Task 7.3 – Preparatory workshops

National preparatory workshop

Tunis, 5th March 2019

Meeting report

Contents

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DISCLAIMER

1. THE ORGANISATION OF THE NATIONAL DECISION MAKERS AND PROSPECTIVE USERS WORKSHOP

The living lab approach underlying LANDSUPPORT activities is aimed at involving policy and decision makers and potential users from the very beginning and throughout all project phases, ensuring that the delivered DSS tools can actually be used.

With this aim preparatory workshops bringing together policy makers in land management have been planned at EU/national/regional/local level. The outcomes of national and local workshops will feed into the EU workshop in order to ensure that local and national instances are brought forward at the EU level.

Workshops have been conducted at two levels (national, regional) in Italy, Austria, and Hungary. In the case of Tunisia one unified workshop has been planned at the national level, also involving stakeholders from the study site region (Zaghouan Governorate). The key focus of the workshop was on understanding the elements that decision-makers take into account when they take decisions on land use management, thus verifying the assumptions behind the LANDSUPPORT tools.

The workshop was held in Tunis, on 5th of December from 9:00 to 17:00.

The workshop's program (Annex 1) has been designed according to the guidelines distributed by the coordinator of project's Work Package 7.

Twenty-two people attended the workshop (Annex 2), including decision makers on land use and management and public administrators in the fields of agriculture, forestry, territorial governance, and management of protected areas, along with researchers and representative of farmer associations.

Participants were asked to express their interests in becoming members of the project stakeholder platform. They were also asked to sign the declaration on personal data treatment.

As an additional task, participants were also asked to fill in the questionnaire formulated by Task 1.2 on stakeholders' interest for LANDSUPPORT tools.

Parts of the meeting have been video-recorded. A workshop announcement was posted and broadcasted by means of the project social media the day before the workshop, a second announcement was posted through the ICARDA social media platform on the workshop day. A third post through the project social media was broadcasted the day after the workshop to summarize the main workshop outcomes.

2. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

Tunisia	Unified national/regional workshop
	05.03.2019, Tunis

Decision makers participating in research activities: what does it mean to participants?
All participants had already experienced in participating in research projects, either as research partners or as users (e.g., farmer's association representatives).
They have positive expectations, particularly in view of: developing and improving tools to support decisions; improving, adapting, developing techniques and good practices; better understanding the impacts of interventions for natural resource conservation, particularly their sustainability.

Challenges encountered in decision making: what is so specific about [insert name of country or region]?
The challenges, or constraints, were reviewed at both national and regional/local scale.
At national scale the following challenges were highlighted. Compliance with several policies, regulations; identifying priorities, linking budget availability to priorities, based on cost and benefit, and identifying and integrating beneficiaries; adopting a real system approach versus the sectoral approaches; policies sometimes inadequate, (e.g., agriculture and environment not integrated), or not enforced; lack of reliable data or poor access to data; limited awareness; coordination between local and national levels; lack of budget, material, staff; land tenure; weak governance (socio-political contingent situation in the country); donors imposing priorities and approaches
At regional/local scale the following challenges were pointed out. Concertation among social parties; coordination with development services for effective decision; farmers sometimes reject new techniques, innovation; evaluating technical feasibility, sustainability of interventions, social acceptability, farmer participation to works; budget availability; data availability and quality; conflicts within farmer associations not enabling decisions; heavy administrative procedures.

Mapping decisions
National level: Strategic planning: setting national strategies, priorities, orientations, identifying priority intervention areas, planning budget.
Regional/local level: Identifying priority intervention areas in line with national orientations, drafting regional local action plans, drafting maps to give orientations on good practices. Choosing sites and specific techniques (SWC, etc.), good practices, for interventions (SWC, GW recharge wells, forest restoration post fire and against pests, etc.); drafting detailed work plans allocating available budget

Further decision type at national level was deciding about payment of completed intervention works, and, at regional/local level, allowing use of natural resources by public (defining hunting season, regulating collection of plant material like alfa grass) and choosing farmer crops more adapted to climate change

Multi-objectives considered in decision making

Three work groups were established to discuss the multi-objectives considered in decision making. The three groups targeted respectively one decision type at national scale (1. Strategic planning: setting national strategies, priorities, orientations, identifying priority intervention areas, planning budget) and two decision types at regional/local scale (2. Identifying priority intervention areas in line with national orientations, drafting regional local action plans, drafting maps to give orientations on good practices; 3. Choosing sites and specific techniques, good practices, for interventions and drafting detailed work plans allocating available budget). Group members and their organization are listed in Annex 3.

Each group reviewed and discussed the objective-cards provided by the project. Then, they first identified all the relevant objectives. From these, they finally selected and ranked the most important six.

Group n.1 ranked the following objectives (decreasing order of importance)

1. Improve resilience to climate change, biodiversity levels and ecosystem services delivery (e.g. water and carbon storage capacity of soils) of agroecosystems and forestry ecosystems, for example by implementing green infrastructures
2. Avoid or decrease soil degradation
3. Increase crop productivity
4. Avoid negative budgetary consequences for public authorities
5. Create employment and/or avoid employment losses
6. Sustainable urban development, including zero land take by 2050

No further objectives were identified by the group.

Group n.2 ranked the following objectives (decreasing order of importance)

1. Increase water use efficiency and decrease water stress
2. Improve resilience to climate change, biodiversity levels and ecosystem services delivery (e.g. water and carbon storage capacity of soils) of agroecosystems and forestry ecosystems, for example by implementing green infrastructures
3. Raise awareness on soil degradation and land take issues
4. Ensure/ improve profitability and growth of the agricultural sector
5. Participate to the design and implementation of land use and rural development policies (including RDPs)
6. Promote sustainable tourism

Further objectives identified by the group were:

- Improve sustainability of agro-environmental and forestry practices
- Promote/ increase competitiveness of local products
- Create employment and/or avoid employment losses
- Ensure a fair standard of living for the local agricultural community and to contribute to the stability of farm incomes

Group n.3 ranked the following objectives (decreasing order of importance)

1. Avoid or decrease soil degradation
2. Increase water use efficiency and decrease water stress
3. Improve sustainability of agro-environmental and forestry practices
4. Increase crop productivity
5. Avoid or decrease nitrates and pesticides leaching at the farm level
6. Create employment and/or avoid employment losses

Further objectives identified by the group were:

- Raise awareness on soil degradation and land take issues
- Ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community and to con-tribute to the stability of farm incomes
- Ensure/ improve profitability and growth of the agricultural sector

Supports to decision making

The participants reviewed the DSS tools they use in their respective job.

The institutional decision makers at both national and regional/local level mainly base their decisions on static thematic maps, technical manuals and guidelines, and institutional databases (e.g., agricultural statistics, forest inventories, meteorological and piezometric data, etc.). Some of them especially at national scale use GIS software to visualize data and to overlay them to prioritize areas for interventions. A few also uses Google Earth. They generally complain about the fact that data are coarse in scale and not updated, often obsolete (up to 15, 20 years old), legacy soil data are not georeferenced. They also complain about the lack of important basic data such as soil quality/capability maps, and about the fact the RS data are not used to update organizations' data such as land cover and use, although these data (e.g., Sentinel) are now free and highly accurate. In few cases models (such as USLE equation and MEDALUS sensitive area mapping method, HYDRACCESS for water management) are also used to support identification of priority areas. None of them currently uses DSS software.

The researchers do use models and DSS tools that are mainly designed for plot and farm scale, such as KINEROS (erosion at plot scale), GAINS (gas emissions) and a range of crop models and monitoring tools (e.g., spectrometric equipment) to assess crop requirements in the field about water and nutrients. They say that decision makers and farmers have unfortunately no access to these tools. They complain about the lack of tools at landscape scale to estimate yield gaps, identifying target areas for out-scaling of good practices like conservation agriculture, or the lack of basic data (good soil information) to apply available modelling tools that may provide the needed responses.

Conclusions and main points of attention

Findings about stakeholder perceptions on challenges, types and objectives of decision on land use and natural resource management will continue to be used to verify the assumptions underlaying LANDSUPPORT decision making tools that are being developed by the project team in Tunisia. Secondly, the outcomes will feed into the EU workshop to create the conditions for a wider transferability of the project tools also outside the EU.

ANNEX 1 – WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Multi-stakeholder Workshop

LANDSUPPORT Project:

Development of Integrated web-based Land Decision Support System aiming towards the Implementation of Policies for Agriculture and Environment

Hotel Belvédère, Tunis, Tunisia, March 05th, 2019

Programme

Heure	ACTIVITÉS PROPOSÉES	Durée
08:30	**Cérémonie d'ouverture**	30 min
09:00	**Tour de table et introduction des participants**	20 min
09:20	**Warm up : que signifie pour vous la participation à des activités de recherche?**	20 min
09:40	**Introduction du workshop**	30 min
10:10	**Défis rencontrés dans la prise de décision aux niveaux national et régional / local**	45 min
11:00	Pause Café	15 min
11:15	**Prise de décision… ok, mais sur quoi?**	30 min
11:45	**Sessions de groupe: que tenez-vous en compte lorsque vous prenez une décision?**	1 h
13:00	Pause déjeuner	45 min
14:00	**Synthèse des discussions en petits groups**	45 min
14:45	**Outils d'aide à la décision**	45 min
15:30	Pause café	15 min
15:45	**Exemple de DSS pour la gestion des sols et des terres**	30 min
16:15	**Synthèse des discussions**	20 min
16:30	**Tour de table final**	20 min

ANNEX 2 – WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Multi-stakeholder Workshop

LANDSUPPORT Project: Development of Integrated web-based Land Decision Support System aiming towards the Implementation of Policies for Agriculture and Environment

Hotel Belvédère, Tunis, Tunisia, March 05th, 2019

Presence List

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N°	Name and Surname	Responsibility	Institution	Mail	Tel	Signature
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ANNEX 3. GROUP MEMBERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

GROUP 1.

Family name	First name	Organization
LOUHICHI	Mustapha	DG ACTA
JALALI	Khalifa	DG F
HAROUCHI	Faouzi	DG ACTA
GHEZAL	Lamia	ESA Mograne
ATIA	Rafla	DSOL
SALEMI	Mounir	DSOL

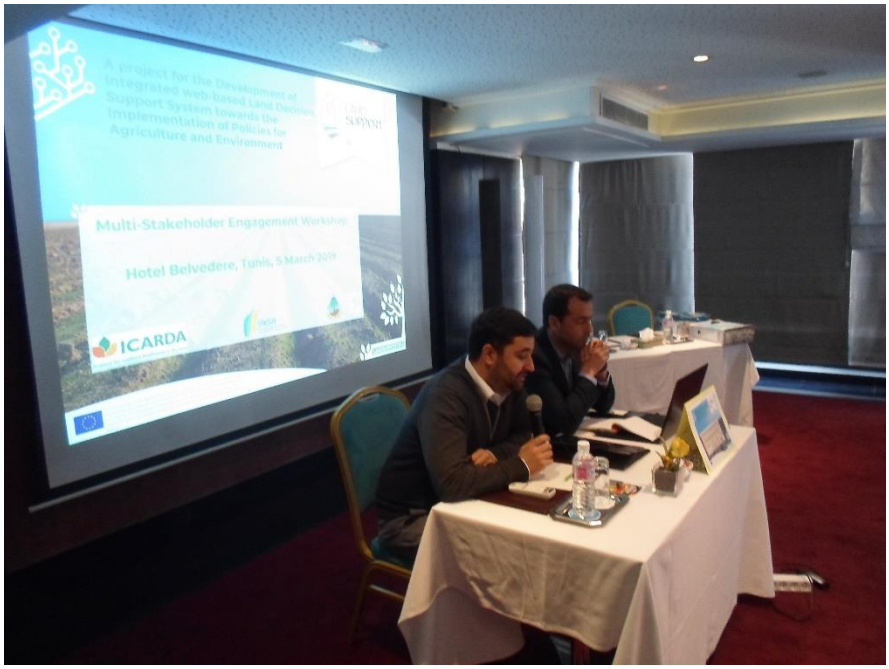
GROUP 2.

Family name	First name	Organization
BAHRI	Raoudha	CRDA ZAGHOUAN
BEN ZAIED	NEJIA	UTAP
ANABI	Mohamed	INRAT
BAHRI	Haithem	INRGREF
CHEIKH MHAMED	Hatem	INRAT

GROUP 3.

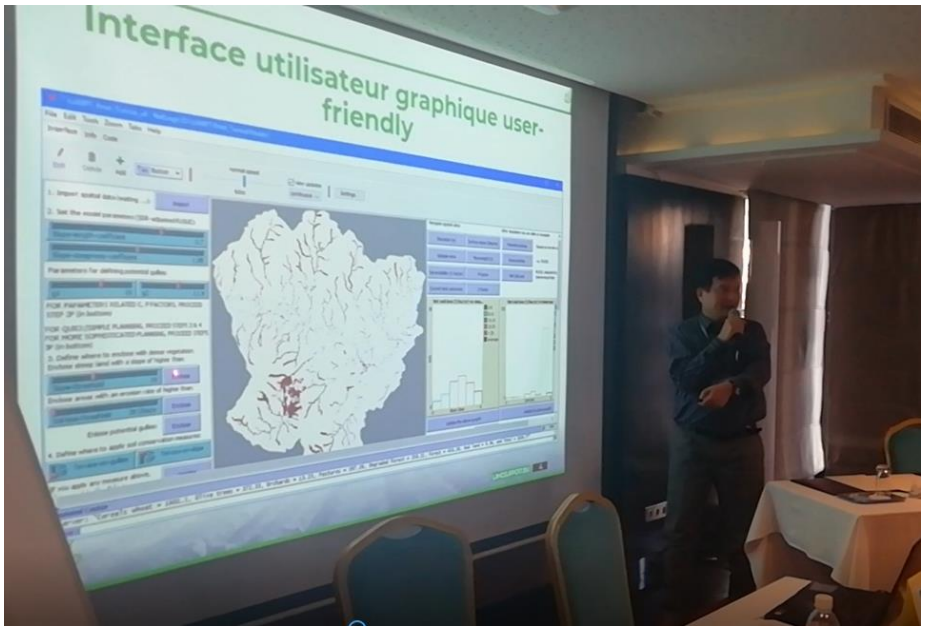
Family name	First name	Organization
TARCHI	Med Bachir	CRDA ZAGHOUAN, WSC service
BEN MOHAMED	Abdelmajid	CRDA ZAGHOUAN, Rangeland service
HASNAOUI	Ltaif	CRDA ZAGHOUAN, Forestry service
TAABOURI	Ali	CRDA ZAGHOUAN, Water resources service
ABBASSI	Houda	CRDA ZAGHOUAN, WSC service

ANNEX 4 – WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Workshop opening by ICARDA (Aymen Frija, ICARDA country coordinator) and INRGREF (Taoufik Hermassi, INRGREF focal person)

Introducing the LANDSUPPORT project (Claudio Zucca, ICARDA)



Introducing the DSS tools that will be developed in the Tunisian study (Quang Bao Le, ICARDA)

Working in groups on decision multi-objectives.

Group photo of the participants