

# Capacity Development 2018 - National Tree Festival Date: 13 November 2018 – INAT, Tunis

**Project title:** SUSTAINABLE SILVOPASTORAL RESTORATION TO PROMOTE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN TUNISIA

**Pilot site:** Ouled Sbaihia (Zaghouan, Tunisia)

**Source of funding:** FAO – W3/Bilateral

**BUS number:** 200310

**Starting date:** 26 November 2017

**Ending date:** 31 March 2019

**Project leader:** Dr. Mounir Louhaichi

**Main Partner:** Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF) **Focal Point:** Mr. Jamel Kailene  
**Other national partner:** Ministry of Agriculture (CRDA); ESAM, GDA Ouled Sbaihia, and INGRES.

**Objective:** The overall objective of the project is to build resilience of a silvopastoral production system through reduced climate change impact and increased resilience to environmental impacts and natural disasters. The project also targets strengthening the capacity of communities as well as building regional platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration.

**Target beneficiaries:** Smallholder farmers, livestock keepers and extension agents

**Activity mapped to CRP:** CGIAR Research Program on Livestock

**Lead Center:** International Livestock Research Institute

**Flagship:** Livestock and Environment



## Introduction

In arid and semiarid environments, local and regional characteristics, such as resource availability or the lack of tree propagules, act as barriers to succession and vegetation growth, resulting in a continuous trend in rangeland degradation (Pugnaire et al. 1996). In most cases, these degraded rangelands eventually result in ecosystems which hardly retain ecosystem structure, function and productivity even under ideal conditions (Pickett et al 2001). In such situations, human intervention is necessary to assist secondary succession to accelerate the recovery of vegetation stands. Such interventions are through planting trees/shrubs which have a multipurpose function targeting improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, as well as the conservation of natural resources (Maestre et al. 2001).

Tree/shrub-based land-use systems are expected to have better soil C sequestration potential than most row crop agricultural systems based on the premise that the tree components in agroforestry systems can be significant sinks of atmospheric C due to their high and long-term biomass stock and extensive root systems (Montagnini and Nair, 2004). The main objective of this national afforestation day was to raise awareness, educate and provide more information to local farmers of Sbaihia on the benefits of three multipurpose trees towards continued provision of ecosystem services and economic products for the betterment of farmer livelihoods. Farmers were also shown specimens of the different tree species as demonstrations. Therefore, sustainable practices that adopt rangeland rehabilitation using multipurpose shrubs/plant species will be important in restoring the productivity of previously degraded rangelands, with the aim to improve ecosystem stability, and the livelihood of pastoralists, through improving plant community growth and production (Louhaichi et al. 2012).

## Workshop minutes

Within the activities of the week of planting trees, the celebration of the National Trees Day for the year 2018 was conducted on 13 November 2018 at the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Tunisia. Here, a national forum on the partnership was held to support tree planting activities in Tunisia. About 80 participants from various concerned departments and institutions attended the forum including representatives of: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the German International Cooperation Agency, and the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas, in addition to representatives of associations and non-governmental organizations.

The Director General of the Forest Department (DGF) welcomed the participants and highlighted that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fishing is paying attention to the importance of the week of the forest and its role which is held on the occasion of the National Day of the tree. This event represented a national occasion to promote planting of trees and pastoralism and to intensify the efforts of all stakeholders and actors to contribute to raising the percentage of the forest cover in the country. He affirmed the determination of the General Directorate of Forests to build an effective partnership basis with all institutions and civil society to support the efforts of the government to enhance the development and conservation of natural resources.



The Director General of Forestry and Pastoral Development stated that the General Directorate of Forests of this year's theme was to be "Forest Development is Partnership and Investment". This theme was established with an intension to build an effective partnership with institutions, associations and civil society to highlight the importance of trees in order to increase the forest cover and raise awareness regarding the importance of planting trees. He indicated that the forest and pastoral systems generally play direct and indirect economic, social and environmental roles. The expected outcomes of the hosting and planting week were highlighted, while the most important achievements of all programs for the forest and pastoral reforestation season (2017-2018) were also presented.

The workshop program was divided into four subsections:

- 1- Supporting urban afforestation
2. Program and the agreement between the General Directorate of Forests and the Tunis Dream Cooperative
3. Forests sustainability
- 4 - Support forest farming: Analysis of the value chain of the Carob tree system

The discussion focused on the following:

- Technical information for afforestation and pastoral area rehabilitation (target, how, species, etc.)
- Seedling production in terms of quantities and qualities
- The role of associations and civil society in raising awareness and support afforestation culture
- Participatory approach to support regional and local levels afforestation
- Support urban afforestation
- Coordinate and organize the intervenors to guarantee the success of afforestation
- Prompt the investment in the forest products
- Support efforts to highlight the value chains for some multi-use forest species

Following the discussion, the below recommendations were formulated:

- Support the integration of roles and efforts through formulation of partnership agreements among the General Directorate of Forests, civil associations, municipalities and institutions to support afforestation and ensure a close follow-up.
- Support the seedling production within the forest nurseries with more consideration for multipurpose species.
- Support awareness campaigns on the importance of forestry and silvopastoral activities especially among the new generation (youths in schools and institutes)
- Valuation of forest products to promote investment in forests
- Giving the required importance to the pastoral shrub's plantation in arid and semi-arid areas as a tool to reduce the soil erosion and combating desertification.
- Supporting scientific research for the forest and rangeland development through partnership and implementation of research projects

The tree festival day was followed by exhibition of different tree/shrub species and products to stimulate the interest of different participants, so that they would adopt planting multipurpose trees/shrubs.

## Séminaire sur « le partenariat un appui au reboisement »

Mardi, le 13 Novembre 2018, à l'Institut National Agronomique de Tunis  
**Programme**

Horaire	Activité	Intervenant
<b>Ouverture officielle de la semaine forestière</b>		
8 :30	Inscription et accueil des participants	
9.00 – 9.10	Mot de la bienvenue du Directeur Générale des Forêts	
9.10 – 9.30	Ouverture officielle de la semaine forestière par Monsieur le Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche	
9.30 – 9.45	Programme d'action de la convention entre la DGF et l'Association « Dream in Tunisia »	Association <b>Dream in Tunisia</b>
9.45 – 10.15	Expérience du GDA sidi Amor dans l'appui au reboisement	<b>GDA Sidi Amor</b>
10.15 – 10.35	Forets et ville durable	FAO
10.35 – 11.00	Pause-café	
11.00 – 11.20	Appui à l'agroforesterie « Chaine de valeur de l'arbre caroubier »	<b>GIZ</b>
11.20 – 13.00	Discussion	
13.00 – 13.20	Recommandations et clôture	

## References

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Montagnini, F. and Nair, P.K.R., 2004. Carbon sequestration: an underexploited environmental benefit of agroforestry systems. In *New vistas in agroforestry* (pp. 281-295). Springer, Dordrecht.

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Pugnaire, F. I., P. Haase, J. Puigdefábregas, M. Cueto, S. C. Clark, and L. D. Incoll. 1996a. Facilitation and succession under the canopy of a leguminous shrub, *Retama sphaerocarpa*, in a semi-arid environment in south-east Spain. *Oikos* 76:455-464.

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## **Participants list**



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 SOUS LE HAUT PATRONAGE DE MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE,  
 DES RESSOURCES HYDRAULIQUES ET DE LA PECHE  
**Séminaire sur « le partenariat un appui au reboisement »**  
 Mardi, le 13 Novembre 2018, à l'Institut National Agronomique de Tunis

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