

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:**Vocational education in an agriculture for the environment****By the Association ABEL GRANIER****Date of initiation: august 2002****Expected date of completion: September 2007****Partners Involved:**

Governments: Tunisian- French -

Intergovernmental organizations: None for the moment

Major groups: Association Abel Granier, Farmers, Sociétés de Mise en Valeur et de Développement Agricole dans les régions de Testour et Goubellat, Ecole Supérieure des Ingénieurs de l'Équipement Rurale (ESIER), Centre de formation Technique Agricole de Testour. Agence de Formation et de Vulgarisation Agricole. (AFVA)

Other: Institut de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur Tunisien - Institut National de Recherche Agronomique en Tunisie – (Agence Française pour le Développement) – others Tunisien partners Associations

Leading Partner: Association ABEL GRANIER

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

To teach relevant methods of cultures for natural soils restoration in semi-arid regions. The project aims to train each year an average of six young farmers and two seniors' independent farmer partners and demonstrate conducting dry culture of specific leguminose crops on the poorest soils or the salted lands in the country. The training will be started on three farms in the region Northwest of Tunisia for this year. It can be extended with more voluntary partners in the future. The partners must be taught in the same time how to use in the most sparing ways the natural waters and soils. It is expected that these partners in turn will be in charge of the next training in the area where their exploitations are.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

This is a project for sustaining development in agriculture in ecological fragile regions. It can help building the necessary farming competences for cultures and cattle rising in country with comparable ecological conditions that are fighting for self-sufficiency in food and cattle products, especially in Mediterranean area. It will provide low cost process for soils restoration. The objective is to promote the restoration of the soil productivity and a better life level for the farmer without endangering the environment. The new vegetal production will provide new economical activities in the area (for example in building local

industries of vegetal extract for pharmacological other cosmetics uses. This production will be obtain as far as possible without use of herbicides or pesticides and with a low level of chemical fertilizers, as it will be use mostly only vegetal crops for fertilizing.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

The aim is to obtain in five years a local team of competent farmers for a complete rehabilitation of the soils, which would be cultivated with such methods, and to achieve the return of the treated land in productivity for men food and cattle grazing and refrain rural population from leaving their home region towards urban centers. Complementary projects are to deal with the building of local industries for use of the products.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

We hope to achieve, in the first two years, a real training for the voluntaries in forage crops and forest plantations, for stopping the continuous progressing desert in Mediterranean area. We wish to train farmers to achieve directly and by a personal effort this objective, learning in the next two years period after the training how to identify the locale forage cultures that would be best adapted to the climate and the soil system. We are planning to teach how to avoid pollution of soils and water in the cultivated area. Definitely we mean to teach how to reduce the use of irrigation in agriculture in the area at the end of the five years promoting new ways of agricultural productions. The final target in the end of five more years will be a nursery of an average of 350 farms conducted by farmers with complete competences in biological agricultural productions.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

The association will provide the expert competences and logistic for the training in relationship with the INRAT and the IRESA in Tunisia and other institutions of sciences in France and in Italy. The association will provide the technical means for implementation and the grains for the cultures with the help of these institutions. A contract between the Association and her partners in Tunisia will be concluded with the definition of the obligations of the partners and their part in the subsequent training of the new partners. The association is searching to link this with others partners for promoting new economical activities in the region by the use of the vegetal production (vegetal extracts or essences)

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Funding will be made available through private donations by the mean of the association, private loans without interest from institutional organization sustaining that type of vocational education project of public interest, participations to the cost from the societies de Mises en Valeurs de Developpements Agricoles (SMVDA). This actual funding will represent 70 % from the cost. The Initiative can receive also specific help for definite part of the implementation from official government agency in France and Germany in the case of experts or advisers assistance needs. In few years, the initiative is to become self sufficient through partners reseau.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

The initiative is directed specifically towards capacity building and technology transfert.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

The Association prepare the necessary supports for teaching and training in the specifics methods of cultures that are the result of the experimentation made by Mr. Abel Granier thirty years ago in Tunisia.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

The association is in contact with the services of the Ministry of Agriculture in Tunisia, The INAT and the Commissariat Regional au Development Agricole dans la region de Bèjà (Tunisie).

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Annual progress reports will be provided. Special information letters will be sent to all partners and interested bodies

Web site: to be developed as appropriate.

Other relevant information:

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Web-site (if available):

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