



DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL Agri-Med RESEARCH SYSTEM

(Programmes and capacity)



TUNISIA

Funding scheme

Funding Organizations	Funding area*	Budget € year 2008
■ IRESA (Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries (MARHP))	All agricultural fields (federative projects)	1.000.000 4.000.000*
■ M.H.E.S.R (ministry of higher education and scientific research)	Laboratories and units of research	1.800.000
■ IRESA + GIP (inter professional groups) + CT (technical centers)	R&D projects	1.200.000
■ CRDA (Regional commissariat for Developing Agriculture)	R&D integrated projects	1.000.000
TOTAL		5.000.000

*refers to 2009 when a lot of new federative projects were started.

Research capacity

Research Institutions considered in the report	Agri-med area annual budget (full cost in €)	Human resources in Agri-med area (total N. scientists)
■ 6 Research Institutions	2.500.000	1550
■ 4 Regional Research Centers	500.000	110
■ 10 Educational Higher Schools	2.000.000	1390
TOTAL	5.000.000	3050



The agri-Med research structure in the country

The Institution for Research and Higher Education in Agriculture (IRESA) was established in 1990. It is an institution under the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries (MARHP).

IRESA oversees about 90 % of the agricultural research programmes/activities undertaken in Tunisia.

IRESA administers 6 research institutes, 4 regional research centers, 2 regional branches and 11 higher-education institutions. The higher education institutes are under the dual umbrella of MARHP and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS).

Researchers (280) and scientists (380) are grouped in research laboratories and research units; 28 laboratories and 20 research units operate under IRESA.

National agricultural priorities are determined in a decennial plan (1999-2008), adopted by the government. The first decennial plan was approved by the government in March 1998 and has been implemented since 1999. Ten research domains have been identified.

For the first decennial strategy, 42 federative projects were selected (150 actions) and financed by IRESA (MARHP).

MESRS allocates an annual budget to research laboratories and units based on an annual evaluation (scientific production...).

In 2009, new federative projects were adopted in the fields of cereals, plant protection, horticulture and water management with an annual budget of respectively 1.5 M €; 0.1 M € and 0,5 M €.

An important program on quality of agricultural products started at the end of the first decennial strategy (14 projects were identified with this program).

A new laboratory on organic agriculture will be created before the end of 2010 with an annual financial budget of 0.1 M €.

Priorities

13 research domains have been identified as priority in the decennial plan:

- Cereals, legumes, forages
- Natural resources and Climate change
- Animal husbandry and animal feeding
- Tree crop productions
- Horticultural productions
- Aridology and oasis agriculture
- Agricultural mechanization
- Fishing and fish farming
- Animal health



- Organic agriculture
- Plant protection and Post harvest
- Quality of agricultural products
- Socio economy aspects and agricultural policies

Main research thematic area/programmes

The main research programmes refer to the priorities of the decennial plan (see above), an updating of which was done in June 2010.

New calls will be launched at the end of 2010 and at the beginning of 2011 to determine federative projects under those domains.

Future perspectives in the Agri-Med research

Enhancing cooperation in many fields such as:

- Managing natural resources (water, land, forests,..)
- Climate change and new diseases (animal and plants)
- Abiotic stress in plants

The research priorities in agriculture are fixed in 13 fields. IRESA is open to collaborate in all these fields.

Contact Points for information

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