



**Mid-Term Work Plan**  
**on**  
**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF**  
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Between**

**THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA  
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

**and**

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER RESOURCES AND  
FISHERIES OF THE TUNISIAN REPUBLIC**





Following the Technical Arrangement (TA) signed between the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Rome, Art. 4, the Parties agree to implement a “Medium-term Work Plan, including projects and activities, as applicable”.

## Objectives

The objectives of the present Medium-term Work Plan have to be identified and selected along with planned activities and projects, that correspond to the general objectives of the TA, to support the implementation of sustainable development in Tunisia.

In accordance with the aforementioned TA, in the course of the implementation of the projects and activities, consideration will be given to the participation of the public, private and non profit sectors and, where appropriate, Universities, scientific and technical research bodies and non-governmental Organisations, as well as Institutions coming from Italy and Tunisia.

In accordance with article 4 of the TA, this Medium-term Work Plan aims to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of activities for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and for the promotion of Sustainable Development in the sector of Agriculture, Ecosystems, Water Resources and Fisheries as defined in the Tunisian Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The parties convene that the Medium-term Work Plan will focus on, the following sectors:

- 1. Institutional Support towards Climate-Smart Agriculture** - Promotion of institutional support in organization, management, financing, and technical aid, granted to farmers' organizations in the framework of the National Strategy of Agriculture and Ecosystems Adaptation to Climate Change, the National Desalination Strategy and Improvement of Wastewater Treatment, the Tunisian Solar Plan and the National Strategy for the Economic and Social Empowerment of Rural Women.

Institutional support could be through direct support to group activities, staff development and training, implementation of normative activities and quality standards, support to investments, implementation of new plans for sustainable value chains in line with the Mediterranean biodiversity and towards the Tunisian Sustainable Development Goals of the agricultural sector and the sustainable management of the resources.





2. **Technology Transfer towards Climate-Smart Agriculture** - Promotion of Climate-smart technologies through the implementation of joint demonstration projects aiming at the environmentally sound technology transfer and capacity building in the field of agricultural production systems, agricultural and food products processing, water resources management, agricultural waste valorisation, considering a priority for the Tunisian and Italian expertise and technology.
3. **Applied Research and Training towards Climate-Smart Agriculture** – Strengthening research link with community group needs and helping to facilitate appropriate technology development to small and micro farming units and to foster scientific development and diffusion of smart farming technologies in order to strengthen environmental sustainability and resilience of agricultural ecosystems and agro food value chains, considering a priority for the Italian and Tunisian research bodies and findings, as well as training expertise.

The activities under programs 1, 2 and 3 will be implemented through the following measures:

- a. Technical assistance, know-how and technology transfer aimed at implementing pilot projects for the benefit of rural population, agricultural organisations and small enterprises towards sustainability and supporting public and private trainees in expanding and improving their range of trainings and consulting services, including:
  - i. the introduction of appropriate measures that ensure both the quality in design and installation of climate-smart technologies and the suitability of equipments and systems to rural realities for required use and maintenance: development of national standards and guidelines for improving quality and sustainability in agricultural transformation processes, water resources management and waste valorisation, implementation of pilot projects within climate change vulnerable regions.
  - ii. the organization of training activities and workshop sessions, at the national scale and at the regional scale, on NEXUS issue: water-Energy-Food product.





- iii. the planning and implementation of business models for specific value chains to meet various social, economic and environmental sustainability criteria. Selected agricultural organisations and enterprises may be assisted to invest in resource-friendly and environmentally sound technologies (such as small-scale irrigation, storage, processing and marketing) that will improve their productivity and profitability.
  - iv. the assistance in the creation of micro-projects of farm waste valorisation (such as composting) and the use of renewable energy.
  - v. the support of institutional efforts in monitoring and reporting on the Tunisian Sustainable Development Goals of the agricultural sector, adapting the irrigated crops in the central regions and adapting mixed farming-livestock production to climate change in vulnerable regions.
- b. Support the applied research initiatives, especially by:
- i. the contribution to the deployment of wider, faster and profitable innovative solutions by farmers' organisations at the level of the cropping, livestock or farming systems, taking into consideration the social, economic and environmental aspects by the translation of research results and studies into practical applications in the field
  - ii. the creation and support of multi-stakeholder innovation platforms which gather policy makers, development agencies, civil society and the private sector with researchers and research institutions aiming at making better use of research findings on enhancing the resilience of Tunisian agriculture to climate change
- c. Dissemination activities in Tunisia and Italy in order to promote, among the different stakeholders coming from the public and private sectors:
- i. The implementation of climate-smart technologies for agricultural water management, agricultural transformation and agro food processes, agricultural waste valorisation (in particular : Elaboration and dissemination of guidelines for design, installation and maintenance of appropriate climate-smart technologies for rural Tunisian agro food processing and for water pumping and treatment for irrigation, Dissemination of the monitoring data collected to the Italian and the Tunisian manufacturers of climate-smart technologies).





- ii. The development of training programs for institutional staff and for youth and newly graduates that target the acquisition of specialised knowledge on operation, settings and maintenance of green technologies systems and advanced agricultural equipments, as well as the accompaniment of young entrepreneurs to sustainable business implementation in the rural area.
- iii. Promote and support the participation of selected Italian and Tunisian companies operating in the field of climate-smart technologies in both countries, in exhibitions, conferences, forums and study visits aiming at the creation of new business cooperations and enhancement of sustainable markets.

### Entry into force

This Work Plan will come into force after signature of the Parties and shall remain valid for a period of 24 months.

This Work Plan is agreed and signed on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

For the Ministry for the Environment,  
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of the Italian Republic

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