café” workshop, sharing upon practical and accomplished transitions of farms through narratives, co-designing cropping and farming systems using serious games, and by presenting sets of innovations by stakeholders, in the field or through videos or experimentations.

To achieve this, the Forum will bring together, for a three day encounter, approximately 50 stakeholders, including farmers, NGOs and local associations’ leaders, local administration, students, researchers and post-production chain value actors from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. The project is led by a team of researchers from RU Geau and Innovation, in partnership with CREAD (Algeria) and INAT (Tunisia), and is built upon a set of research projects already undertaken on this theme. Total cost is approximately 50k€, and additional funding will be further sought. Expected impacts of this a multi-stakeholder and participatory Forum engaged in innovative, inter-sectoral and cross-disciplinary co-learning are numerous, including enhancing mutual learning on locally adapted on adapted agroecological practices, student training in monitoring and evaluation methods, and dissemination of knowledge and experience acquired during the Forum to a larger community of both scientists, developers and practitioners.

Keywords : Irrigated agriculture, Agroecology, Colloquium, Co-learning processes, North Africa

Year : 2020

Project number : 2002-234

Type of funding : AAP ICL

Project type : AAP

Research units in the network : INNOVATION

Start date : 2022-05-01

End date : 2023-08-31

Flagship project : no

Project leader : Crystele Leauthaud

Project leader's institution : CIRAD

Project leader's RU : G-EAU

Budget allocated : 20000 €

Total budget allocated (including co-financing) : 24700 €

Funding : Labex

GOAL

This project aims to organize a multi-actor colloquium, herein called Forum for its open-nature, on AE in Tunisia in 2022. The aims of the encounter are first to start building a network at a regional scale of actors interested in alternative forms of irrigated agriculture; second - on a more cognitive basis - evaluate how such an encounter can impact stakeholders' 5 perceptions of AE, networks and praxis. The global theme will pertain to "Responsible Production in Irrigated Agriculture in North Africa", focusing on agroecological concepts and solutions. The Forum will offer multiple activities based on co learning processes that will favor active participation, and small group exchanges to allow network constitutions. To achieve this, the Forum will bring together, for a three-day encounter, approximately 50 stakeholders, including farmers, NGOs, local associations and administrations, students, post-production chain value actors and researchers from North Africa, in the Chenini Oasis.