



Coordination of the Agricultural Research In the Mediterranean Area

## **D1.3 COUNTRY REPORT**

Overview on the research system and research programmes  
on Mediterranean agriculture

**CYPRUS**

**ARI**

*Country Focal Point: Geoges ADAMIDES*

**2010**



**ARIMNET ERANET Coordination Action**

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### BACKGROUND.

The Agricultural Research Institute as the representative Organization in the ARIMNet project has conducted a survey in Cyprus using the proposed questionnaire for mapping and information exchange in order to collect data for the agricultural research and its funding scheme from related stakeholders.

In this context, the questionnaire was delivered to three funding/managing organizations in Cyprus. These organizations were: (a) the Agricultural Research Institute, (b) the Research Promotion Foundation, and (c) the Cyprus University of Technology.

The main objective was to provide a systematic overview of the programmes and to map the research backgrounds in Cyprus. The survey was conducted between June – October, 2009. A total of 31 questionnaires were received and data was entered in the online database of the ARIMNet project website.

Following the data was analyzed using a statistical tool that was developed to exploit and aggregate the results in order to prepare this national report.

### GENERAL ORGANIZATION.

The research policy in Cyprus is drafted by the Planning Bureau. The Planning Bureau is an independent organisation headed by a Director General and it is the National Authority for the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in Cyprus and the Single Managing Authority for the Operational Programmes co-funded by the EU, within the framework of the Cohesion Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy for the period 2007-2013, as well as for the respective Programmes of the period 2004-2006. This is the top political body responsible for setting out the research agenda, at least in financial terms.

The research policy is implemented through the Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) which is assigned the task of designing research programmes and approving research projects that are qualified as appropriate. The CRPF organizes periodically funding rounds targeted in specific thematic areas. This is the operational arm of the Government in terms of funding allocation for R&D.

For the purposes of the ARIMNet project data was collected from three institutions engaged in direct and indirect funding of agricultural research. These institutions are the following: 1) the Agricultural Research Institute, 2) the Research Promotion Foundation, and 3) the Cyprus University of Technology.

#### 1) Agricultural Research Institute

The Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) was established in 1962 as a cooperative project between the Government of Cyprus and the United Nations Development Fund, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations acting as the executive agency. It was entrusted to



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the Government of Cyprus in 1967 as one of the Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment.

The Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) conducts applied and basic research, with the objective to increase yield and improve quality of agricultural production by methods that are environmentally and socially acceptable. The Institute is organized into two divisions. The production division includes the disciplines of crop breeding and genetics, fruit tree and vegetables production, viticulture, floriculture, animal production, biotechnology and tissue culture. The support division provides services and scientific support to the production division. Among its disciplines are plant protection (entomology, plant pathology, nematology and weed science), insect toxicology and pesticide residues, soil fertility, plant nutrition, irrigation, environmental impact, experimental statistics and agricultural economics. The ARI website <http://www.ari.gov.cy/> offers an overview of these activities.

The Institute is engaged in basic and theoretical agricultural research. Its main activities include research in new crop varieties, trials for adaptation of imported varieties to the local environment. It is also involved in research on integrated organic agriculture, entomology, plant pathology, nematology, weed control, insect toxicology, soil fertility, plant nutrition and water requirements. As the scientists employed by this institute are all highly qualified and experienced, it is ideally capable in acting as a research policy advisor on agricultural topics and in fact it is advising the Government and the agricultural community on related issues.

### 2) Research Promotion Foundation

The Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) was founded in 1996 and was established as the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, to promote the development of scientific and technological research in Cyprus due to the fundamental importance of research in contemporary societies.

RPF is the main research funding agency in Cyprus. The Foundation has developed several funding programs aiming at implementing high level research in several thematic areas, developing new products and services for the benefit of Cypriot enterprises, promoting the upgrading of the research infrastructure, developing research collaborations and utilising the human research potential of Cyprus.

The mission of the Foundation is the promotion and development of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. The upgrading of research activities in Cyprus is targeted by the Foundation through a wide range of initiatives, such as the development of funding programs for financing of research projects in Cyprus, the promotion of networking between the Cyprus and the international research communities and the development of high level research infrastructure in Cyprus.

The Foundation has developed a wide range of activities throughout its fourteen-years presence in the research area of Cyprus. These fall into two main categories: (a) Financing Research Projects through the Development and Monitoring of Competitive Programmes and (b) Managing European Research and Innovation Projects and Promotion of International Cooperation in Research and Innovation.

The first category aims primarily at enhancing research, technological development and innovation activities in Cyprus and moreover at increasing the critical mass of researchers and research projects undertaken in Cyprus. The main instruments for achieving these goals involve



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competitive programmes developed and monitored by RPF and the related funds come from the Cyprus government budget and, as from 2007, also from the Structural Funds of the European Union.

The second category encompasses the development of several activities to facilitate the creation of networks between Cypriot and foreign scientists. Most of these activities relate to the involvement of Cypriot scientists in European research and innovation programmes, the cooperation with international organisations supporting research and innovation activities and the preparation and implementation of bilateral agreements between Cyprus and other countries in the field of research and technological development.

### 3) The Cyprus University of Technology

The Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) aims to offer education and high level research in branches of science and technology which have high impact on the economic, technical, and scientific sectors. With its orientation towards applied research, the University aspires to establish for itself a role in support of the state and society in their efforts to confront problems, which cover all areas of science and technology. The programmes of the CUT to a large extent complement scientific areas, which are not currently covered at Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels by the University of Cyprus or any other institution of higher education in the country.

The Cyprus University of Technology aims at transferring knowledge (education) and producing new knowledge through basic and applied research. Strengthening of the research management support and infrastructure, with the aim of securing externally funded projects, is another major objective of the University. In addition, CUT was established having as its primary aim the development of international cooperation with academic and scientific institutions.

The Cyprus University of Technology is currently administered by a Governing Board, which is responsible for policy formulation, management and financial issues, as well as the CUT's property. The Governing Board acts as a Senate, which is the University's highest academic body. The Faculties and Departments are governed by advisory boards. The permanent governing bodies of the University will be formulated when the University is declared autonomous as foreseen by the relevant Law.

The Cyprus University of Technology structure includes five Schools:

1. Geotechnical School Science and Environmental Management
  - (a) Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology and Food Science  
Science and Technology of Crop Production  
Science and Technology of Animal Production  
Food Science and Technology
  - (b) Department of Environmental Management
2. School Of Management And Economy
3. School Of Health Sciences
4. School Of Applied Arts And Communication
5. Faculty Of Engineering And Technology

The University research activities are realised through funding secured from the following two major sources: (a) from the University's state funded budget, and (b) from different organizations,



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entities or private sources at national, European and international level who award, with or without a competition, specific research projects to research groups and/or individual members of the Academic and Teaching Staff.

### **MAPPING OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES.**

#### **Programme thematic areas**

Out of the three Organizations surveyed, only the Agricultural Research Institute provided information regarding its research programmes. The Research Promotion Foundation does not run any research programmes; it only funds research. The Cyprus University of Technology did not provide information about its research programmes, yet.

The main thematic areas at ARI, include the following: Renewable energies, Biofuels, Composting, Agricultural waste, Cut flowers / soilless culture substrates (strelitzia and endemic species of the Cyprus flora), Hydroponics, Postharvest technology, Soil fertility, Organic agriculture (inputs, agricultural systems, rotation, fallow, sustainable agriculture), Vegetable and Tree products, Viticulture, Animal Production, Plant Protection, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Biotechnology etc.

The Owner of the above programmes is the Agricultural Research Institute of Cyprus. The financing comes from the state budget, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (MANRE), and the Research Promotion Foundation. The funding of the programmes and the projects is managed by the ARI.

The approval of the programmes comes mainly from Scientific Panels and /or National Committees. In some cases the MANRE sets priorities for certain agricultural problems in order to be solved by research programmes.

### **MAPPING OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.**

The role of the Agricultural Research Institute is to conduct applied and basic research in agriculture including plant and animal production. To this end, it manages and funds agricultural research activities via national programmes. Cooperation includes public, national, international, bilateral, multilateral, participation to calls on specific thematic areas under the guidelines of the MANRE, voluntary submission to funding bodies and other cooperative activities. Apart from basic and applied research, the ARI is involved in adaptive research, conducts demonstration plans and training of farmers, students and other stakeholders, as well as disseminates the know-how and technology outcomes.

The main research results are presented to the wider public and private stakeholders including farmers and farmers' associations, extension departments of the MANRE, local authorities etc. The ARI also provides technical and consultant assistance to various bodies including policymakers at the MANRE, the Parliament and elsewhere.

The dissemination activities include mass media programmes (TV, RADIO, local magazines and newspapers), international journals, workshop, seminars, participation in national, regional and international conferences, newsletter and information through its website.



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### **MAPPING OF RESEARCH FACILITIES.**

The Agricultural Research Institute has laboratories which are fully equipped with innovative and modern equipment, five plant and one animal Experimental Stations scattered around Cyprus, and a library which can provide scientific information to its visitors (books, encyclopaedias, periodicals, journals, and electronic information databases). These facilities can be accessible under the authorization of the administration of the Institute.

### **MAPPING OF TRAINING SCHEMES: description of thematic area, organization, access**

In collaboration with the Extension Services of the Department of Agriculture (MANRE) the ARI is involved in various training courses that are addressed to farmers, students (MSc, PhD) and other stakeholders.



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