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Inventory of agroecology-related initiatives in Tunisia (1999–2022)

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This working paper presents the results of an inventory of agroecology-related initiatives implemented in Tunisia since 1999. A total of 26 different initiatives were analyzed through a rapid review of grey literature, scientific papers as well as electronic resources found on project/organization websites. The review highlights a fairly significant diversification of the agroecology-related intervention strategies over time – from early initiatives exclusively focused on research-and-development, demonstration and technical support, to sensitization and capacity building approaches after the mid-2000s, and initiatives centered on value chains, multi-stakeholder platforms and credit/financial facilities after the mid-2010s. It also shows that the agroecology principles the most addressed by the different initiatives are ‘co-creation of knowledge’, ‘synergy’, ‘biodiversity’ and ‘soil health’ while the less frequently addressed are ‘animal health’, ‘social values and diets’, ‘fairness’ and ‘connectivity’.

The CGIAR initiative Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land and Water Systems develops and scales agroecological innovations with small-scale farmers and other food system actors in seven low- and middle-income countries. It is one of 32 initiatives of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.

www.cgiar.org/initiative/31-transformational-agroecology-across-food-land-and-water-systems/

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Overview of the knowledge base

This inventory covers a total of 26 agroecology-related initiatives that have been active over a period of 20+ years, from 1999 to the present days. In order to characterize these initiatives, we conducted a review of grey literature (i.e. project documents and evaluation reports), published scientific papers as well as electronic resources found on project/organization websites. A total of 31 different information sources were mobilized (cf. Annex 1 & 2).

Inventory results

Out of the 26 initiatives covered, only 5 initiatives actually make clear, specific mention of agroecology as key domain for intervention. In the other initiatives reviewed, various AE related concepts are addressed such as (by order of prevalence) conservation agriculture (6), sustainable agricultural and agri-food systems (5), agroforestry (2), agricultural innovation systems (2), adaptation to climate change (2), organic agriculture (1), permaculture (1), landscape management (1) and sustainable value chains (1).

Most initiatives identified (73% of initiatives) are constituted by projects or programs implemented by regional or national agencies (agricultural services predominantly) with foreign financial and technical assistance. A smaller number of initiatives have emerged from the civil society, piloted by non-governmental organisations (23%), while only one initiative was identified as a grassroots or community-based enterprise (i.e. the EcoHazoua project).

The bibliographic material available does not allow identifying very precisely the location of interventions. However, 54% of the initiatives have been targeting the governorate of Siliana and 35% have been targeting the governorate of Kef where the ALL will be implemented.

The AE principles the most addressed by the different initiatives are co-creation of knowledge (88% of initiatives), synergy (81%), biodiversity (77%) and soil health (73%). The less frequently addressed are animal health (31% of initiatives), social values and diets (38%), fairness (38%) and connectivity (38%). Overall, 50% of the initiatives address at least 7 different AE principles, one of these standing out as addressing up to 11 principles.

The main activities implemented to address AE principles can be grouped into five broad categories:

1. **Innovations for farmers**, including the implementation of research-and-development and demonstration activities, the provision of equipment, technical advice and support to farmers, etc.
2. **Sensitization and capacity building**, including communication and advocacy campaigns at local and/or national levels, development and dissemination of training material, organization of training courses, etc.
3. **Value chains development and strengthening**, including dialogue facilitation between value chain actors (producers, buyers, service providers, consumers...), coaching services for production, processing, packaging and marketing projects, establishment of public-private partnerships, etc.

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4. **Multi-stakeholders platforms**, including the establishment of collaborative networks for public dialogue, information exchange and knowledge co-production, facilitation of participatory activities (diagnosis, planning and monitoring-and-evaluation), etc.
5. **Financial support and services**, including the setting up of credit and funding facilities for private sector actors and producer organizations, etc.

Table 1. Overview of AE initiatives in Tunisia, 1999-2022

		Frequency
Key focus of initiatives	With mention of agroecology	19%
	With mention of conservation agriculture	23%
	With mention of sustainable agricultural/agri-food systems	15%
Initiative type	Project/Program	73%
	Community based/grass roots initiatives	4%
	Collective action	0%
	Social movement	23%
Implemented in ALL target sites	Siliana	54%
	Kef	35%
	N/A	11%
AE principle addressed	Recycling	62%
	Input reduction	46%
	Soil health	73%
	Animal health	31%
	Biodiversity	77%
	Synergy	81%
	Economic diversification	58%
	Co-creation of knowledge	88%
	Social values and diets	38%
	Fairness	38%
	Connectivity	38%
	Land and nature resource governance	62%
	Participation	46%
Number of AE principles addressed	1-3	8%
	4-7	42%
	More than 7	50%
Activities implemented to address AE principles	Innovations for farmers (demonstration and technical support)	42%
	Sensitization and capacity building	31%
	Value chains development and strengthening	12%
	Multi-stakeholders platforms	12%
	Financial support and services	4%

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Looking at the evolution of the type of activities implemented over time (Figure 1), we can observe a fairly significant diversification from the mid-2010s onwards. While early initiatives were being exclusively focused on R&D, demonstration and technical support to farmers, sensitization and capacity building approaches started to emerge after the mid-2000s, with a strong contribution from social movements / non-governmental organizations in this specific domain (Figure 2). The mid-2010s then witnessed the emergence of initiatives centered on value chains development and strengthening, structuring of multi-stakeholder platforms and establishment of credit and financial facilities.

Figure 1. Number of active initiatives, per year and primary intervention domain

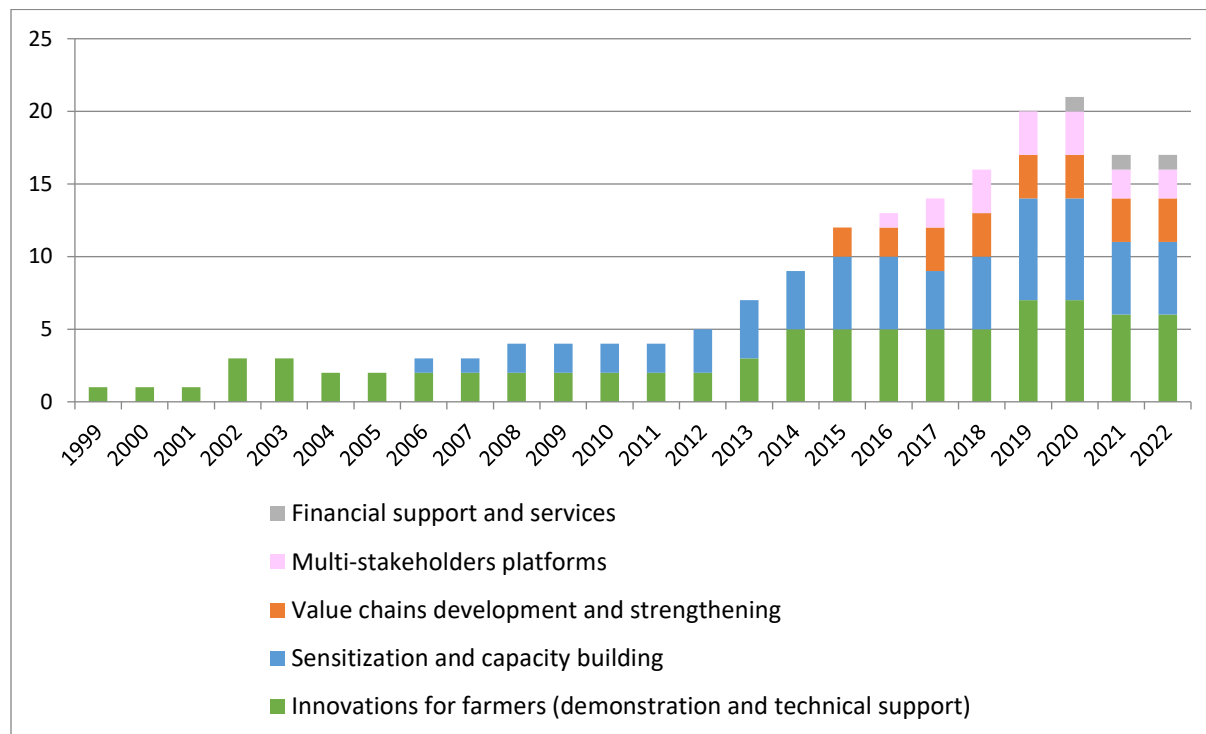
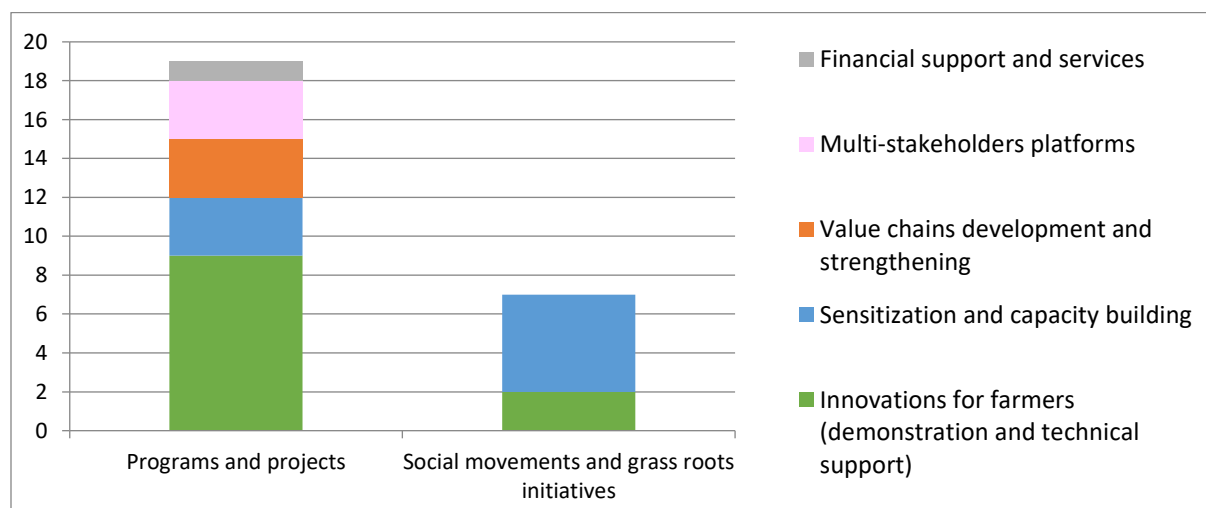


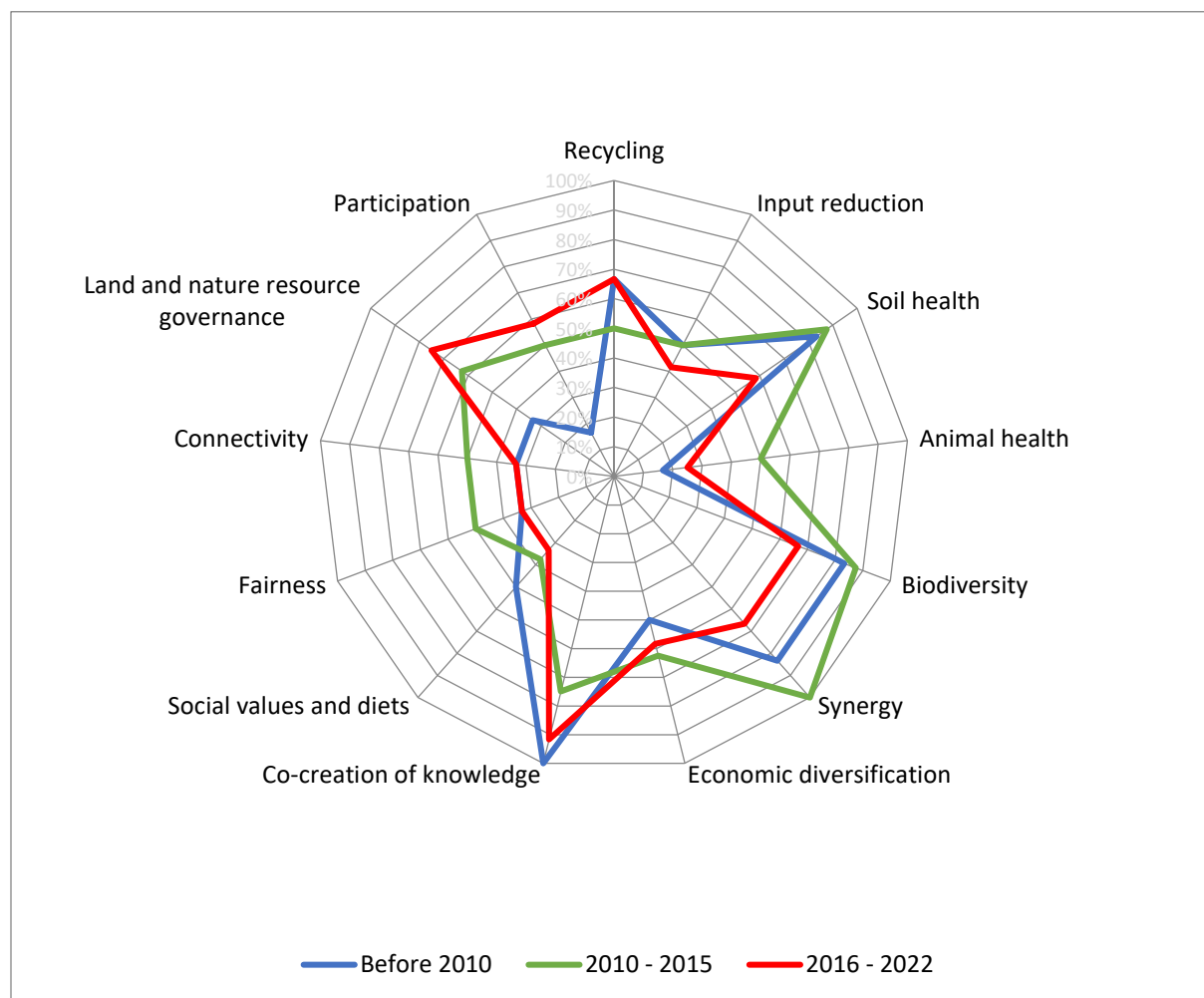
Figure 2. Primary intervention domains, per type of initiative



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Looking at the evolution of the AE principles addressed by the initiatives (Figure 3), it appears that co-creation of knowledge has remained a key consideration since the early 2000s. Synergy, biodiversity, animal and soil health have become less explicit concerns over time, while participation and land & natural resource governance have gained increasing attention recently. Finally, animal health, connectivity, fairness and social values and diets have generally been poorly addressed.

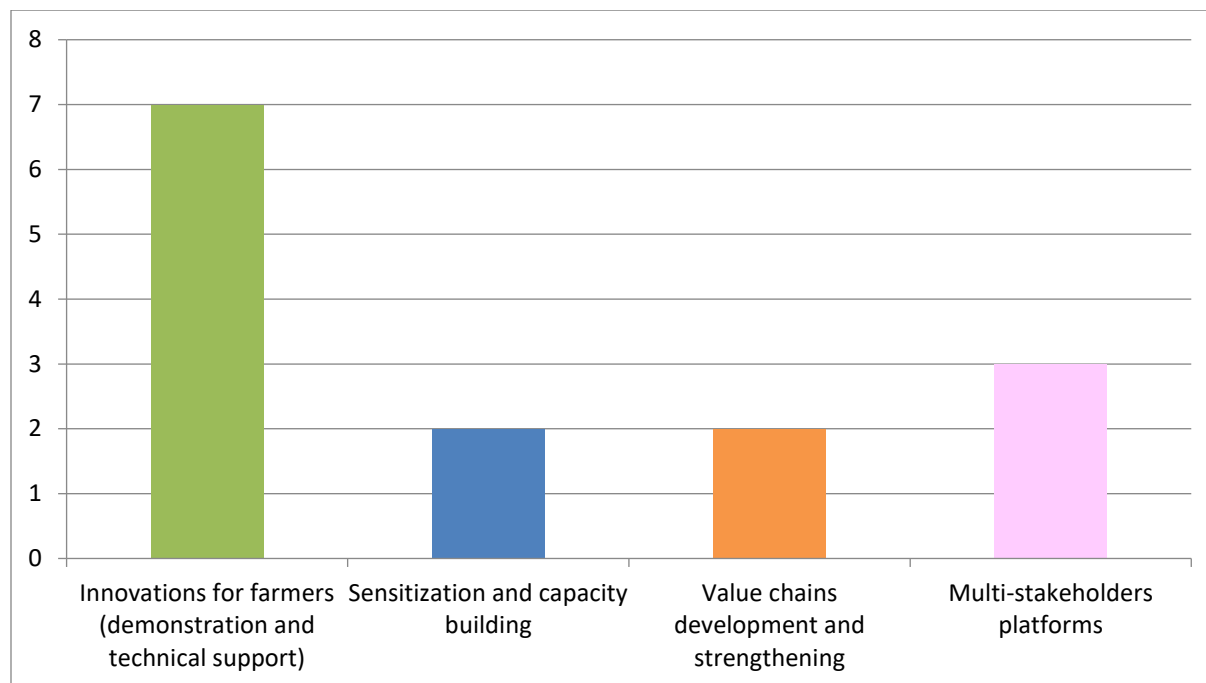
Figure 3. AE principles considered for different project inception periods (expressed in % of initiatives considering each principle)



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Finally, looking more specifically at the target regions for ALL (Figure 4), it appears that at least four broad intervention domains have been covered by previous or current initiatives active in these regions, i.e. innovations for farmers (demonstration and technical support), sensitization and capacity building, Value chains development and strengthening, and multi-stakeholders platforms (NB: no data was found on the target region(s) of the only initiative with a main focus on financial support and services).

Figure 4. Number of initiatives implemented in target regions for ALL (per primary intervention domain)



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Annex 1 - List of initiatives identified

Name	Type	Location	Links for additional information
Transversal Agroecology Program (PTA)	Project	Specific sites in northwestern Tunisia (governorates of Bizerte, Beja, Jendouba, El Kef and Siliana)	<p>AFD (2017). Transition agroécologique aux changements climatiques : les défis de l'agriculture tunisienne, synthèse de la conférence, cité des sciences, Tunis, Tunisie, 27 septembre 2017, 8p.</p> <p>APAD, ATAE et INGC (2016). Le semis direct en Tunisie : situation actuelle et perspectives. Etude réalisée dans le cadre du projet " Agriculture de conservation au Maghreb (FERT) ", 66p.</p> <p>Deygout P. (2014). "Agroécologie : évaluation de quinze ans d'actions d'accompagnement de l'AFD " - l'appui AFD-MAE-FFEM au semis direct en Tunisie, Rapport d'évaluation, 32p.</p>
Project for the development of agro-ecology and carbon storage in tropical and Mediterranean agriculture - Support for direct seeding in Tunisia-	Project	Specific sites in northwestern Tunisia (governorates of Bizerte, Beja, Jendouba, El Kef and Siliana)	<p>AFD (2017). Transition agroécologique aux changements climatiques : les défis de l'agriculture tunisienne, synthèse de la conférence, cité des sciences, Tunis, Tunisie, 27 septembre 2017, 8p.</p> <p>APAD, ATAE et INGC (2016). Le semis direct en Tunisie : situation actuelle et perspectives. Etude réalisée dans le cadre du projet " Agriculture de conservation au Maghreb (FERT) ", 66p.</p> <p>Deygout P. (2014). "Agroécologie : évaluation de quinze ans d'actions d'accompagnement de l'AFD " - l'appui AFD-MAE-FFEM au semis direct en Tunisie, Rapport d'évaluation, 32p.</p>
EcoHazoua project	Grass roots initiative	District Hazoua at Tozeur governorate	<p>Sghaier M. and Neffati M. (2017). Report on agroecology. Agroecology: Adapting to climate change in semiarid areas for a sustainable agricultural development and food security and nutrition, Tunisia, report commissioned by FAO, 42p.</p> <p>Ressources found on the organisation website : http://ecohazoua.org/</p>
Dream in Tunisia	Social movement	Female farmers of arid and semi-arid regions of Tunisia	<p>Ressources found on the organisation website: http://dreamintunisia.tn/</p>
Conservation Agriculture Development Support Project (PADAC)	Project	Specific sites in northwestern Tunisia (governorates of Bizerte, Beja, Jendouba, El Kef and Siliana)	<p>AFD (2017). Transition agroécologique aux changements climatiques : les défis de l'agriculture tunisienne, synthèse de la conférence, cité des sciences, Tunis, Tunisie, 27 septembre 2017, 8p.</p> <p>APAD, ATAE et INGC (2016). Le semis direct en Tunisie : situation actuelle et perspectives. Etude réalisée dans le cadre du projet " Agriculture de conservation au Maghreb (FERT) ", 66p.</p> <p>Deygout P. (2014). "Agroécologie : évaluation de quinze ans d'actions d'accompagnement de l'AFD " - l'appui AFD-MAE-FFEM au semis direct en Tunisie, Rapport d'évaluation, 32p.</p>
Concerted action program for oases in the Maghreb and in the Saharan zone – phase (PACO)	Social movement	Saharian zone of Tunisia	<p>Ressources found on the organisation website : https://www.raddo.org/Qui-sommes-nous/Nos-projets</p>
Acacias for all	Social movement	Female farmers of arid and semi-arid regions of Tunisia	<p>Ressources found on the organisation website: http://acaciasforall.tn/</p>

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Integrated crop-livestock conservation agriculture for sustainable intensification of cereal-based systems in Central and West Asia and North Africa	Project	National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES), Policymakers and resource-poor farmers from 3 districts at governorate of Siliana (El Krib, Makthar and Bou Arada)	ICARDA (2018). Integrated crop–livestock conservation agriculture for sustainable intensification of cereal-based systems in Central and West Asia and North Africa: Grant results sheet, 4p.
Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Tunisia (PAD-I)	Program	Central-west and north-west regions of Tunisia (Jendouba, Beja, Kef, Siliana, Kairouan, Kasserine and Sidi Bouzid)	GIZ (2017). Project Brochure, Promotion de l’Agriculture Durable et du Développement Rural (PAD), 2p. GIZ (2017). Project evaluation: summary report, Tunisia: Promotion of sustainable agriculture and rural development in Tunisia, 11p.
Conservation Agriculture in the Maghreb	Project	Farmers' groups and mutual societies of agricultural services (SMSA) at 4 districts from northwestern Tunisia (El Krib, Fernana, Laaroussa and Tahent)	APAD, ATAE et INGC (2016). Le semis direct en Tunisie : situation actuelle et perspectives. Etude réalisée dans le cadre du projet “ Agriculture de conservation au Maghreb (FERT) ”, 66p.
Agropastoral development and promotion of local initiatives program for the South-East - Phase II (PRODESUD-II)	Program	7 districts at Tataouine governorate and 2 districts at Kebili governorate	FIDA (2018). Évaluation de la stratégie et du programme de pays (ESPP) du FIDA en République tunisienne, 173p.
Agro-pastoral development project and associated sectors in the governorate of Médenine (PRODEFIL)	Project	Mednine governorate (3 districts)	FIDA (2014). Projet de développement agro-pastoral et des filières associées dans le gouvernorat de Médnine, Rapport de conception finale, pp. 213. FIDA (2019). Agropastoral value chains project in the Governorate of Médnine, Mid-term review, pp. 116. FIDA (2021). Tunisie, Projet de développement agropastoral et des filières associés dans le Gouvernorat de Médnine, Rapport de supervision, pp. 137.
Innovations for Agriculture and Agrifood (IAAA)	Project	Central-west and north-west regions of Tunisia (Jendouba, Beja, Kef, Siliana, Kairouan, Kasserine and Sidi Bouzid)	GIZ, MARHP and APIA (2015). Project brochure - Innovations pour l’Agriculture et l’Agro-Alimentaire (IAAA): Des innovations au service des petits agriculteurs et des petites et moyennes entreprises du secteur agricole et agro-alimentaire en Tunisie, 6p.
Tunisian association of permaculture	Social movement	Tunisia, whole country	Ressources found on the organisation website: https://permaculturetunisie.org/
Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Tunisia, Phase-II (PAD-II)	Program	Central-west and north-west regions of Tunisia (Jendouba, Beja, Kef, Siliana, Kairouan, Kasserine and Sidi Bouzid)	GIZ (2022). Evaluation centrale de projet - synthèse, Promotion de l’agriculture durable et du développement rural (PAD II), 8p.
Siliana territorial development value chain promotion project (PROFITS)	Project	Siliana governorate (5 districts)	FIDA (2018). Évaluation de la stratégie et du programme de pays (ESPP) du FIDA en République tunisienne, 173p.
Integrated landscapes management in lagging regions project (PGIP)	Project	Beja, Jendouba, Kef, Siliana, Kairouan, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid and Bizerte	PGIP (2017). Project appraisal document : Tunisia Integrated Landscapes Management in Lagging Regions Project, 125p. PGIP (2022). Report on a proposed project restructuring of Tunisia Integrated Landscapes Management in Lagging Regions Project, 22p.
Collective of Actors for Planting and Environmental Transition (CAPTE)	Social movement	3 governorates: Bizerte, Mannouba, Siliana	Ressources found on the organisation website: https://capte.io/
Territories Committed to Oasis Resilience (TERO)	Social movement	Young people (Saharian zone of Tunisia)	Ressources found on the organisation website : https://www.raddo.org/

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Use of conservation agriculture in crop-livestock systems in the drylands for enhanced water use efficiency, soil fertility and productivity in NEN and LAC countries (CLCA)	Project	Tunisian districts / governorates (Chouarnia / Siliana ; Saouaf, Fahs and Jougar / Zaghouan ; Testour / Beja)	<p>Cheikh M'hamed H., Bahri H., Annabi M., Frija A. and Idoudi Z. (2022). Historical review and future opportunities for wider scaling of conservation agriculture in Tunisia, Conservation Agriculture in Africa (Mkomwa S. and Kassam A. eds), p.137-150.</p> <p>ICARDA, CIMMYT, INRAT, IRESA, ITGC and Fondation Proinpa (2019). Use of conservation agriculture in crop-livestock systems (CLCA) in the drylands for enhanced water use efficiency, soil fertility and productivity in NEN and LAC countries, Project progress report year 1 - april 2018 to march 2019, 63p.</p> <p>McLeod, R., Massaoud, A. and Aguilera, J. (2021). Mid-Term Evaluation of the IFAD Crop Livestock Conservation Agriculture (CLCA) Project, Report Commissioned By ICARDA, September 2021, 73p.</p>
Climate change adaptation program for vulnerable rural territories of Tunisia (PACTE)	Program	Specific sites in northwestern and central Tunisia (governorates of Bizerte, El Kef, Siliana, Kairouan and Sidi Bouzid)	<p>Baastel (2022). Evaluation à mi-parcours du programme d'adaptation au changement climatique des territoires ruraux en Tunisie (PACTE), Rapport d'évaluation, 101p.</p> <p>Cirad (2018). Plateformes de concertation territoriale pour la définition, la mise en stratégie et la planification des investissements physiques et institutionnels du PACTE et le suivi-évaluation des impacts, Annexe n°1 - Proposition technique PACTE-Plateformes, 36p.</p>
Capacity building and support for the implementation of the national climate change adaptation policy in Tunisia (Adapt-CC)	Project	Tunisia	<p>GIZ (2020). Project brochure: Renforcement de capacités et appui à l'exécution de la politique nationale d'adaptation au changement climatique en Tunisie «Adapt-CC», 2p.</p>
Rural innovation and water in the southern Maghreb territories (Massire)	Project	2 Governorates (Kebeli and Mednine) ; young women and men from small family farming	<p>MASSIRE (2019). Grant design document: Co-constructing sustainable water governance at local level to strengthen the resilience of North Africa's oases</p>
Economic, Social and Solidarity Project (IESS-Kairouan)	Project	7 districts at Kairouan governorate (EL Alâa, Hajeb El Ayoun, Oueslatia, Sbikha, Haffouz, Ain Jloula and Chbika); families in need and with limited income, small farmers and small breeders in hilly areas	<p>IFAD (2019). Economic, Social and Solidarity Project (IESS-Kairouan): Project Design Report, 400p.</p>
Soil Protection and Rehabilitation of Degraded Soil for Food Security (ProSol)	Project	Governorates of northwest and central Tunisia (Béja, Jendouba, Kef, Seliana, Sidi Bouzid, Kairouan, Kasserine)	<p>GIZ (2021). SEWOH - Initiative spéciale " un monde sans faim ", Programme global " protection et réhabilitation des sols pour la sécurité alimentaire - ProSol ", Etude de Scoping sur l'agroécologie - composante pays : Tunisie, 81p.</p>
Support for Sustainable Development in the Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries sector in Tunisia (ADAPT)	Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family farm (EAF) 2. Small and Medium Enterprises / Industries under Tunisian law (PME/PMI) 3. Mutual Societies of Agricultural and Fishing Services (SMSA/SMSP) 	<p>ADAPT (2022). Project brochure. ADAPTation est le mot clé du futur, 16p.</p>

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Annex 2 – Dataset

A6. Name of initiative	A7. Type of initiative	A9. Implemented in a target site	Key AE related concept	Recycling	Input reduction	Soil health	Animal health	Biodiversity	Synergy	Economic diversification	Co-creation of knowledge	Social values and diets	Fairness	Connectivity	Land and nature resource governance	Participation	Nb principles addressed	A.24. Year(s) of implementation	Primary intervention domain
Transversal Agroecology Program (PTA)	Project	Yes	Conservation agriculture	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1999 - 2003 (4 years)	Innovations for farmers
Project for the development of agro-ecology and carbon storage in tropical and Mediterranean agriculture	Project	Yes	Agroecology	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2002 - 2006 (4 years)	Innovations for farmers
EcoHazoua project	Grass roots initiative	No	Organic agriculture	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	9	2002 until now	Innovations for farmers
Dream in Tunisia	Social movement	No	Conservation agriculture	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7	2006 until now	Sensitization and capacity building
Conservation Agriculture Development Support Project (PADAC)	Project	Yes	Conservation agriculture	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	2007-2012 (5 years)	Innovations for farmers
Concerted action program for oases in the Maghreb and in the Saharan (PACO)	Social movement	No	Sustainable agricultural systems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2008 - 2020 (12 years)	Sensitization and capacity building
Acacias for all	Social movement	No	Agroforestry	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7	2012 until now	Sensitization and capacity building
Integrated crop-livestock conservation agriculture for sustainable intensification of cereal-based systems in Central and West Asia and North Africa	Project	Yes	Conservation agriculture	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	2013 - 2016 (3 years)	Innovations for farmers
Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Tunisia (PAD-I)	Program	Yes	Sustainable agricultural systems	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	9	2013 - 2016 (3 years)	Sensitization and capacity building
Conservation Agriculture in the Maghreb	Project	Yes	Conservation agriculture	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2014 - 2017 (3 years)	Innovations for farmers
Agropastoral development and promotion of local initiatives program for the South-East - Phase II (PRODESUD-II)	Program	No	Sustainable agricultural systems	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9	2014 - 2020 (6 years)	Innovations for farmers
Agro-pastoral development project and associated sectors in the governorate of Médenine (PRODEFIL)	Project	No	Agroecology	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	9	2015 - 2023 (8 years)	Value chains development and strengthening
Innovations for Agriculture and Agrifood (IAAA)	Project	Yes	Innovation systems	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	2015 - 2025 (10 years)	Value chains development and strengthening
Tunisian association of permaculture	Social movement	N/A	Permaculture	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	2015 until now	Sensitization and capacity building
Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Tunisia, Phase-II (PAD-II)	Program	Yes	Sustainable agricultural systems	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	10	2016 - 2020 (4 years)	Multi-stakeholders platforms
Siliana territorial development value chain promotion project (PROFITS)	Project	Yes	Sustainable value chains	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	2017 - 2023 (6 years)	Value chains development and strengthening
Integrated landscapes management in lagging regions project (PGIP)	Project	Yes	Landscape management	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	7	2017 - 2023 (6 years)	Multi-stakeholders platforms
Collective of Actors for Planting and Environmental Transition (CAPTE)	Social movement	Yes	Agroforestry	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	2017 until now	Innovations for farmers
Territories Committed to Oasis Resilience (TERO)	Social movement	No	Adaptation to CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	2018 - 2020 (2 years)	Sensitization and capacity building
Use of conservation agriculture in crop-livestock systems in the drylands for enhanced water use efficiency, soil fertility and productivity (CLCA)	Project	Yes	Conservation agriculture	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	8	2018 - 2022 (4 years)	Innovations for farmers
Climate change adaptation program for vulnerable rural territories of Tunisia (PACTE)	Program	Yes	Agroecology	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	9	2018 - 2024 (6.5 years)	Multi-stakeholders platforms
Capacity building and support for the implementation of the national climate change adaptation policy in Tunisia (Adapt-CC)	Project	N/A	Adaptation to CC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2019 - 2022 (3 years)	Sensitization and capacity building
Rural innovation and water in the southern Maghreb territories (Massire)	Project	No	Innovation systems	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10	2019 - 2023 (4 years)	Innovations for farmers
Economic, Social and Solidarity Project (IESS-Kairouan)	Project	No	Agroecology	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	11	2019 - 2025 (6 years)	Innovations for farmers
Soil Protection and Rehabilitation of Degraded Soil for Food Security (ProSol)	Project	Yes	Agroecology	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	2019 - 2025 (6 years)	Sensitization and capacity building
Support for Sustainable Development in the Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries sector in Tunisia (ADAPT)	Program	N/A	Sustainable agrifood systems	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	2020 - 2028 (8 years)	Financial support and services