

Regional Innovation Platforms «Feed Resources»



The project "Provision of Proven Feed Resource Technologies to Improve the Red Meat Value Chain in Tunisia" has set up regional innovation platforms for the dissemination and exchange of these technologies in order to ensure a more efficient "Red meat value chain"

Why two regional innovation platforms

«Feed Resources»?

The project works in two Tunisian agro-ecological zones. A favorable zone with cereal-livestock based production systems covering the governorates of Kef, Jendouba and Beja and a less favorable zone with agro-pastoral systems including the governorates of Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid and Kasserine. Each zone has its own innovation platform because the challenges related to feed resources are different. The favorable region of the Northwest is more concerned with forage production and silage technology in particular, while the less favorable zone of the Center-West is concerned with constraints related to feed deficit (feed blocks, cactus, and by-products).

Benefits:

- Innovation Platforms (IPs) play an important role in identifying, improving and disseminating technical innovations.
- IPs focus on the problems of the involved stakeholders; seize opportunities by stimulating the interaction between all stakeholders involved in the value-chain.
- IPs initiate a systemic and dynamic learning process

What is an Innovation Platform?

By its nature, an innovation platform is open, dynamic and flexible. The innovation platform is a group of actors who come together to share their experiences, knowledge, skills, resources and ideas in order to solve problems and seize opportunities of common interest.

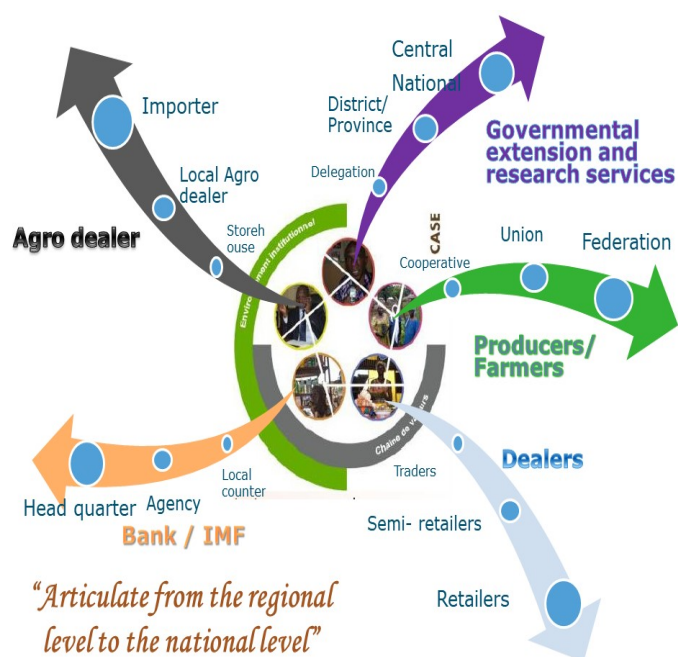
The Charter of Regional Innovation Platforms

The two regional IPs named NWFRIP and CWRIP (North-west / Central-west Feed Resources Innovation Platform) have charters developed in a participatory manner with the partners of the IPs. The charter regulates the issues related to the mandate, the functioning, the partnership, the objectives and the steering committee of the platforms.



The project targets two agro-ecological zones of Tunisia

Innovation platforms actors



Schematic representation of actors and interactions within an innovation platform (SMSA/Mutual Company of Agricultural Services, GDA/ Agricultural Development Group, MFI/Microfinance Institutions, UTAP/Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries, UTICA/Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts, OEP/ Office for Livestock and Pasture, AVFA/Agricultural Extension and Training Agency)

Facilitation of innovation platforms

Good facilitation of IP meetings is essential to the success of IPs. Developing a relevant agenda with adequate timing, identifying and inviting stakeholders, motivating and encouraging partners to actively participate in meetings, and to prepare report of these meetings are crucial points. Facilitation of the two innovation platforms is carried out by the regional representatives of the OEP.

Innovation platforms involve direct and indirect stakeholders in value chains (VCs). A "value chain" in agriculture refers to all actors and activities that move a commodity from the stage of production at the fields to its final consumption; Processes in which each stage sees value added to the product. The diagram shows in the circle the actors of a local cluster such as farmers and their organizations (SMSA, GDA), MFIs, traders, agro-food factories and support organizations such as OEP and AFVA. Their collaboration at the local and regional level is essential for developing competitive value chains. These actors are represented in IP meetings to bring topics from a local to a regional or national level. The representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Research, the National Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) and the private sector (UTICA) are present, allowing a direct exchange between actors at the different levels (Micro, Meso and Macro). This multi-actor platform can influence the institutional environment with its laws and regulations to improve business conditions.

Testimony of Amna Werghi, North-West IP Facilitator

"My name is Amna Werghi, I'm an agronomist and I work at the regional office of OEP in Kef. I participated in the training on innovation platforms organized by ICARDA. Now I am the facilitator of the "IP Northwest Feed Resources". We bring together several stakeholders from the private and public sectors. During the last meeting, I invited three banks representatives to explain processes and conditions to have access to credits for livestock farmers and entrepreneurs for feed blocks making. The concept of IP is new to me and to OEP. But we must learn that the private and public sectors must work together to develop the Agricultural Value Chains"

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About ICARDA

Established in 1977, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is one of 15 centers supported by the CGIAR. ICARDA's mission is to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of the resource-poor in dry areas by enhancing food security and alleviating poverty through research and partnerships to achieve sustainable increases in agricultural productivity and income, while ensuring the efficient and more equitable use and conservation of natural resources.