



Coordination of the Agricultural Research
In the Mediterranean Area

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

ARIMNet Call 2011

SUBMIT

Letter of Intention until July 12th, 2011

Proposals until September 25th, 2011

on

<http://arimnet.era.call.eu>

ARIMNet is an ERA-NET funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme.



CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
 - 2. A joint transnational Call**
 - 3. Scope and topics**
 - 4. Call schedule**
 - 5. Participation and funding of Research Projects**
 - 5.1 Participation from ARIMNet network with national funding
 - 5.2 Participation from ARIMNet network with institutional funding
 - 5.3 Participation from outside ARIMNet network
 - 6. Eligibility check**
 - 6.1 ARIMNet criteria
 - 6.2 National eligibility criteria
 - 6.3 Applicants from countries not providing funds for the call
 - 7. Submission of Proposals**
 - 8. Process overview and Selection Criteria**
 - 8.1 General organisation
 - 8.2 The process
 - 8.2.1 First stage: scientific peer review
 - 8.2.2 Second stage: Project Selection
 - 9. Funding**
 - 9.1 Terms of participation
 - 9.2 Contractual relationships
 - 9.3 Funding contracts
 - 9.4 Research Consortium Agreement
 - 9.5 Intellectual property rights and use and access to results
 - 9.6 Commencements of projects
 - 10. Project monitoring**
 - 11. Call Management and Secretariat**
- ANNEX 1**
1. A List of Participating Countries
 1. B ARIMNet Call Funding Organisations
 1. C Funder Contribution Table
 1. D Funding Scheme per Country
- ANNEX 2: National regulations**
- ANNEX 3: Scientific Scope of the Call**



1. Introduction

The ARIMNet Project (**A**gricultural **R**esearch **I**n the **M**editerranean **N**etwork), funded by the European Union, aims at coordinating National Agricultural Research Programmes to strengthen the capacities of its members to address in a coordinated way the major challenges that the Mediterranean agriculture is facing.

While agriculture in the countries around the Mediterranean is facing common issues and challenges, Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean is scattered and requires a coordination effort to step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national level by joining forces to promote innovative research and cooperation. It is the purpose and the ambition of the members of the ARIMNet Project.

For more information about ARIMNet, please connect to www.arimnet.net

2. A joint transnational Call

ARIMNet is launching a Joint transnational call for research projects proposals based on funds from participating countries.

It will enable collaborative interdisciplinary projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines and countries, and sharing of knowledge in a broad scope of research topics. It aims to promote international collaboration to create research consortia in order to respond appropriately to the global stakes and challenges Mediterranean Agriculture is facing.

The call is fitted for large projects involving several partners from different countries. Based on a common virtual pot of around 7 million Euros, we expect to finance from 8 to 13 projects.

3. Scope and topics

1- Production systems and their components: Developing sustainable agricultural production in a context of increasing ecological and climatic stresses

- a) *Resilience, rusticity, flexibility of the production systems;*
- b) *Improving the economic and environmental efficiency of production systems, agro ecology;*
- c) *Integrated approaches to reduce endemic and emerging animal and plant diseases;*
- d) *Sustainable management of pastoral and rangeland farming;*
- e) *Water saving techniques, reduction of chemical inputs, soil protection;*
- f) *Agricultural and agro-environmental policies design.*

2- Food chain from production to distribution: Enhancing the advantages of Mediterranean agriculture in developing products with high added value

- a) *Production and processing technologies;*
- b) *Marketing, supply chain organization, transportation;*
- c) *Food safety;*
- d) *Quality standards, labelling, geographical indications;*



- e) *Reducing post harvest losses;*
- f) *Incentives for innovation, private and public investments.*

3- Landscape and resources uses for agricultural and environmental purposes: Sustainable management of land and natural resources

- a) *Spatial aspects of agricultural use of natural resources,*
- b) *Agro-ecosystems and landscape mosaics;*
- c) *Periurban and urban agriculture;*
- d) *Relationship between coastal areas and hinterland;*
- e) *Land property and land structures;*
- f) *Agricultural, environmental and rural development policies.*

(More information in Annex 3 “Scientific Scope of the Call”)

4. Call Schedule

The call is a “**one stage procedure**” that imply direct submission of full proposals (see more details item 7).

Nevertheless, we encourage potential applicants to submit a **non committing Letter of Intent** that will help the Call Board to design more appropriately the Evaluation Committee. This is **not a mandatory** phase, i.e. it will not be required to submit a full proposal (**not entering** in the **eligibility check**). A specific form will be founded on the Electronic Submission System

Call time schedule:

Action	Scheduled
Pre-announcement of the Call	06.05.2011
Launching the Call and guidelines on website	20.06.2011
Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent	12.07.2011
Deadline for submission of proposals	25.09.2011
Eligibility check	26-28.09.2011
First Meeting of the Evaluation Committee	05/10/2011
Scientific peer review	05.10-15.12.2011
Meeting of the Evaluation Committee	19-20.12.2011
Meeting of the Call Board and funding decisions	21.12.2011
Contract negotiation	First quarter of 2012
Expected start of projects	01.04.2012
Interim reports	October 2013
Final project reports	Within two months following the end of the projects (Spring 2015)

5. Participation and funding of Research Projects

The funding for the transnational projects will be national funds based on a virtual common pot instrument. The funding principle is that each country funds its own research group(s), while it benefits from the research fruits of the multinational team of the Project Consortium.

Participating countries, funding organisations and funds available are listed in annex 1.



5.1 Participation from ARIMNet network with national funding

Researchers participating in projects that have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding organisation after meeting their national regulations. Funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of responsible national funding body taking into account all other applicable national regulations and legal framework.

Industry may in some countries also bid for funding as members of consortia, but should first check the Parties' national rules for details on funding eligibility of SMEs or large industries.

5.2 Participation from ARIMNet network with institutional funding

In the countries where no national funding is available for this call, researchers from ARIMNet Partner organisations can participate in Project Consortia with the funding of their own institution.

5.3 Participation from outside ARIMNet network

Industry and researchers from non ARIMNet network may participate in Project Consortia as co-funders, but at a project level, which means that they can contribute to a specific project either financially with "own contribution" or "in kind".

6. Eligibility check

There are two sets of eligibility criteria in the selection process: i) ARIMNet criteria, ii) national criteria.

6.1 ARIMNet criteria

Each project proposal must:

- Involve researchers from at least three countries members of the ARIMNet project (at least one from the EU and one from the Mediterranean Partner Countries) providing funds for this call. Additional researchers from other countries are welcome in a Project Consortium, but will have to fund their own contribution to the research project
- Projects should be of a duration of maximum three years
- Be written in English, using the ARIMNet Application Forms provided on the submission website
- Be uploaded completed and correctly (including all required documents) via the submission website before the call deadline (September 25, 5 PM CET)
- Fit the formal requirements for proposal submission
- Be of relevance in terms of the call topics outlined in the call (see chapter 3)



List of the ARIMNet Countries :

ARIMNet Countries	European Union Country	Mediterranean Partner Country
Algeria		X
Cyprus	X	
Egypt		X
France	X	
Greece	X	
Israel		X
Italy	X	
Morocco		X
Portugal	X	
Spain	X	
Tunisia		X
Turkey		X

6.2 National eligibility criteria

To receive funding, applicants must be eligible for funding by the national funding organisations participating in the call (see annex 1). All participants in a bidding consortium should check their eligibility by reference to the guidance provided by their potential national funding organisation at the earliest possible stage.

Eligible costs will be determined by the regulations and conditions of each national funding organisation. Subcontracting will be allowed according to the regulations of the national funding organisation involved (See Annex 2).

6.3 Applicants from countries not providing funds for the call

Applicants from countries not partners in the ARIMNet network and thereby not providing funding for the call are welcome in Research Consortia, but will have to fund their contribution to the research projects themselves. They are not taken into account in the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries in the ARIMNet eligibility criteria.

7. Submission of Proposals

Each consortium must identify a Research Consortium Coordinator, who will have a specific role during the submission process and afterwards, if the project is funded (see 7.1).

All forms required for the submission can be downloaded from the ARIMNet submission website for preparation of the proposal.

Only one single form for Full Proposal is required for each project covering all of the Research Partners of the consortium. The form should be completed by the Research Partners and submitted by the Research Consortium Coordinator on behalf of the Research Consortium in line with the stated deadlines. It is mandatory to upload the Forms as “.pdf”. Proposals must be completed in English. Proposals should be precise and concise. For further information contact the Call Office



All participants in a bidding consortium should check their eligibility by reference to the guidance provided by their potential national funding organisation at the earliest possible stage – please consult Annex 1 for the list of national funding organisations and for the list of contacts points.

The ARIMNet Call Office will be the primary point of contact throughout the application process. Applications will be accepted only via the ARIMNet online submission website.

The Research Consortium Coordinator

Each Research Consortium need to appoint a Research Consortium Coordinator, who will have the following role:

- Be the single point of contact between the ARIMNet Call Office and the Researchers in the pre-proposal and in any successful project, from submission of the proposal onward;
- Submit the Application Form on behalf of the Research Consortium;
- In any commissioned project, compile and submit reports/deliverables to the ARIMNet Call Office on behalf of the Research Consortium

The Research Consortium Coordinator will NOT be responsible for the financial management of ARIMNet research funding, which will be handled directly between national researchers and their national funding organisations in each participating country.

The Research Consortium Coordinator shall inform the Call Office and each of the national funding organisations of any event that might affect the implementation of the project.

8. Process overview and Selection Criteria

8.1 General organisation

The organisation of the decision making process relies on three bodies:

- The Call Board

The ARIMNet Programme Call Board (CB) comprises the nominated representatives from each funding body signing this Memorandum, the Coordinator of the ARIMNet network and the Work Package Leader in charge of transnational activities within the ARIMNet Project. The CB is responsible for defining and organising the call, the application procedures and the review of proposals. All decisions concerning the call procedures will be taken by the Call Board (CB). The nominees are entitled to make the joint final decision on the basis of the proposals of the scientific Evaluation Committee (EC) of ARIMNet Programme, taking into account the rating by this scientific Evaluation Committee.

- The scientific Evaluation Committee

The scientific Evaluation Committee (EC) is constituted to evaluate the proposals submitted in response to this joint transnational call and to propose a final ranking of these proposals. The members of the EC, proposed by the ARIMNet's members, will be nominated by the



Programme Call Board (CB). The EC Chair should be drawn from non participating countries. The EC members are internationally recognized scientists chosen for their scientific or technical expertise. The members of the EC may not represent the nominating parties or adopt national considerations. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, the EC members must not apply to this call.

- The Call Office

The central coordinating body for the ARIMNet call is the Call Secretariat under the responsibility of the Work Package Leader in charge of transnational activities within the ARIMNet project and the Coordinator. This central coordinating organisation is responsible for the overall organisation of the call and the management of the joint international review process according to the rules agreed upon by the ARIMNet Programme Call Board (CB), and will be assisted by the CB.

8.2 The process

The Research Consortium Coordinator submits a Full Proposal via the on-line Electronic Submission System. A submission receipt will be issued automatically to the Coordinator.

Proposals will be evaluated for meeting the topic of the call, scientific quality, quality of Research Consortium, quality of project management, added value by transnational collaboration, and feasibility of the project and policy need and priorities of the countries of the funding agencies participating in the call.

All proposals submitted will be treated confidentially by the ARIMNet Partners and their appointed evaluation experts.

The proposal is evaluated in a two stage process.

8.2.1 First stage: scientific peer review

The scientific review of each project submitted will take into account:

- Scientific (technical) excellence (originality, methods) and targeted output and innovation
- Interdisciplinarity
- Feasibility of the proposal described by a detailed work plan
- Resources/implementation
- Quality of the consortium & management
- Impact: exploitation of results, dissemination
- Transnational benefit & added value

8.2.2 Second stage: Project Selection

On the basis of the scientific evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will propose to the Call Board the final ranked list of projects to be funded. This will be based on the recommendations of the Peer review, according to the relevance of the projects to the



ARIMNet general objectives and the assessment and policy needs of the Partners. The Call Board will make the final decision, taking into account the ranking by the Evaluation Committee and the available funds.

9. Funding

After the approval of the final list by respective national funding agencies, the Call Office will – on behalf of the funding agencies – send notification letters to all Project Consortia Coordinators to inform them of the result of the final funding decision. Each national funding agency will enter the contracting process with the national researchers of successful Project Consortia.

9.1 Terms of participation

The national funding for the ARIMNet Call is offered under the coordination of the FP7 ERA-NET ARIMNet “Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean”. Research participants are required to recognise the coordinating role of ARIMNet throughout the duration of funded research projects until approval of the final report. Research Consortia will be asked for feedback on processes in order to help refine these for future use.

9.2 Contractual relationships

Regarding the call and the funding, ARIMNet has a coordination role and does not directly provide funding. All of the contracts and funding procedures remain the full responsibility of the national research funding agencies.

Because of the fragmented nature of the funding it is necessary for each national funding agency to enter into a contract with the relevant researcher, but also to ensure that these contracts are synchronised both in time and content, so that the Project Consortium can deliver transnational outputs as described in the project proposal. The national funding agencies have to ensure that common ARIMNet conditions are met (e.g. common commencement date of a given project, reporting requirements etc.).

9.3 Funding contracts

For the whole duration of the contract it is the responsibility of the Project Consortium Coordinator to inform the Call Office of any changes which might affect the implementation of the project (e.g. work plan, consortium modifications) and other changes such as changes in contact details. The Research Partners shall also inform their national funding agency of those changes affecting the national contract.

If a change occurs to the Project Consortium which poses a risk to the project, the issue has to be solved by the consortium (in line with any Consortium Agreement). The Call Office must be kept informed of such events.

Any changes in the work plan should be only minor, but will need to be authorised by all of the funding agencies involved before amendments to the contract by the national funding agencies can be issued.

9.4 Research Consortium Agreement



The consortia selected for funding must enter into a Consortium Agreement, in order to manage the delivery of the project activities, finances, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project.

It will be the responsibility of the Project Consortium Coordinators to draw up a Consortium Agreement suitable to their own group. The Consortium Agreement will normally be under the law and legal system of the country of the Project Consortium Coordinator. The purpose of this document is:

- To underpin the Project Partners collaboration and provide the Project Partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another;
- To assure the funding agencies involved that the Project Consortia have a satisfactory decision making capacity and that Project Partners are able to work together in a synergistic manner.

The following items (as a minimum) should be addressed by the Consortium Agreement:

- purpose of and definitions used in the Consortium Agreement
- names of organisations involved
- organisation and management of the project
- role and responsibilities of the Research Consortium Coordinator and the Research Partners: person in charge, their obligations and key tasks, conditions for their change
- deliverables (transnational reports and if relevant requirements for national reports where coordination is required)
- resources and funding
- confidentiality and publishing
- Intellectual Property Rights (how this issue will be handled between Research Partners)
- decision making within the consortium
- handling of internal disputes
- the liabilities of the Research Partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract).

It is recommended that Project Consortia use the DESCA (Developed Simplified Consortium Agreement) standard model for Consortium Agreements. More information about DESCA can be found from their website: <http://www.desca-fp7.eu/about-desca/>.



The Consortium Agreement must be signed by all Parties of the Project Consortium.

9.5 Intellectual property rights and use and access to results

The ARIMNet partners will take all reasonable steps to ensure that information provided in the application is treated as confidential subject to submission to the members of its committees and merit review and to any obligations under law.

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the ARIMNet Call will be owned by the Project Partners according to the regulations in their Consortium Agreement and if not conflicting with the respective national regulations.

Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.

All ARIMNet Partners shall have the right to use documents, information and results submitted by the Project Partners for their own purposes, provided that this is compatible with the protection of intellectual property rights, confidentiality obligations, and the legitimate interests of the owner of any foreground involved.

9.6 Commencements of projects

A project can commence as soon as the Call Office has been informed by the Project Consortium Coordinator about the conclusion of the national contracts. Once the national contract comes into force, eligible national costs may be claimed as per national procedures. In the interim period, researchers may commence work on the project at their own risk and costs.

10. Project monitoring

Interim monitoring procedures will be mandatory for all applicants involved in the funded projects. These will be independent of other specific national requirements.

Additionally, there will be a final report at the end of the project, which has to be delivered to the Call Office within two months following project conclusion. Two meetings (one mid-term meeting and a final one) will be organised to share and capitalise experience to the benefit of the ARIMNet community and beyond. Those meetings that would gather the coordinators of the projects should be included in the budget required.

Written reports and deliverables will be sent out for evaluation by the international experts and the relevant national funding agencies. The project deliverables shall only be deemed approved when the Call Office confirms approval to the Project Consortium Coordinator, or (if modifications are required) confirms to the Project Consortium Coordinator approval of the modified version of any deliverable.

Project reports must be produced in English, and may be produced in other languages at the Project Partners' discretion. The Project Partners are jointly responsible for the delivery of work, and the Call Office will only accept reports delivered by the Research Consortium Coordinator on behalf of the consortium.

Where required, each participant must report progress on its own component of the work to the national funding organisations in line with national contractual obligations. This also applies to financial reports.



11. Call Management and Secretariat

The Call Office will provide administrative support to applicants regarding the call, call documents and procedures. All decisions concerning procedures of the joint research call, project funding or other issues will be made by the Call Board.

The Call Office is the primary point of contact between Research Consortia and ARIMNet Members and Partners for all general matters in relation to the call and during the follow-up and evaluation of funded projects.



ANNEX 1

1. A List of Participating Countries

Countries		Organisation member of ARIMNet	ARIMNet Country Focal Point
	France	INRA	Marie Ollagnon ollagnon@supagro.inra.fr
		CIRAD	Jean-François Tourrand tourrand@aol.com
	Italy	MIPAAF	Annamaria Marzetti a.marzetti@politicheagricole.gov.it
	Algeria	INRAA	Ali Ferrah inraa@inraa.dz
	Spain	INIA	Nuria Duran Nuria.duran@inia.es
	Turkey	GDAR	Sahin Anil sanil@tagem.gov.tr
	Egypt	ARC	Hashem Ibrahim dr_hashemmi@yahoo.com
	Portugal	FCT	Maria João Maia Maria.Maia@fct.mctes.pt
	Morocco	IAV	Sanaa Zebakh sanaa.zebakh@yahoo.com
	Greece	NAGREF	Jannis Rumbos johnrumbos@yahoo.gr
	Tunisia	IRESA	Aniss Ben Rayana benrayana.aniss@iresa.agrinet.tn
	Cyprus	ARI	Georges Adamides adamides@arinet.ari.gov.cy
	Israel	MOARD	Yuval Eshdat vhyuval@volcani.agri.gov.il



1. B ARIMNet Call Funding Organisations

Countries		Funding Organisation	Contact
	France	ANR	Mr. Maurice Heral Maurice.HERAL@agencerecherche.fr + 33(0)178098033
	Italy	MIPAAF	Mrs. Annamaria Stella Marzetti a.marzetti@politicheagricole.gov.it +39 0646655174
	Algeria	DGRSDT	Mrs. Feryel Souami feryel.souami@nasr-dz.org +213 21 63 87 17
	Spain	INIA	Mrs. Nuria Duran Nuria.duran@inia.es + 34 91 347 8789
	Turkey	GDAR	Mr. Sahin ANIL sanil@tagem.gov.tr +90 312 327 17 95
	Egypt	ARC/ Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation	Mr. Hashim Mohamed Ibrahim dr_hashemmi@yahoo.com +202 35720944
	Portugal	FCT	Mrs. Maria Maia Maria.Maia@fct.mctes.pt + 21 – 392 4397
	Morocco	MENESFCRS	Mr Anas Chokairi chokairi@enssup.gov.ma 05 37 21 76 53
	Greece	NAGREF	Mr. Jannis Rumbos johnrumbos@yahoo.gr 24210-61087
	Tunisia	IRESA	Mr. Ben Rayana Aniss benrayana.aniss@iresa.agrinet.tn + 216 71798244
	Cyprus	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Mrs Anthi Toumazou atoumazou@moa.gov.cy + 357 22 408320
	Israel	MOARD	Mrs. Orit Shmueli orits@moag.gov.il +972-3-9485430



1. C Funder Contribution Table

Countries			Intended total financial contribution (k€)
	France	ANR	2,0
	Italy	MIPAAF	0,5
	Algeria	DGRSDT	1,0
	Spain	INIA	0,4
	Turkey	GDAR	0,5
	Egypt	ARC/ Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation	0,35
	Portugal	FCT	0,2
	Morocco	MENESFCRS	1,0
	Greece	NAGREF	0,1
	Tunisia	IRESA	0,3
	Cyprus	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	0,06
	Israel	MOARD	0,25
TOTAL			6,66



1. D Funding Scheme per Country

Countries		1 Production systems						2 Food chain						3 Landscape and resource					
		a	b	c	d	e	f	a	b	c	d	e	f	a	b	c	d	e	f
	France	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Italy	X		X						X	X								
	Algeria		X			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
	Spain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Turkey	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
	Egypt	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Portugal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Morocco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Greece	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Tunisia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Cyprus	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X			X	X
	Israel	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X			X	

ANNEX 2



National Regulations France (ANR)

ANR is funding the three axes of the call.

The general guidelines for the French partners can be found, in French, on ANR website (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/programmes-de-recherche/appels-a-projets/>). The same rules apply to the transnational as to the national calls opened by ANR.

Generally, the terms and conditions for the French participants follow the generic Terms and condition of funding available in French language on ANR web site

<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/documents/uploaded/2007/reglement-modalites-attribution-aide.pdf>).

Eligible Participants:

This ARIMNet Joint Call addresses all French researchers from research organisations, associations or companies. There must be at least one research organisation (university, public institute...) in the whole consortium.

Eligible costs:

Eligible costs are costs which are necessary for carrying out the approved project proposed, insofar as their amount is appropriate and justified.

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Mr. Maurice HERAL

Maurice.HERAL@agencerecherche.fr

+33 (0)1 78 09 80 33

The French National Research Agency (ANR)

Head of Unit Ecosystem and Sustainable Development

Agence Nationale de la Recherche

212 rue de Bercy, Paris 75012

FRANCE



National Regulations Italy (MIPAAF)

Mipaaf rules (DG COSVIR acting as funding body) for eligibility and allocation of the financial contribution are given in the User's Manual which applicants must refer to (D.M. 6387/2010 at: <http://www.politicheagricole.it/RicercaSperimentazione/default>). A summary of these rules is hereafter reported.

Nature of the applicants.

National public research institutions and private bodies, with among their institutional and statutory scopes "performing research activities" and not only "promoting or supporting research activities", can apply for funding.

National public institutions include public bodies supervised by Ministries, regional and provincial centres, university departments and institutes, university consortia, interdepartmental centres.

It is mandatory, for all the private research bodies defined above, that they state in the official documents (statute and/or articles of incorporation, memorandum of association) that among their missions they also "perform research activities", and in case, their non profit's purpose.

The private research body participating in the project consortium must send to the Mipaaf, acting as national contact point (see hereafter), scanned copy of these documents by the application deadline to: cosvir4@politicheagricole.gov.it, specifying in the object "Arimnet call documents – private body – deadline (*indicate the date*)"

Financial contribution.

The contribution amount for national participants of the selected projects will be as follows:

- public Institutions and private no profit bodies can be financed up to 99% of the approved eligible project costs;
- private bodies and labs can receive 50% of the approved eligible costs, but this percentage can be increased to 65% if the participating research unit to the project foresees the collaboration with a public research institution or a no profit private body (see art. 31 EU Reg. 800/2008)
- SMEs and organisms with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own resources or by other external sources.

According to the national regulation the transfer of funds will occur in three steps:

- 1) 65% of the approved costs immediately at the issue of the Ministry decree (contract between the Ministry and the beneficiary);
- 2) 25% of the approved costs once the mid-term report (both scientific and administrative) has been approved;
- 3) 10% of the approved costs once the final report has been approved.

For private bodies the detailed documentation to receive the financial contribution is specified in the User's Manual.

Eligible costs to be refunded.

A) Personnel

1) Salaries – Only for non-permanent scientific staff (including foreign visiting scientists, post docs, PhD students, fellowships and grants). Technical administrative staff can be included in the

coordination. For private institutions salaries of permanent staff actually participating in the project activity can be funded.

2) Travel expenses- for permanent and non permanent staff.

B) Consumables

C) External activity costs – expenditures for activity carried out externally to the research applicant (Consultancy services, agreements, maintenance, repairs, material transportation when needed for the project implementation).

D) Equipments – Only depreciation charges (related to the project duration) for scientific equipment will be reimbursed.

E) Overheads – no more than 10% of the total amount of the above mentioned A, B and C costs.

F) Coordination - if the Italian institution is also playing the role of coordinator the eligible costs are those indicated in the User's manual.

Additional forms.

Once the project has been approved for funding and during the negotiation each Italian research unit will have to fill in the research unit form (model C), included in the User's Manual, and present it to the funding Body (Mipaaf) to apply for contribution.

In case of a research unit acting as coordinator, also the general project description, including the activity of all partners (model A-project form) and the financial sheet, limited to the Italian research participants (model B), have to be presented to the funding body.

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Dr. Annamaria Stella Marzetti a.marzetti@politicheagricole.gov.it +39 0646655174
Ministry of agricultural, food and forestry policies - MIPAAF
Research and experimentation Office - COSVIR IV
Via XX Settembre 20, 00189 Rome (I)- ITALY
Fax: +39 064819580



National Regulations Algeria (INRAA)

Nomenclature des postes de dépenses pouvant faire l'objet de financement

Chapitre	Article	Intitulés des postes de dépenses
34.01		Remboursement de frais
	01	Frais de transport des chercheurs Algériens en Algérie et à l'étranger
	01	Frais de transport des chercheurs Algériens en Algérie
	01	Frais de transport des chercheurs Algériens à l'étranger
	01	Frais de transport des chercheurs étrangers en Algérie
	02	Rencontres scientifiques en Algérie : frais d'organisation, d'hébergement, de restauration et de transport
	03	Honoraires des enquêteurs
	04	Honoraires des guides
	05	Frais de travaux et de prestations réalisés en dehors de l'entité de recherche
34.02		Matériel et mobilier
	01	Matériels et instruments scientifiques
	02	Matériel d'expérimentation (animaux, plantes, etc....)
	03	Mobilier de laboratoire
	04	Entretien et réparation
34.3		Fournitures
	01	Avances pour acquisition d'ouvrages et documentation scientifique
	02	Produits chimiques
	03	Produits consommables
	04	Composants électroniques, mécanique et audio-visuels
	05	Accessoires et consommables informatiques
	06	Papeterie et fournitures de bureau
34.4		Charges annexes
	01	Acquisition de périodiques
	02	Acquisition d'ouvrages
	03	Acquisition de documentation technique
	04	Logiciels
	05	Impression et édition
	06	Affranchissements postaux
	07	Communications téléphoniques, fax, télex, télégramme, Internet
	08	Droits de douane, assurances
34.91		Parc automobile
	01	Carburants

Pourront bénéficier des financements : les équipes des Laboratoires de recherche des Universités et Centres Universitaires, les équipes des Laboratoires de Recherche des Grandes Ecoles d'Ingénieur, les Centres de recherche (EPST).

Personne contact :

Mrs. Feryel Souami

feryel.souami@nasr-dz.org

+213 21 63 87 17

DGRSDT

23 Avenue Robertseau

Télemly – Alger

Algeria



National Regulations Spain (INIA)

Eligibility

The call is addressed to public research institutions and other bodies (non-profit bodies, agencies, private entrepreneurs or labs) which are associated to a public research institution.

The body selected for financing will establish an agreement with INIA where both will fix the terms of the contract.

Funding

Admitted costs

- a- Salaries: Only for non-permanent scientific staff and non-permanent technicians hired for the project.
- b- Fungible materials
- c- Travel and subsistence costs
- d- Indirect costs: Not exceeding 20 % of the direct costs (DC = a + b + c)

The funds will be transferred to the beneficiary in three annual payments.

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Mrs. Nuria Duran

Nuria.duran@inia.es

+ 34 91 347 8789

Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA)

Cra. La Coruña Km. 7,5

28040 Madrid

SPAIN

National Regulations Turkey

(Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs,
General Directorate of Agricultural Research, **GDAR**)

1. **GDAR** could only manage (participate in) **virtual common** pot funding system;
2. Project duration could be maximum 3 years;
3. Due to GDAR could not pay for the salaries of permanent researchers and research technicians working outside of GDAR system, salaries should be excluded from the project budget;
4. It is not possible to fund directly projects proposed by the scientists outside the GDAR system, therefore, consortium must include at least one of the GDAR institutes;
5. Budget allocations for the successful projects could be realised through a GDAR Research Institute participating in the winner consortium, from the beginning of the next fiscal year following the signing of the contract.

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Dr. Sahin ANIL

sanil@tagem.gov.tr

+90 312 327 17 95; +90 543 493 26 35

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, **TURKEY**
General Directorate of Agricultural Research (**GDAR**)
Head of Department of Horticultural Research

National Regulations Egypt (ARC)

1- Who can apply?

All research institutes following the Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation.

2- Project duration : should not exceed 3 years

3- Priority will be given to the joint projects including more than one institute

4- Budget allocations for the winning projects will occur through ARC, and contracts will be sign between the applicant and ARC

5- Salaries: salaries will not be included in the project budget

6- Travel expenses in case of joint research activity: the visiting Party will cover all travel expenses including external transportation, accommodation, etc...

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Dr. Hashim Mohamed Ibrahim

dr_hashemmi@yahoo.com

+202 35720944

Supervisor of the executive office, president office,
Agricultural Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Tel (2) : +202 35722069
Fax: +202 35722609

National Regulations Portugal (FCT)

Web-site of the funding organisation	www.fct.mct.pt
Host organisation administrating the grant	See article 2º of R&D projects regulations
Academic degree of team leader	
Minimum contribution team leader	≥ 35% of full time
Midterm reports	every 12 months
Final report	yes
Salaries for researchers when public or private organizations employees	Not funded
Grants for researchers	See article 4º, 1.a)
Maximum expenses etc.	See article 18º, 6. of R&D projects regulations
Eligible indirect costs (over head costs)	Maximum 20% of direct costs (see Article 4º, 1.h)
Limits for funding/ project size	Maximum 200 000 per project
Project duration	Maximum 48 months
Projects Regulations link:	http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamento.phtml.en

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Mrs. Maria Maia

Maria.Maia@fct.mctes.pt

+ 21 – 392 4397

Departamento das Relações Europeias, Bilaterais e Multilaterais

FCT- Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia

Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior

Av. D. Carlos I, 126 - 7º

1249-074 Lisboa

Fax: 21 - 395 72 84

www.fct.mctes.pt

National Regulations Morocco

Rubriques budgétaires pouvant faire objet de financement

Rubriques	Montant en DH TTC
<i>Dépenses du personnel</i>	-
Indemnités liées aux travaux de recherche et de prestation de service (les enseignants chercheurs ne peuvent percevoir des indemnités complémentaires)	-
Taxes postales et frais d'affranchissement	-
Taxes et redevances pour l'utilisation des lignes de réseaux spécifiques	-
Taxes et redevances de télécommunications	-
Matériel, Mobilier de bureau et fournitures	-
Achat de fournitures de bureau, de papeterie et d'imprimés	-
Achat de fournitures informatiques	-
Achat de matériels informatiques	-
Achat de matériels scientifiques	-
Achat de matériels et mobilier de bureau	-
Entretien et réparation	-
Entretien et réparation de matériels scientifiques et informatiques	-
Transport et Déplacement	-
Indemnités de déplacement à l'intérieur du Royaume	-
Indemnités Kilométriques	-
Frais de transport au Maroc et à l'étranger	-
Frais de transport des missionnaires et chercheurs étrangers	-
Frais de mission à l'étranger	-
Frais de séjour des missionnaires étrangers au Maroc	-
Autres Dépenses	-
Frais de documentation, d'impression et de publication	-
Achat de matières premières et de petit outillage.	-
Frais de réalisation de maquettes et de prototype	-
Frais de démonstration et de publicité	-
Frais d'étude, d'analyse et de sous-traitance	-
Frais de participation aux séminaires	-
Frais d'organisation de séminaires	-
Frais de dépôt et de gestion des brevets, de licence et/ou de droit auteur	-
Crédit non programmé (10%)	-
Total	-

NB :

- Les indemnités ainsi que les frais de déplacements et de missions ne pouvant dépasser 40% du budget alloué à la partie marocaine.
- Le déblocage du budget de l'année n+1 ne se fera qu'après validation du rapport annuel de l'année n.
- Pouvant bénéficier des financements : les universités, les écoles d'ingénieurs et les instituts de recherche marocaine.

Personne contact :

Mr Anas CHOKAIRI chokairi@enssup.gov.ma / chokairi_anas@yahoo.fr +212 05 37 21 76 53

Chef de service

Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Formation des Cadres et de la Recherche Scientifique



National Regulations Greece (NAGREF)

Eligibility

NAGREF is the funding body and the rules for eligibility and allocation of the financial contribution are given in the User's Manual (KANERE) and/or national legislation.

The body selected for financing will establish an agreement with NAGREF where both will fix the terms of the contract.

Funding

Eligible costs to be refunded are those indicated in the User's manual.

- 1) **Salaries** – Only for non-permanent scientific or technician staff.
- 2) **Travel and subsistence expenses**- For permanent and non permanent staff.
- 3) **Consumables**
- 4) **Equipments**
- 5) **External activity costs**
- 6) **Overheads**

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Mr. Jannis Rumbos johnrumbos@yahoo.gr Tel.: 24210-61087 mobile 6972691704
Mrs. Ioanna Spyropoulou legadv@nagref.gr Tel.: 210-8175406

National Agricultural Research Foundation (Nagref)
Egialias and Chalepa Street 19, Maroussi, Athens 15125,
GREECE

National Regulations Tunisia (IRESA)

Les conditions de l'Institution de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles pour le financement dans le cadre de l'A/O du projet ARIMNET

- 1- L'Institution de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles (IRESA) financera les activités qui seront réalisées par les équipes de recherche appartenant à un ou plusieurs établissements de recherche ou d'enseignement supérieur agricole relevant du Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Environnement.
- 2- La durée du projet ne doit pas dépasser 3 ans.
- 3- Le montant réservé à chaque participation à un projet est plafonné, en moyenne, à 40.000 DT par an.
Ce montant pourra être révisé en commun accord entre l'IRESA et le chef d'équipe.
- 4- Les rubriques budgétaires qui peuvent faire l'objet d'un financement par l'IRESA concernent exclusivement les dépenses de fonctionnement (exemples : main d'œuvre, réactifs, petit matériel, déplacements, ...).
Aucun financement pour l'achat d'équipements scientifiques, de moyens de déplacement, de mobilier et d'équipements informatiques n'est attribué dans le cadre de cet appel d'offres.
- 5- Le déblocage des budgets de la deuxième année et de la troisième année du projet ne sera effectué qu'après la validation du rapport annuel d'avancement.
- 6- A la fin du projet, un rapport final et une fiche de restitution de résultats (FRR) devront être préparés par le chef d'équipe.
- 7- Un atelier sera organisé par l'IRESA pour l'évaluation et la présentation des résultats des différents projets.

Personne à contacter en cas de besoin d'informations

M. Ben Rayana Aniss benrayana.aniss@iresa.agrinet.tn + 216 71798244

Institution de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles (IRESA)
30 rue Alain Savary.
1002 Tunis
TUNISIE

National Regulations Cyprus

1- Who can apply?

Agricultural Research Institutes recognised by the Cyprus Government.

2- **Project duration** : Maximum period 3 years

3- **Priority will be given to** joint projects submitted by Cypriot researchers.

4- **Budget allocations for the winning projects** will occur through the budget of the Agricultural Research Institute

5- Funding

Admitted costs

a- Salaries: Only for non-permanent scientific staff and non-permanent technicians hired for the project.

b- Consumables

c- Travel and subsistence costs

d- Indirect costs: Not exceeding 20 % of the direct costs (DC = a + b + c)

The funds will be transferred to the beneficiary in three annual payments.

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

Mrs Anthi Toumazou

atoumazou@moa.gov.cy

+ 357 22 408320

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment,
Loukis Akritas str. P.C. 1411, Nicosia
CYPRUS

National Regulations Israel

ARIMNet Partner:

The Chief Scientist Office, The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD), Israel.

MOARD intends to support the first Call for Proposals of the ARIMNet (Coordination of Agriculture Research in the Mediterranean area) – and encourages the Israeli scientists to apply for funding for collaborative research on subject included in the Call which are significant and in-line with the objectives of MOARD as published in "MOARD 2011-12 Chief Scientist Call for Proposals". MOARD has the ambition to stimulate synergy and international collaboration, on the basis of excellence in research, in objectives of mutual agricultural importance to Israel and other Mediterranean countries.

Eligibility and national funding modalities:

Applications to this call will be based/established/designed on Collaborative Research Projects as defined in ARIMNet Call Document. MOARD funding will be exclusively available for supporting the Israeli part of any successful transnational collaboration as research project grants, according to MOARD rules and criteria as published in "MARD 2011-12 Chief Scientist Call for Proposals", a summary of which appears in the last chapter. Participation of commercial companies / entities are encouraged; these companies / entities may participate under MOARD regulations and conditions but will not be eligible for grant reward from MOARD funds assigned for this call. MOARD financial support will be closely related to its funding activities and priorities within the "MOARD Chief Scientist National Fund"

Additional national regulations and guidelines:

Research themes, application and evaluation of research proposals will follow the procedure as defined in the ARIMNet Call Notice with annexes. Kindly note that **prior to submission** of the proposal for evaluation by the ARIMNet, **approval of the Israeli part of the proposal should be made by the chief Scientist of MOARD**, according to MOARD objectives and regulations. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Call Coordinator (NCC) before starting to prepare proposals for application.

MOARD terms and conditions are specific for Israeli applicants within the ARIMNet Collaborative Research consortia and are specified in this National Annex and in the "MOARD Chief Scientist Call for Proposals for 2011-12" which may be downloaded from our website: www.science.moag.gov.il. Final approval of the funds will be made by MOARD Chief Scientist's board. MOARD grant holders shall follow the MOARD application, reporting and IPR and general rules of funding procedures. According to MOARD general policy, applicants must be aware that all information, resources and results obtained from MOARD projects are made publicly available within a reasonable period of time without being in conflict with other obligations of the project leader in this and other projects.

MOARD regulations for financial contribution to research projects

The contribution amount for national participants of the selected projects will be as follows:

- Governmental and other public Institutions and private no profit bodies can be financed for the total amount of the approved eligible project costs;
- SMEs and organizations with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own resources or by other external sources.

Distribution of annual payments:

First year:

- 1) 50% of the approved costs immediately following the full approval by all partners of a signed contract between MOARD and the beneficiary organization, and receiving a declaration of initiation of the project by the project leader;
- 2) 50% of the approved costs once the annual scientific and financial reports has been obtained and approved.

The following years:

- 1) 50% of the approved costs immediately following receiving a declaration of initiation of the project by the project leader;
- 2) 50% of the approved costs once the annual or final scientific and financial reports have been obtained and approved.

Eligible costs to be refunded.

A) Personnel

1) Salaries – Only for non-permanent scientific staff (including foreign visiting scientists, post docs, PhD students, fellowships and grants). Technical administrative staff can be included in the coordination

2) Travel expenses- for permanent and non permanent staff.

B) Consumables

C) External activity costs – expenditures for activity carried out externally (Consultancy services, agreements, maintenance, repairs, material transportation when needed for the project implementation).

D) Equipment – Only essential scientific equipment purchased specifically for the project will be reimbursed.

E) Overhead – no more than 15% of the approved grant.



For all further information please refer to the national call coordination (NCC):

Dr. Orit Shmueli

orits@moag.gov.il

+972-3-9485430

The Chief Scientist Office

Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development

P.O.B 30, Bet Dagan, Israel 50250

Fax: +972-3-9697193



Annex 3

Scientific Scope of the Call

Context

The countries of the Mediterranean basin face a number of similar problems in relation to agriculture, mainly as regards the use and management of natural resources, such as soil and water, crop protection and threats to the security and sustainability of agricultural production resulting from climate change.

To this respect, Mediterranean basin concentrates almost all the key global challenges agriculture is facing in the world, and thus should concentrate intense research efforts. But for the moment, that is not the case. Issues are too often looked separately each side of the Mediterranean Sea. There is a great need to enhance research effort through multilateral cooperation both to strengthen the economies of the Mediterranean countries and to help to find solutions to global challenges. This has been underlined in several global forum and reports during last years like IAASTD Report on CWANA region (2008), AARINENA e-consultation for the GCARD (2010), CIHEAM Report on the Future of agriculture and food in Mediterranean countries (2008) and the PARME analysis of foresights concerning the Mediterranean area (2010, presented in Palma October 2010). All these documents are a sound and strong basis for designing the call.

The first characteristic of the Mediterranean area is that its natural environment is characterized by a high level of vulnerability. And today, its sensitive ecosystems are threatened by pressures of various kinds. The Mediterranean region is considered one of the regions of the world most threatened by climate change which could worsen stresses that are already high: drought, extreme climatic events frequency, crop and animal endemic and emerging diseases.

Secondly, the Mediterranean region is one of the hotspots of the global biodiversity, with a remarkable richness in cultivated and wild species characterising this area. This diversity is clearly an asset for the region that could be valued through specific agricultural and food products and that could be used to face new challenges such as climate change adaptation. It also has to be preserved as a common heritage.

Thirdly, water is a scarce resource in most of the Mediterranean countries and its availability decreases. In several countries water use is reaching the level of available resources. Besides, overexploitation of ground water raises several other environmental problems such as soil salinity. In the future, agriculture will be more and more seriously in competition with other users, which implies to find solutions for limiting losses and ensuring more efficient use of the water resource.

A better management of natural resources is thus a condition to maintain the sustainability of agriculture. Agriculture has a significant role to play in producing environmental services for the entire society. However, simultaneously, developing agricultural production is a priority for most countries in the Mediterranean region.

Agriculture is already contributing significantly to the economy in particular in the south and eastern Mediterranean countries, where agriculture accounts for 10 to 15% of the GDP (against 2 to 3% in the Mediterranean EU member states) and where people working in agriculture is around 20 % of total employment. In the south and eastern Mediterranean countries rural population is showing no decline in absolute term, and is highly dependent on agriculture, due to the lack of employment in other sectors. Consequently, the development of agriculture in Mediterranean countries cannot



follow the same historical path of European agriculture modernization based on a strong decrease of rural population.

Productivity growth in agriculture has been high during the past (often higher in south Mediterranean countries than in EU member countries) but remains globally insufficient to respond to the increase in food demand associated with the high population growth rate. Several Mediterranean countries are large importers of agricultural and food products, with a declining food trade balance. South Mediterranean countries are importing on international markets basic commodities (cereals, meat, vegetable oils), however they are also exporters of products for which they have a comparative advantage: fruits, vegetables and olive oil.

In this context, Mediterranean agriculture should find specific paths to develop simultaneously a sustainable agriculture for producing basic food commodities and to take advantage of its specific assets for more specific products that can generate income all over the supply chains. This development should necessarily be implemented with a high level of attention towards resources management and environmental impacts of land uses.

The present call is part of the ERANET- ARIMNet project that involves 12 partner countries from north, east and south of the Mediterranean, and whose purpose is to strengthen multilateral cooperation in Agricultural Research.

Under this call, we will support projects that will add to the existing programs by addressing the Mediterranean agriculture issues in a collaborative way between Mediterranean countries research teams and through innovative approaches. Different topics and issues can be addressed in the research proposals, compatible with the fields identified by stake holders, through mobilizing a large set of disciplines going from genetic to social sciences and combining/integrating them.

Therefore, the call is mainly defined by impacts and targets as challenge facing Mediterranean basin. Projects should contribute to build sustainable research cooperation dynamics and if possible initiate or strengthen joint structures. Proposals should necessarily include teams from at least three countries of ARIMNet (including at least one from the EU and one from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries)

Scope of the call

Research proposal should address scientific issues that could help to meet the challenges faced by Mediterranean agriculture. Those challenges are defined in the three following topics and subtopics. Answers could be more focused on some specific points or address transversal issues. Integrated and multidisciplinary approaches would be appreciated as they are generally needed to address complex issues.

1. Production systems and their components: Developing sustainable agricultural production in a context of increasing ecological and climatic stresses

Facing climatic change and pressure in water availability, protecting the natural resources and the environment will need an evolution of the current agricultural production practices. This requires researches on several issues that concern different aspects of agricultural production.

a) Resilience, rusticity and flexibility of production systems

A large proportion of Mediterranean rural population lives in arid, semi-arid or mountainous areas. In these areas, climatic conditions, in particular climate variability, lead to the development of production systems that require the attenuation and mitigation of risk. Rusticity and flexibility of the



different components and the whole is a major factor of resilience of the systems and this is required to improve their competitiveness and sustainability. Therefore, research is needed to improve simultaneously the productivity of agricultural system and their sustainability and resilience. Several issues have to be addressed in this perspective: genetic breeding of varieties resistant to drought and to climate hazards, use of local species biodiversity, development of new farming systems combining different activities and species to use their different sensitivities to hazards, diversification of cropping systems using local crop species, etc.

b) Improving economic and environmental efficiency of production systems

Researches that use ecological sciences to improve the efficiency of agricultural systems, such as agro-ecology could certainly be applied in different locations inside the Mediterranean area. Projects that would associate researchers from ecological, agronomic and social sciences to deal with those issues would be appreciated.

c) Integrated approaches to reduce animal and plant diseases

The development of endemic or emerging animal diseases is a major problem for both the productivity of livestock and human health. It must be addressed taking into account different levels of integration: from the ecology and biology of pathogens and vectors, to the issues of sanitary monitoring, health control and economics both at the farm and regional level. The parallel can be made for crop pathology.

d) Sustainable development of rangeland and pastoral farming

Rangeland farming raises specific questions related to their relationship to pastoral landscapes and the natural vegetation they use. The situation is contrasted between the north and the south, with on one side, problems of agricultural decline, under-exploitation of resources resulting in specific environmental problems (fires, landscape degradation) and on the other side of the Mediterranean, overgrazing resulting in biodiversity loss and risks of desertification. But beyond this difference, similar questions are raised dealing with the sustainability of the grazing activities that should guarantee the integrity of pastoral landscape and the protection of biodiversity.

e) Water saving techniques, chemical inputs use reduction, soil protection

Irrigation induced in many areas of the Mediterranean region a significant increase in agricultural production. However problems associated with overuse of water have emerged that threaten the water resources in terms of quantity. Intensive use of chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) has also generated water quality and other environmental problems. Several research issues should be considered in order to improve the sustainability of those production systems: water saving techniques, on-farm improved efficiency of input uses, integrated pest management. Erosion and loss of soil fertility are major problems in the Mediterranean area. This should be addressed through different approaches and by collaborative research between different disciplines.

f) Public policies

On all the above mentioned subjects, public policies are largely concerned. And there is a real need of research in economics and other social sciences to help decision makers in designing the policies that could better deal with the new context and challenges. Agricultural policies entered last years in a deep reform period: that is clearly the case for the EU Common Agricultural Policy, but that is also true in other Mediterranean countries. Stabilizing farmers' income and protecting consumers against price volatility, improving the link between agriculture activities and the environment are questions that need innovation in public policies and research is needed in this field.

2- Food chain from production to distribution: Enhancing the advantages of Mediterranean agriculture in developing products with high added value



Several products benefiting from specific Mediterranean natural advantages and know-how are already competitive and provide high added value to farmers and other actors in the supply chains (fruit, vegetables, olive oil...) They already benefit from a domestic and international demand for products entering in the Mediterranean diet. However researches are needed to enhance their development in a way that they can really contribute to the economic development of rural areas. Research topics can concern different stages of the food chain: production, food processing, transport, marketing and policies.

a) Production and processing technologies

The technological aspects of production and transformation are important issues and are closely related to market and food chain organisation and to industrial strategies. In particular, it is necessary to develop new processing technologies for better valorise the local typical products. The utilisation of the Mediterranean biodiversity, the traditional knowledge and culinary heritage could help to develop territories and regions as typical products can benefit from “niche” markets. There is a need to pull them into “formal/organised” sector, by applying modern technologies and standards respectful of their typicality. Researches on these issues are expected on different fields, and different disciplines from genetics to technological sciences, social and management sciences.

b) Marketing, supply chain organization, transportation

Logistics is the core of efficient food chain governance. Organisation of marketing channels, supply chain management for a better and smoother flow of goods to processing plants and organised large food retailers on domestic and international markets. Improving transportation and supply chain organisation is of major importance to link agricultural producers to urban markets. This must be addressed through researches aimed to lead to organisational or industrial innovations.

c) Food safety

A better control of the quality all along the food chain is an important issue for food safety. In this regard, market regulation by public authorities is necessary, but recognizing the fact that food quality is a consequence of the organization of the whole supply chain, with critical points that could be located anywhere from the production to the retail level. In urban areas, where food supply is ensured through important amounts of products generally coming from agro-industrial systems, problems are often related to technologies that have to be suitable for treating large quantities (i.e. cold chain). Food safety in rural areas may be less important due to the proximity between producers and consumers, and to the smaller scale of the firms (producers, plants ...). Improving the articulation between the domestic production of small or medium enterprises and the food demand of urban population raises specific questions of how to ensure food safety. Researchers from food technology sciences and from social sciences are invited to address those issues in the production, transformation, storage, transportation and marketing fields.

d) Quality standards, labeling, geographical indications

Regarding export markets, complying with public and private quality standards is an important issue, as well as the trade liberalisation negotiations. These standards are required by the consumers of South European countries and their extension is expected in the domestic markets of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries as well. On this aspect research is needed on various issues that could highlight issues such as quality certification, geographical indications and labelling.

e) Reducing post harvest losses

Increasing the efficiency all along the food chain includes also reducing post-harvest losses. These remain very high in many Mediterranean countries. In some cases, they may represent up to 30-40%. Reducing these losses can contribute significantly to improve food security. Research is needed to understand the mechanisms and to find solutions to reduce losses all along the chain, from production to storage, transportation and commercialisation.



f) Incentives for innovation: private and public investments

Good functioning of food chains relies highly on physical infrastructure (road construction, linkages to villages, airports, better organization of communication tools) but also on a good management of the whole chain by a better organization of information systems and administration (public authorities) as to better the linkages between different public authorities. These improvements need public investments and will help to appeal for private investments and arrival of foreign capital. Technological progress call for product and process innovation while marketing and supply chain management as well as economic efficiency of enterprises call for organizational innovations.

3- Landscape and resource uses for agricultural and environmental purposes: Sustainable management of land and natural resources

Conservation of water resources and soil fertility, protection of biodiversity are major challenges in the Mediterranean area. Risks of degradation are high, in relation with unsustainable agricultural techniques, increase of inputs use, climate change. They have to be address at the farm level (topic 1), but also at larger scale. Some issues need to be tackled at the river basin level, some others on larger areas, even in some cases (e.g. water management) on international level. They need integrated approaches combining different disciplines.

a) Spatial aspects of the agricultural use of natural resources,

The spatial organization of agriculture, forest and pastoral areas, whether they are private, public or common resources have a strong influence in terms of soil quality, water resources and biodiversity. The current dynamics in land uses produce new spatial patterns and new relationships between urbanized areas, agricultural areas, hybrid spaces between city and countryside, intensive and extensive agricultural zones, pastoral areas and uncultivated zone (forest, wetland). This has to be analyzed in a perspective of landscape and land uses regulation, including their effect on climate change mitigation.

b) Agro-ecosystems and landscape mosaics

The issue of the spatial organization of production systems and its relationships with other land uses is one of the specific issues of the general issue on spatial dynamics of agriculture. The diversity of production systems – and their eventual complementarities- impact the processes behind soil quality, water resources and biodiversity at several relevant organization levels: from few farms territories to watershed, mountain slopes, catchment areas. The diversity of production systems valorises the diversity of soils, slopes, wet areas but can also play a non negligible role in water circulation, fauna and flora dissemination or soil distribution. This leads to analyze the role of the spatial organization of land and field patterns, closeness and neighborhood relationships, the eventual role played by network of hedges, woods... on the natural resources and the environment. It is needed to understand and define the means to improve ecological regulations through spatial organization of farming systems.

c) Periurban and urban agriculture

Development of periurban and urban agriculture raises specific issues of environmental and resources management and of marketing channels organisation. These types of agricultural systems represent in some countries significant sources of income for poor household, but can generate both health problems and pollution as well as positive contributions to the urban environment or resource management (use of waste water, environmental amenities). Thus, peri-urban and urban agriculture needs to be studied from those different points of view.

d) Relationship between coastal areas and hinterland



The increase of the population living in coastal areas is a major change in the Mediterranean area. Seasonal and permanent inhabitants living in coastal cities increased as a consequence of population growth and/or tourism development. It implies a concentration of population in the cities and an urban sprawl along the coasts. Urbanisation competes with agriculture for land that is often the most fertile or easier to irrigate. It can also result in an increase in flood risk. On the other hand, the increase in population in the cities raises food security problems and asks for development of trade flows between agricultural areas of the hinterland and urban areas. Consequences of those population dynamic changes on agriculture should be better analysed in order to find ways to manage this development and the relationship between coastal areas and hinterlands

e) Land property and land structures

There is evidence that land property rights regimes and land tenure structures play a central role in the use and management of natural resources. In the Mediterranean area land tenure structures often constitute a barrier to both sustainable use of resources and to agricultural development. The situation is often contrasted between landowners that may not cultivate their land and farmers with very limited access to land. In this respect, it is important to consider the paths to reform not necessarily the propriety of land, but the access, the tenure rights in a way that it can allow a sustainable use of resources. It is thus necessary to answer the following questions: What are the current situations and the dynamics in terms of agricultural land market access, land property regimes, land tenure structures? What are the effects of the current land status on the agricultural development, on the ecological characteristics of landscape, on the dynamics of farming systems? How the land structures (in terms of property, market, uses) do affect agricultural development from economic, social and environmental points of view?

f) Agricultural, environmental and rural development policies

Public policies have a major role to play to regulate the impact of agriculture on the environment and to help to the development of rural areas. Implementing new production systems, ensuring spatial organization of land and field patterns that could improve the resource management, developing environmental services produced by agriculture will require specific policy instruments. New fields of research on public policies are open that will have to address the following issues: spatial organisation of land uses, sharing of resources between users, long term management of resources compatible with the development of rural areas.

