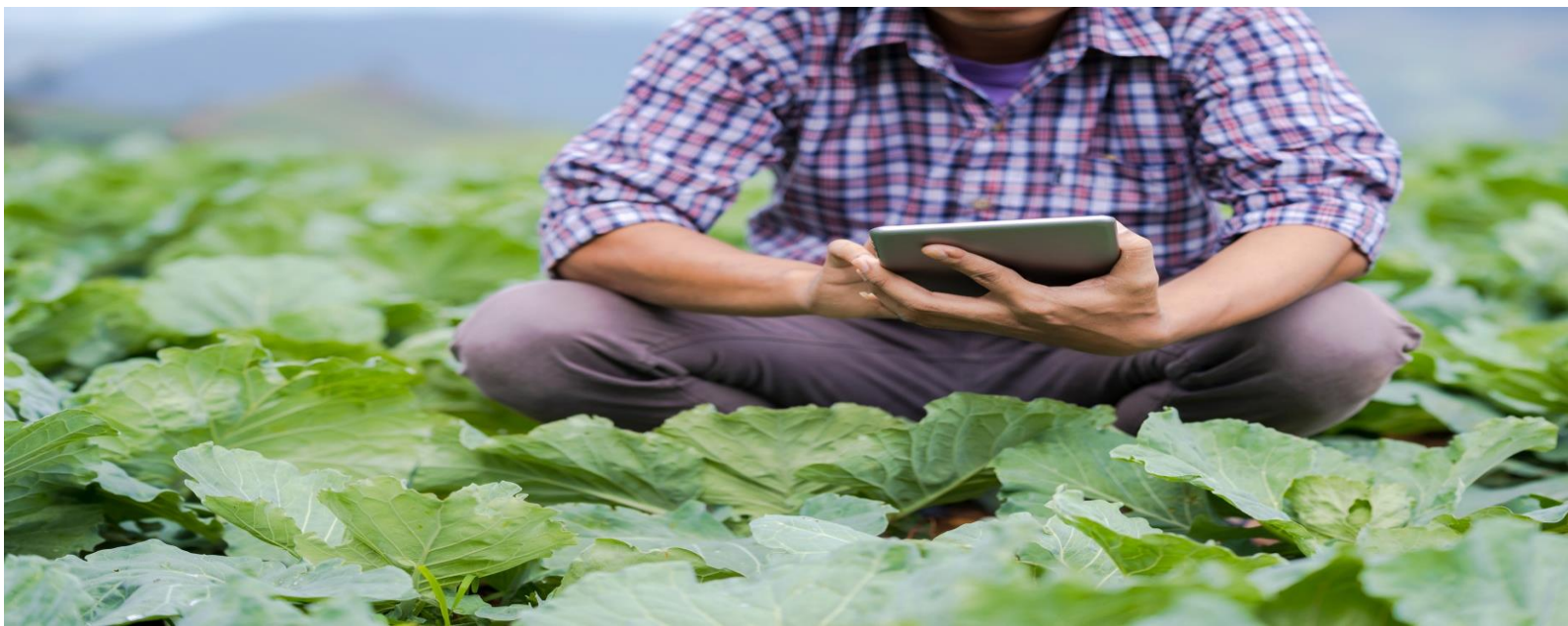


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NEWSLETTER





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1st-SMALLDERS Technical Workshop in Tunisia, Mai 2023

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Tunisian SMALLDERS Technical Workshop: “**Agri-Food Supply Chain in the Tunisian Context: Challenges and Solutions**” has been scheduled at the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis (FST), Tunisia on Mai 3rd, 2023. It was coordinated by the « Laboratory of Energy Applications and Efficiency of Renewable Energies (LAPER) », Department of Physics, FST, University of Tunis El Manar.



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Welcome message and LAPER Presentation

Presented by Prof. Abdelkader MAMI, University
of Tunis El Manar



Honor message

Presented by Prof. Noureddine AMDOUNI, Dean of the
Tunis El Manar



SMALLDERS Project Presentation

Presented by Ms. Lilia SIDHOM, Associate Professor
and PI SMALLDERS, University of Tunis El Manar



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CAPBON Agricultural sector and ROAD contribution in the SMALLERS project

Presented by Mr. Hatem BEN THAMEUR, Director of Studies, and Agricultural Development at Regional Office of Agricultural Development (CRDA) of Nabeul



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DES RESSOURCES HYDRAULIQUES
ET DE LA PÊCHE



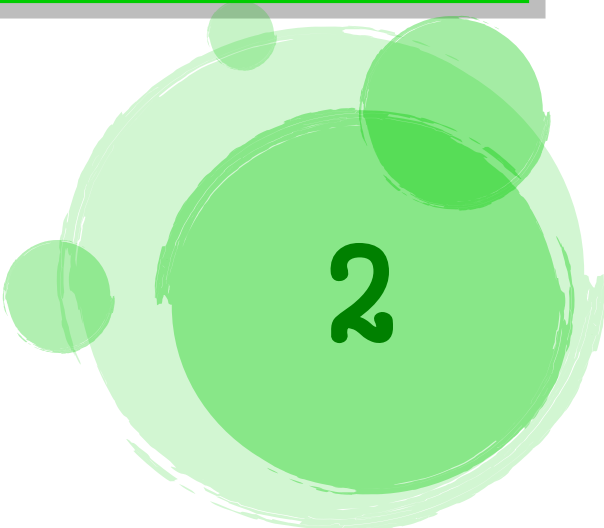
ULAP Korba role in adjusting the balance between production potential and marketing prospects

Presented by Mr. Mohamed BELAMRI, Vice President of the Regional Association for Agriculture and Fishing (ULAP) Korba, Nabeul



Smallholders' testimony

Presented by Mr. Youssef HAMMAMI et Mr. Ali ZIEDI





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Development of strategic and modern plan aiming at the supervising and stimulating of rural women skills

Presented by Ms. Nadia SASSI, President of Rural women's group of El Frinene (GDA El Frinene), Dar Chaaben El Fehri, Nabeul



Fruit value chain challenges and solutions

Presented by Ms. Dorsaf BEN AHMED, Deputy director at Directorate-General of Agricultural Production (DGPA)



Marketing and conditioning of bitter orange blossom water

Presented by Ms. Beya MOULA member of Basic Agricultural Services Mutual Society (SMBSA) of Nabeul





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Milk sector challenges and solutions

Presented by Mr. Ghazi SADKAOUI, Director at El BADR / NATILAIT group

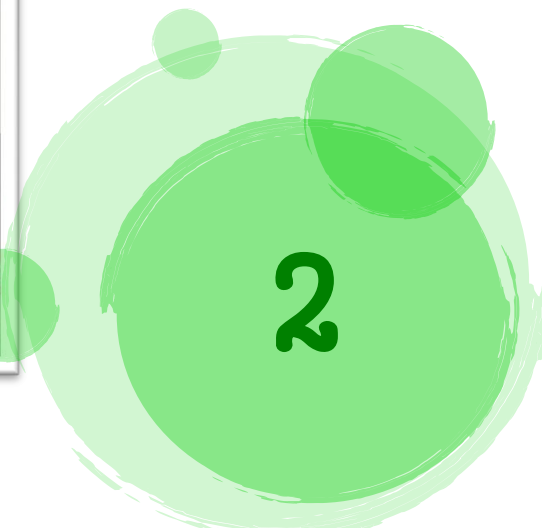


Smallholders' supervision ways in the dairy sector

Presented by Mr. Mohamed Ali CHTIBA, Manager of Yanabii Elkheyr STPEA ZITOUNA II



Round Table Participation: Different issues of interest for the SMALLDERS project were discussed regarding the situation analysis of the agri-food supply chain sector in the region of Nabeul.





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Stakeholders Info Days on SMALLDERS's Platform in Different Countries

Stakeholders Info Days on SMALLDERS's Platform in Tunisia (LAPER)

Different meetings between the LAPER members from the University of Tunis El Manar, its main external partner “Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development” (CRDA) of Nabeul, and different stakeholders of the agri-food supply chain (AFSC) in Nabeul were held on May 17th, 2023, at CRDA Nabeul. These stakeholders are a smallholder, transport company (Big Boss), processing unit for agricultural and forest local products (Saveurs du Cap Bon), policymaker (CRDA of Nabeul). In these meetings, the aims of the SMALLDERS project were presented, and the tasks being performed by LAPER were detailed. After rich discussions on various points such as select of the agricultural sector and the small farmer, TESTBED pilot test, a road map has been defined to identify the next activities with all these agri-food supply chain (AFSC).



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Stakeholders Info Days on SMALLDERS's Platform in Spain (UEX)

▪ AFRUEX-UEX Meeting:

The first meeting between the University of Extremadura (UEX) and its main external partner, AFRUEX (Association of Fruit Growers of Extremadura), was held on 31 May 2023 within the framework of the SMALLDERS project.

In this two-hours meeting, a summary of the objective of the project was made, the tasks being carried out by UEx were presented and the focus was put on the next activities in which AFRUEX will actively participate.

Aspects related to the selection of smallholders for the implementation of possible new business models aimed at small farmers, as well as for the TESTBED pilot test, were discussed. For the latter, researchers from the University of Parma (UNIPR) explained, online, the fundamental aspects and technical requirements to carry out this activity.

Likewise, issues of interest for the SMALLDERS project were discussed (situation analysis of the fruit sector in Extremadura, waste generation, carbon footprint, etc.) and future meetings were scheduled with the aim of reflecting the progress of the collaboration between AFRUEX and UEx.





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Stakeholders Info Days on SMALLDERS's Platform in Spain (UEx)

▪ First Consumer Focus Group session

Within the context of Work Package 4 "New Business Model in the Smallholders' Supply Chain" of the SMALLDERS project, the aim is to understand the needs of consumers, among other stakeholders. To this end, a series of focus group sessions have been planned with the aim of going deeper into the selection behavior of food purchasing channels, with special reference to online procurement, as well as identifying barriers that motivate direct purchasing from small farmers through e-market platforms, among other aspects.

The first of these sessions took place at the University of Extremadura (Spain) on June 28th, 2023. This activity was attended by 6 people with different profiles and backgrounds, but a common characteristic: being responsible for fruit and vegetable purchasing decisions in their homes.

In the coming weeks, similar Focus Group dynamics will be held with the aim of getting to know multiple points of view of the consumers and thus being able to draw conclusions about their purchasing habits and attitudes.

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Stakeholders Info Days on SMALLDERS's Platform in Italy (UNICAL-UNIPR)

UNIPR was responsible for the selection of sensors and the design and deployment of the blockchain (WP5). Environmental, water consumption and soil status sensors have been recommended and presented to the other partners of the project in several online meetings.

Online meetings were scheduled with EcorNaturaSi to select one of their smallholders, namely Ca' Magre. Then, UNIPR visited Ca' Maigre and met their agronomists two times:

- 15 March 2023: The SMALLDERS project and its main objectives were presented to Ca' Magre agronomists. Potential plants on which to install sensors were evaluated.
- 27 and 28 July 2023: the selected sensors and the gateway were installed in the cultivation of aubergines, and the correct functioning was tested and monitored. In the future, the same procedure will be followed for the strawberry cultivation.

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Stakeholders Info Days on SMALLDERS's Platform in France (LSR)

To better understand smallholders' work, the IMT Mines Alès team visited “Le Potager d’Aubrespin” on the 13th of July 2023. The main goal of this visit was to understand the farmers’ practices and assess their sustainability. The researchers also worked towards a possible collaboration with the farmers to integrate agricultural technology into the work of the farmers, as well as to improve their sustainability and resource management.

The objectives of this meeting are enumerated as follows:

1. Gain insights into the sustainable agricultural practices employed at “Le Potager d’Aubrespin”.
2. Understand the farm's resource management strategies and environmental impact.
3. Identify potential areas of collaboration between IMT Mines Alès and “Le Potager d’Aubrespin”.

After touring the acres of “Le Potager d’Aubrespin”, The IMT Mines Alès team discussed the possibility of collaboration with “Le Potager d’Aubrespin”. These discussions highlighted on different points such as: smart agriculture technologies, sustainable water management, renewable energy integration.



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Progress of implemented testbeds

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Progress of implemented Tunisian testbed

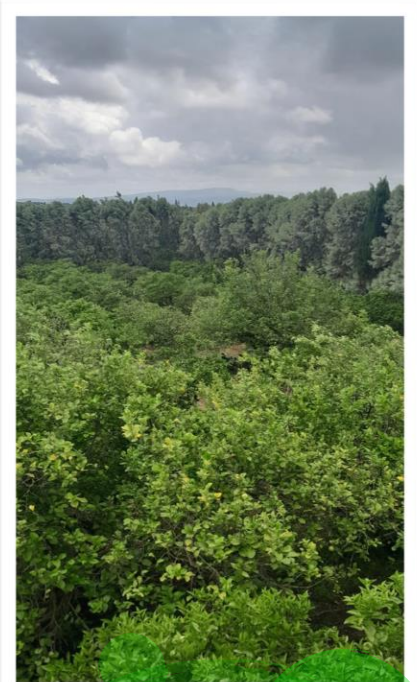
Entity: Regional Office of Agricultural Development of Nabeul (CRDA-Nabeul)

Geographic localization of smallholder's Farm: the smallholder's farm is located in the governorate of Nabeul in the north-east of Tunisia, precisely in Dawar Al Frenin (36°34'60'' Nord / 10°40'60'' Est).

Farm area : about 5Hka

Crops : oranges and tangerines trees

The smallholder's farm is irrigated via a water well and it is divided into several plots of 300m² in area where there is essentially arboriculture like orange, mandarin, and limon. In each plot, about 50 trees are cultivated.



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Progress of implemented Italian testbed

Entity : Agricultural cooperative Cà Magre

Geographic localization : the Italian testbed is located in Isola della Scala, in the province of Verona, Italy.

Area : about 60 ha

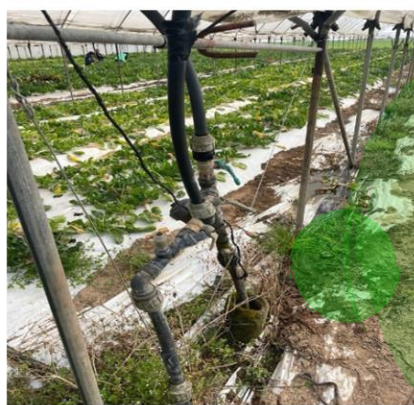
Crops : vegetable cultivation

For the purposes of the SMALLDERS project, the research team of the University of Parma (UNIPR) identified the Cà Magre agricultural cooperative as a small producer. At the same time, it has identified EcorNaturaSi as its stakeholder, i.e., the player that requests products and handles part of its sales. A visit to that cooperative was arranged on March 15, 2023, to evaluate the activities to be carried out.

Cà Magre originated from the meeting of four young friends in 1988 who decided to take on the challenge of biological agriculture before it took over and was regulated. It is located in Isola della Scala, in the province of Verona, Italy. Over the years it has evolved greatly by specializing in vegetable cultivation and currently has 60 hectares under crops, between owned and managed land.

In parallel, EcorNaturaSi is involved in the wholesale, retail trade and distribution of organic, biodynamic, and natural products, following a circular model that starts from the seed and reaches the table.

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Progress of implemented Spanish testbed

Entity : Asociación de Fruticultores de Extremadura (AFRUEX),

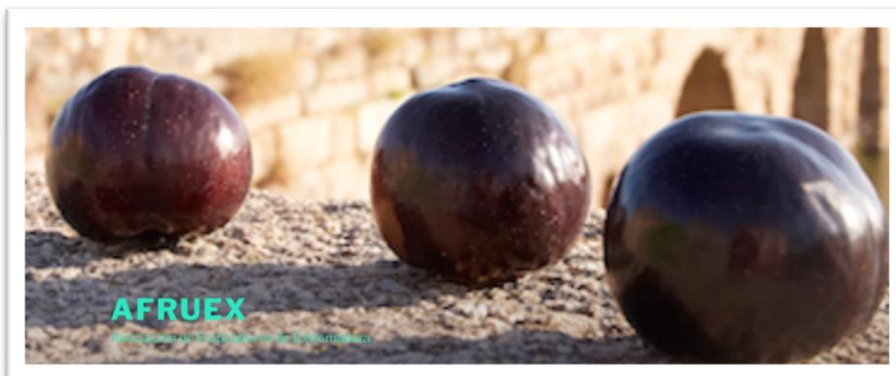
Geographic localization : the Spanish testbed is located at 38.914366246453284, - 6.339960654973042

Area : 6,000 ha (estimated area dedicated to plum growing)

Crops : Plums

AFRUEX is a professional grouping which includes 90% of fruit growers in Extremadura. It has 60 direct members who aggregate a group of more than 5,000 fresh fruit growers, all of whom are united with the aim of organizing and developing the fruit growing sector in Extremadura, as well as promoting quality production that respects the ecological balance. AFRUEX brings together more than 14 fruit and vegetable producers' organizations, cooperatives, agricultural transformation companies and other social forms, until there are more than 30 Fruit and Vegetable Centrals.

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Progress of implemented French testbed

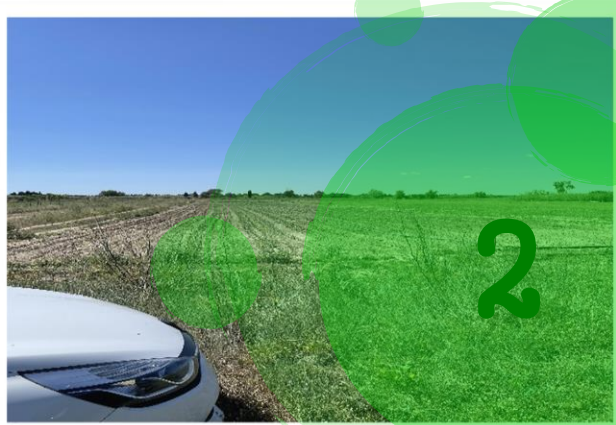
Entity : Le Potager d'Aubrespin

Geographic localization (Farmer of smallholder): the French testbed is located at Saint-Gervasy, France

Area : about 1.5 ha

Crops : Kiwi

Le Potager d'Aubrespin is an agricultural company of professional market gardeners, based in Saint Gervasy, France. Via this vegetable garden, a variety of seasonal vegetables and fruits are grown in a natural and ecological way, without the use of pesticides or toxic chemicals. The products offered are local and respect a short circuit approach, thus promoting responsible and sustainable consumption.





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Upcoming events

- 1- SMALLDERS 2nd General Assembly Meeting in Athens (Greece), September 19th, 2023.
- 2- SMALLDERS partners at the International Multidisciplinary Modeling & Simulation Multiconference (I3M), in Athens (Greece), 18-20 September 2023.

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