



LIVINGAGRO

Cross Border Living Laboratories for Agroforestry

ENI CBC Med Programme 2014 – 2020, first call for standard projects
Grant Contract Number: 38/1315 OP of the 29/08/2019



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LIVINGAGRO: Innovation, transfer of knowledge and technology for Mediterranean agro-forestry

Discover "LIVINGAGRO – Cross Border Living Laboratories for Agroforestry" !

"LIVINGAGRO – Cross Border Living laboratories for Agroforestry" project is funded under the ENI CBC Med Programme 2014 – 2020, first call for standard projects, and refers to thematic objective A.2 "Support to education, research, technological development and innovation", priority A.2.1 "Technological transfer and commercialization of research results".



With a total budget of **3,3 Million Euros** and a **2,9 Million EU-contribution** through the ENI CBC Med Programme, LIVINGAGRO project involves **6 organizations from 4 different countries** including the Regional Forest Agency for Land and Environment of Sardinia (**Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.**) in quality of Leading Partner, the **Italian National Research Council, Department of Biology, Agriculture and Food Science (PP1)** and **ATM Consulting S.a.s. (PP5)** from Italy; the **National Agricultural Research Center (PP2)** from Jordan; the **Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (PP3)** from Lebanon and the **Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (PP4)** from Greece.

LIVINGAGRO addresses the challenge of **knowledge and technological transfer** in Mediterranean agriculture and forestry systems for achieving and sharing **good practices** aimed at **sustainable**

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production, protecting biodiversity, enhancing transfer of innovation and increasing profitability for territories and main actors as well as stakeholders involved. Using an **open-innovation approach** for co-creating economic and social values and interactions between supply and demand, eliminating geographical and cultural barriers, **two Living Laboratories will be established focusing on olive multifunctional systems** (Living Laboratory 1) and **grazed woodlands** (Living Laboratory 2). Their activation phases include the localization and identification of relevant stakeholders, public-private partnerships (PPP), the development of the dedicated ICT platform and the launch of experimental pilot actions.



LIVINGAGRO, a GREAT, GREEN start!

GREEN LIGHT in a GREEN ENVIRONMENT for the start of our **LIVINGAGRO** project whose **launching event** was successfully concluded at the end of **November 2019**! On the occasion, the Sardinia Region hosted partners for two days in Cagliari (**26th and 27th of November**) who managed to arrive in Sardinia despite the strike that affected national air traffic.

The **kick-off meeting**, reserved to project partners' representatives, began in the morning of **November 26th** with the presentation of project partners and associated partners, after which the dedicated **Press Conference** was organized, seeing the presence of the General Director of the ENI CBC Med Programme Managing Authority, **Anna Catte**, of the General Director of the Department of Agriculture, **Giulio Capobianco**, of the Forestas General Director, **Salvatore Mele**, and of the two partners representatives from the southern Mediterranean area **Milad El Riachy** (Lebanon) and **Salam Ayoub** (Jordan). The various speakers underlined the importance of international cooperation, exchange of good practices between institutions, organizations and private actors of the Mediterranean area in order to jointly **address common important challenges** such as **technology transfer, innovation, research** and **Public- Private Partnership in agro-forestry**, which concretely produce measurable results as well as real benefits for territories, stakeholders involved and local communities.

In the **afternoon session** the Leading Partner introduced a **general project overview** reporting on foreseen **activities, expected outputs and results, time schedule** and next steps, after which specific issues referring to project implementation approaches, technical WPs and project partner experiences were presented and jointly discussed.



On **November 27th**, work continued on phases and methods of implementation of the project concerning technical, financial and communication aspects. At the conclusion, a **field visit to the Fo.Re.S.T.A.S. "Bagantinus" forest nursery** located in Decimomannu (Cagliari) was organized.

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EURAF2020 – LIVINGAGRO @ the European Agroforestry Conference to be held in Sardinia in May

Next **May 18th to 22nd** in **Nuoro**, Sardinia, the 5th European Agroforestry Conference (**EURAF**) will be held. EURAF is the biennial initiative of the **European Agroforestry Federation** aimed at fostering science and practice of agroforestry across the European continent and beyond. The event brings together researchers, policy makers, agriculture and forest extension technicians, farmers, students to share and discuss current and emerging environmental and socioeconomic issues related to agroforestry.



Agroforestry (as a practice of integrating woody vegetation with crop and animal systems) for the transition towards **sustainability** and **bio-economy** is the guiding thread of this **5th edition of the Conference**, that ties together the main four themes at the centre of the debate:

- ✓ **Agroforestry, ecosystem services, landscape and rural development**
- ✓ **Agroforestry systems and innovations**
- ✓ **Agroforestry and policy for sustainable development**
- ✓ **Agroforestry, education, dissemination**



The Conference Programme includes **Plenary and Parallel Sessions** as well as **regional Study Tours** seeing the participation of internationally acknowledged speakers and of a multitude of stakeholders at European level, in this sense, a great opportunity for networking and spreading LIVINGAGRO project activities, outputs and results.

EURAF2020 is organized with the local support of **UniNuoro** and of the Regional Forest Agency for Land and Environment of Sardinia (**Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.**) in collaboration with several Italian public and private research institutions, national, regional and local authorities, associations, all dealing with agroforestry at different levels. **Sardinia** has been selected as the **ideal setting** for hosting EURAF2020, as the Island well represents the **Mediterranean environment** where agroforestry, embodied by a mosaic of historical rural landscapes, plays a strategic agro-ecological role for rural development.

For any further information please refer to the **EURAF2020 official website** at www.euraf2020.eu or contact the organizing committee at info@euraf2020.eu. Detailed activities referred to LIVINGAGRO project within EURAF2020 will be announced within the next E-Newsletter.

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FROM THE PROJECT PARTNERS – In this edition: News from LEBANESE PPs

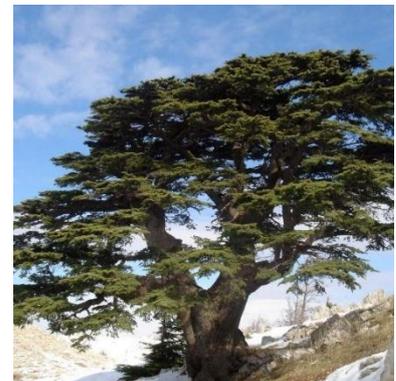


The National seed Bank of Lebanon established at the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) –Tal Amara station

Joëlle Breidy, Seed Bank Manager; Milad El Riachy, Head Department of Olive and Olive Oil

The Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (**LARI**) and the Millennium Seed Bank (**MSB**), **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**, are collaborating for the **conservation of the flora of Lebanon** through **ex-situ** seed conservation since 1996. Since that time, all the collected accessions were conserved in trust in the MSB (United Kingdom). In **2013**, the **National Seed Bank of LARI** was established, and all duplicate seed collections were repatriated to Lebanon. During the last 20 years, **1796 seed collections of 925 species** were banked at LARI with duplicates at the MSBP and this represents **35.6% of Lebanon's flora**. These seeds, belonging to 82 plant families, include edible, aromatic, medicinal, ornamental, crop wild relatives, useful plants; in addition to forage, fodder, bushes and trees. Moreover, several endemic, near endemic, and IUCN red listed threatened species are preserved. During the month of February 2020, the seed bank manager is traveling to Norway with all the collected species that are important for food and agriculture to deposit them in Svalbard Seed Vault.

LARI's Seed Bank -Tal Amara is continuously expanding with the **establishment of two new greenhouses** for the **multiplication of forage and fodder species**, and with the introduction of **new brand forest seed center** for producing certified seeds that will be used for generation of sane seedlings of native species to reforest Lebanon. The **LIVINGAGRO** project could take benefit from the huge genetic diversity preserved in this national seed bank for **experimenting new species** for intercropping in the Living Laboratory 1 (**olive multifunctional systems**) and for testing new forage species for rehabilitation of grazed woodlands in the Living Laboratory 2 (**grazed woodlands**).



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Hydroponic fodder production system Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) – Tal Amara

Joseph Kahwaji, Head of the Feed Laboratory at LARI –Tal Amara



Increasing the world's population and changing their feeding methods have put an enormous pressure on **plant and animal feed sources**, forcing farmers toward exploring new ways to feed their animals to increase their feed conversion ratio. **The increased demand for resources and limited production** were identified as the **main consequences of climate warming**, which led to the reduction of productive irrigated areas, overgrazing, and increased desertification factors.

Within this framework, the **Feed laboratory at LARI – Tal Amara** is active to reduce risk by finding **new varieties adapted to climate change** on the one hand and **increasing feed efficiency** on the other. One of the adopted solutions is the **hydroponic fodder production system** based on solar energy that could be a sustainable solution adopted especially for small ruminant's farmers over the year.



Introduce LIVINGAGRO to Master Students of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Lebanese University

Within the **Agro-biodiversity lecture** of January 30th targeted to M2 students of the Lebanese University, Faculty of **Agronomy**, Prof. Lamis Chalak presented the LIVINGAGRO project, its objectives and actions envisaged in the Mediterranean. **Students** expressed their interest in further **participating to the implementation of the project activities** related to the two Living Laboratories of multi-functional olive systems and grazed woodlands, through **summer internships and thesis fulfillment**.

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The total budget of **LIVINGAGRO** project amounts to 3.3 Million € with an EU contribution of 2.9 Million € (90%).

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The **2014-2020 ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme** is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI). The Programme objective is to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development, which may advance cross-border integration and valorize participating countries' territories and values. The following 13 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia. The Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French. For more information, please visit: www.enicbmed.eu.

The **European Union** is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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