



**SMALLERS**

Empowering the Small Holders



# NEWSLETTER



## SUMMARY

2

<b>SMALLDERS 6th Online General Assembly Meeting, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, 11 :00 AM – 12 :30 PM CET</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The XIV Congresso Ibero-latinoamericano De Estudos Rurais (CIER 2024), 6-8 Novembre, Coimbra, Portugal</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SMALLDERS at MACFRUT 2025, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Rimini, Italy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The 16th IEEE International Conference LOGISTIQUEA, 28-30 May 2025, Casablanca, Morocco</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Tunisian Technical Workshop for Citizens, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, Tunis, Tunisia</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Tunisian Technical Workshop for Critical Stakeholders, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, Nabeul, Tunisia</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Upcoming events</b>	<b>15</b>

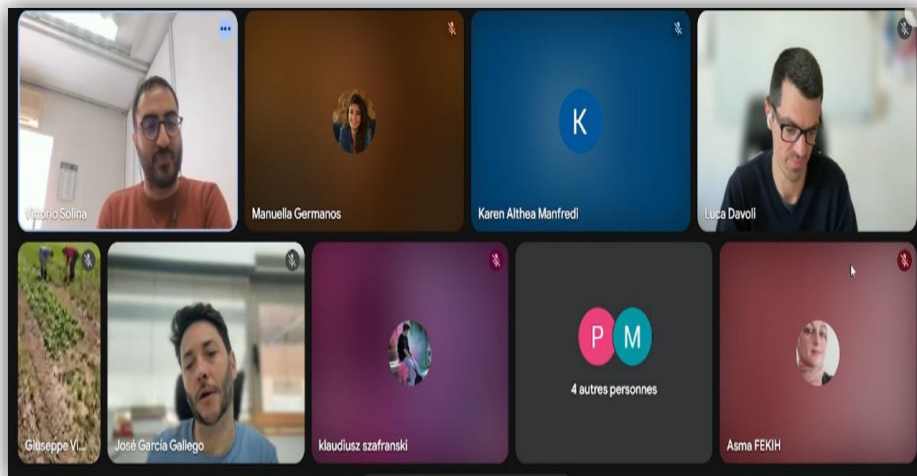
5



## SMALLDERS 6th Online General Assembly Meeting, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, 11 :00 AM – 12 :30 PM CET

3

The SMALLDERS Project held its 6th General Assembly (GA) meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM CET online. The meeting involved principal researchers from all partner institutions: the University of Calabria (Italy), the University of Parma (Italy), IMT Mines Alès (France), the University of Extremadura (Spain), and the University of Tunis El Manar (Tunisia).



Approximately 12 participants took part in this dynamic and collaborative meeting, which brought together key members of the project team. Each partner presented updates on their progress, followed by in-depth discussions on the overall status of the project. Key topics included the status of deliverables, ongoing platform development, integration, and testing efforts. The session also addressed upcoming activities and concrete action points. Participants discussed anticipated challenges for the next phases and explored potential solutions, highlighting the importance of actively engaging stakeholders from each testbed country.

5



## The XIV Congresso Ibero-latinoamericano De Estudos Rurais (CIER 2024), 6-8 November, Coimbra, Portugal

4

At the XIV Congresso Ibero-Latinoamericano de Estudos Rurais (CIER 2024), held in Coimbra (Portugal) from November 6 to 8 2024, Dr Marta Martínez presented the paper *“Are e-commerce platforms an alternative to get fair prices for smallholders? The Spanish consumer's perspective”*, within the framework of the SMALLDERS project. Her presentation explored how these platforms can create new opportunities for small producers by connecting them with consumers interested in local and sustainable products.



5





## SMALLDERS at MACFRUT 2025, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Rimini, Italy

5

On May 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, the partners of the SMALLDERS project took part in a dedicated workshop held during the MACFRUT 2025 event in Rimini, Italy. This major agri-food event served as an ideal platform to showcase the project's progress and engage with key stakeholders across the agricultural value chain projects.



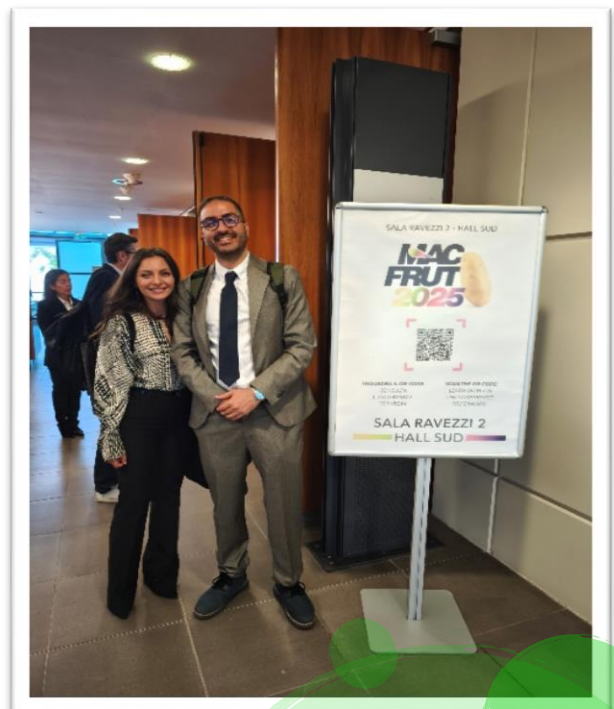
5



6

The workshop highlighted the innovative solutions developed within the SMALLDERS project to support small farmers in adopting more resilient, sustainable, and market-oriented practices. Discussions focused on improving traceability, enhancing product quality and perceived value, and ultimately boosting marketability. The project also addresses critical challenges such as supply chain disruptions, particularly labor shortages, by promoting flexible and future-proof solutions.

Participants explored the integration of advanced technologies and tools into a comprehensive operational framework. This includes web-based applications, AI-powered knowledge navigators, blockchain for traceability, and simulation tools that support data-driven decision-making. The SMALLDERS approach emphasizes a multi-capital sustainability model, which evaluates farming practices through social, environmental, financial, and human capital indicators.



5


**SMALLERS**

Empowering the Small Holders

7

The session began with an introduction to the project's objectives and overall architecture by Prof. Vittorio Solina (Università della Calabria – UNICAL). The Italian partners, Università della Calabria (UNICAL) and the University of Parma (UNIPR – Future Technology Lab), presented their research on enabling technologies, including Sensors 4.0 and digital traceability systems aimed at improving transparency from field to point of sale in agri-food supply chains. They also provided updates on the progress of the Italian testbed.

The French partner, IMT Mines Alès – LSR, presented updates on the French testbed and demonstrated the use of simulation and digital twin technologies to optimize agri-food systems. They also discussed methodological approaches aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement and improving system modeling.



5



**SMALLERS**  
Empowering the Small Holders

8

The Spanish partner, Universidad de Extremadura (UEX), presented innovative business models designed to improve market access for smallholders. They also provided updates on the Spanish testbed, highlighting implementation activities and engagement with local stakeholders.



The Tunisian partner, LAPER – University of Tunis El Manar, presented the development of multi-capital sustainability indicators tailored to the needs of smallholders. They also shared updates on the Tunisian testbed, emphasizing collaboration with local stakeholders and the assessment of the platform's usability and relevance in real-world conditions.

## 2. Actors for Tunisian Testbed



5





## The 16th IEEE International Conference LOGISTIQUEA, 28-30 May 2025, Casablanca, Morocco

9

Dr. Asma Fekih, a research scientist at LAPER, University of Tunis El Manar, and a member of the SMALLDERS project, participated online in the LOGISTIQUEA conference on May 29<sup>th</sup>, where she presented an overview of Total Factor Productivity approaches for sustainable smallholders in agri-food supply chains.



Dr. KhouLOUD Dammak, a research scientist at OLID, University of Sfax, and a member of the SMALLDERS Project, also virtually attended LOGISTIQUEA on May 29<sup>th</sup>, where she presented a methodology to identify innovations and challenges in the agri-food supply chain, along with an analysis of relevant tools.

5



10

## Tunisian Technical Workshop for Citizens, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, Tunis, Tunisia

On May 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Tunisian team of the SMALLDERS project had the pleasure of organizing a technical workshop dedicated to our colleagues and students at the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis, to introduce them to the use of the SMALLDERS platform as citizens.



5



**SMALLDERS**  
Empowering the Small Holders

11

Approximately 22 participants attended this highly engaging workshop. The session included a presentation of the general and specific objectives of the SMALLDERS platform, an overview of the various experimental Testbeds in each participating country, and a hands-on demonstration of the platform's features such as profile creation, KPI testing, exploration of job applications, and the online store.



5



12

## Tunisian Technical Workshop for Critical Stakeholders, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, Nabeul, Tunisia

On May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Tunisian team of the SMALLDERS project organized a technical workshop at the Nabeul Institute of Tourism, bringing together key local stakeholders from the agricultural sector in Nabeul. The event welcomed 19 participants, including 8 policymakers from the CRDA of Nabeul, 2 agri-food representatives from Saveurs du Cap Bon, 3 farmers, 1 representative from the transport company Big Boss, and 5 members of the LAPER team. The workshop aimed to explore and test the features of the SMALLDERS digital platform.



5





13

Each participant was able to try out the platform's dedicated features relevant to their role. The workshop also served as a live test of interconnected communication between the different actors, simulating real-life supply chain scenarios.



5



**SMALLERS**  
Empowering the Small Holders

14

The LAPER team was divided into groups, with each representing a specific stakeholder category. Each participant tested the features available on their dashboard, such as KPIs, profile creation, notifications, orders, job proposals publications... The session concluded with a roundtable discussion to explore the platform in more detail, gather feedback, and identify possible improvements.



5



## Upcoming events

- 1- SMALLDERS partners at the International Food Operations and Processing Simulation Workshop (**FOODOPS 2025**) in Fes, Morocco from September 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- 2- SMALLDERS partners at the 8th IEEE **CiSt** 2025 Congress, in Marrakech, Morocco from October 04<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2025.