

Farmers Adaptation and Sustainability in Tunisia through Excellence in Research

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## WHAT IS FASTER?

- Farmers Adaptation and Sustainability Through Excellence in Research (FASTER) is a Twinning Project funded by European Commission (Directorate General for Research and Innovation) through Horizon 2020 funding programme (810812).
- FASTER's main objectives are to strengthen the capacities and position of 3 Tunisian institutions (INRGREF, IRESA and AVFA) reaching excellence in research and consolidate international quality standards in project proposals.
- The project focuses on innovative land and water management for improved adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the agricultural sector.
- The overall goal is to share the knowledge and experience of European organizations with Tunisian researchers by organizing specialized courses and training programs, as well as to the practitioners of the agricultural sector by mainstreaming most relevant information through the Tunisian Farm Advisory System.
- The project is structured in 6 working packages, has 3 years' duration (2018-2021) and amounts 1 million €.

# **CHALLENGES FASTER AIMS TO TACKLE**

Improving the research excellence of Tunisian partners	<ul> <li>5 multidisciplinary training activities</li> <li>5 research training activities</li> <li>9 specialized training activities</li> <li>Work table on specific subject development</li> <li>At least 9 short term staff exchanges</li> </ul>
Boosting institutional networking and international reputation of INRGREF	<ul> <li>Mapping of current and potential international alliances and initiatives to engage in</li> <li>Communication and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>Engagement in at least 6 international relevant research events.</li> <li>Engagement in at least 6 international info days.</li> <li>Production and dissemination of a video-documentary</li> </ul>

Developing a knowledge transfer framework to engage Tunisian entities and third parties	<ul> <li>List of indicators of excellence for Tunisian research.</li> <li>Guidelines on new research avenues &amp; approaches</li> <li>Governmental agreement for the support of research excellence</li> <li>Job bank for FAS young professionals.</li> <li>Mapping of current and potential business alliances and initiatives</li> </ul>
Supporting FAS sustainability in Tunisia	<ul> <li>Operational living lab on FAS services.</li> <li>Summer school program for young technicians</li> <li>Multi-stakeholder platform</li> <li>E-learning course for FAS technicians</li> <li>FAS database and networking tool</li> </ul>

#### **EXPECTED IMPACTS**

- Increased research excellence of INRGREF in the field of land and water management in the view of climate change
- Enhancing the reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of INRGREF
- Improved capability to compete successfully for national, EU and internationally competitive research funding
- Illustrate quantitatively and qualitatively the expected impact of the project by concrete indicators
- Improved access to research avenues, development of new approaches and increased mobility of qualified scientists.

### **MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT**

**Project coordinator: INRGREF** public research organization in rural development, water and forestry: http://www.inrgref.agrinet.tn

**CREAF:** Center for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications: http://www.creaf.cat

Lund University: Centre for Sustainability Studies: https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se

Europe for business: Innovation advisor and technology transfer to enterprises: http://www.e4business.eu

Vision Communication: Private Communication agency associated to an NGO working on sustainable development (The Node): https://vision-communication.org

AVFA: Governmental agency working in agricultural knowledge transfer: http://www.avfa.agrinet.tn/fr/accueil.php

**IRESA:** Public research and educational organization working on agriculture: http://www.iresa.agrinet.tn/index.php/fr/







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