



Workshop report

The development and valorization of local fodder resources in the governorate of Kebili

Kebili, Tunisia, May 25-26, 2023

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INITIATIVE ON
Livestock and Climate



General Overview

Tunisia is currently facing significant challenges in livestock feed resources, exacerbated by climate change and drought. The region of Kebili, specialized in date production through its oasis, offers various products such as downgraded dates, date pits, pedicels, and palm leaves. Despite the abundance of high or moderate energy biomasses, Kebili faces a significant challenge in terms of protein resources for animal feeding. Also, the “know-how” in terms of valorization of these resources is relatively limited. This underscores the crucial need for technical expertise and innovation. In this context, the workshop on the development and valorization of local forage resources in Kebili aimed to equip participants to optimize the use of date palm by-products, reduce feed deficits, decrease dependence on imports, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. Special emphasis is placed on harnessing local resources for livestock feed, highlighting its importance for the economic and agricultural development of the region.

General Objectives

The general objective of the workshop was to improve participants' comprehension and abilities in optimizing the utilization of date palm by-products as feed sources for livestock. The report summarizes a two-day workshop in Kebili, focusing on the development and optimization of local forage resources, specifically date palm by-products. It highlights the



potential for growth in utilizing these by-products and underscores the need to address knowledge gaps for sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this workshop were to understand the practices employed in the valorization of date palm by-products, to explore different formulations, and to identify associated challenges through field visits to private livestock farmers, farmers' associations (Groupements de Développement Agricole - GDAs), and concentrated feed manufacturing units. Furthermore, the workshop aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive technical training session focused on the valorization of date palm by-products, emphasizing the nutritional values of different parts of the date palm, such as date pulp, kernels, leaves, and stems. It also intends to showcase various formulations to produce feed pellets utilizing these by-products. Lastly, the workshop aimed to facilitate discussions among participants, to address specific scientific problems related to the valorization of date palm by-products and to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Specific outputs

Fifty-six stakeholders, including 20 women and 36 men, representing diverse sectors such as scientists, local extension agents, private sector actors, and research and development institutions, actively participated in the workshop. Among these participants, sixteen farmers, including five women, were invited. The primary focus of the workshop was the dissemination of valuable information on the nutritional benefits inherent in various by-products of date palm, highlighting their potential in formulating animal feed. The collaborative nature of the workshop fostered problem-solving discussions, thus promoting connections among participants. This collaboration is expected to lead to the development of innovative formulations for animal feed pellets, thereby contributing to the strengthening of networks and the widespread adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in the efficient utilization of date palm by-products. Regarding Professor Nizar Moujahed's presentation, his intervention played a crucial role in enriching the participants' knowledge. His informed perspectives provided a profound understanding of the opportunities offered by the



valorization of date palm by-products. Stakeholders benefited from his expertise, contributing to the overall impact of the workshop.

Target Audiences

Academic Institutions (universities, colleges, etc.)

National agricultural research system

Government

Development sector

Private Sector

Community Based Organizations (CBO)

Individual Farmers

Regional Organizations

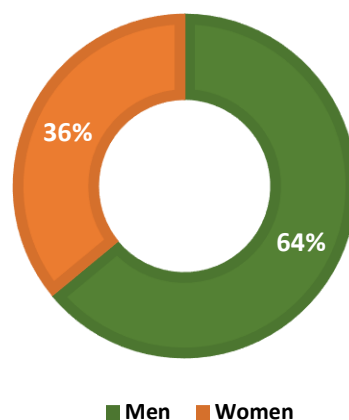
Rural Women

Local exports

Participants Countries

Tunisia

Participants Gender



Organized by

- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas - ICARDA

Partners

- National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia, INAT, Tunis, Tunisia
- Office of Livestock and Pasture Authority- OEP- Tunis, Tunisia
- Office of Livestock and Pasture Authority- OEP- Kebili, Tunisia
- Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Kebili - CRDA-Kebili

Action Area

- Resilient Agri-Food Systems - RAFS

Initiative

- Livestock & Climate

Trainer

Nizar Moujahed, INAT (Nizar.moujahed@yahoo.fr)

Course Implementation

In the concerted effort to address the deficit in the animal fodder budget, promote the valorization of oasis waste, and stimulate investments in alternative fodder production, a regional workshop was effectively implemented in the governorate of Kebili. The collaborative endeavor brought together key stakeholders, including the Office of Livestock and Pasture Authority (OEP-Tunis), the Office of Livestock and Pasture Authority (OEP-Kebili), the Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Kebili (CRDA-Kebili), the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (INAT), and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). A representative of ICARDA was present as well.

Course Structure

The two-day Kebili workshop began by exploring six ruminant feed units and holding a crucial meeting with CRDA's Mr. GD on the first day. The second day assembles key stakeholders for



a symposium, featuring a thematic presentation, engaging debates, and the approval of a local fodder initiative. The workshop wraps up by summarizing insights, laying the foundation for future collaborations in sustainable agriculture and industrialization in Kebili State.

Group Assessment

Through a SWOT analysis, participants assessed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, offering valuable insights into the past landscape and potential strategies for improving the utilization of date palm by-products in livestock practices in the governorate of Kebili.





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