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Theme: Education, information sharing and awareness raising in agroforestry

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Abstract

"LIVINGAGRO – Cross Border Living laboratories for Agroforestry" project is funded under the ENI CBC Med Programme 2014 – 2020, first call for standard projects, and refers to thematic objective A.2 "Support to education, research, technological development and innovation", priority A.2.1 "Technological transfer and commercialization of research results".

With a total budget of 3,3 Million Euros and a 2,9 Million EU-contribution through the ENI CBC Med Programme, LIVINGAGRO project involves 6 organizations from 4 different countries including the *Regional Forest Agency for Land and Environment of Sardinia* (Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.) in quality of Leading Beneficiary, the *Italian National Research Council*, Department of Biology, Agriculture and Food Science, through 4 Institutes ISAFOM, IRET, IBBR and ISPAAM (CNR - PP₁) and *ATM Consulting sas* (ATM - PP₅) from Italy; the *National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension* (NARC - PP₂) from Jordan; the *Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute* (LARI - PP₃) from Lebanon and the *Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania* (MAICH - PP₄) from Greece.

LIVINGAGRO addresses the challenge of knowledge and technological transfer in Mediterranean agriculture and forestry systems for achieving and sharing good practices aimed at sustainable production, thus protecting biodiversity, enhancing innovation transfer, increasing rural incomes and profitability for all stakeholders involved. Using an open innovation approach for co-creating economic

and social values, improving interactions between the supply and demand of innovation, technological transfer and availability of research results, eliminating geographical and cultural barriers across involved Mediterranean countries, two Living Laboratories will be established focusing on *olive multifunctional systems* (Living Laboratory 1) and *grazed woodlands* (Living Laboratory 2).

Olive cultivation is widely representative of many Mediterranean rural areas, being often part of traditional agroforestry systems, in combination with cereals, fodder legumes and/or pasture. Grazed woodlands are major Mediterranean agroforestry systems that highly contribute to sustaining multi-functional local economies, supplying both plant and animal products.

The main project actions include the creation of two Laboratories (*Living Labs*) on the themes of multi-functional olive systems and grazed woodlands, whose activation phases include the localization and identification of relevant stakeholders, the establishment of Living Labs through specific agreements between public and private entities, the development of the dedicated *ICT platform*, the creation of a public-private community and the launch of experimental pilot actions.

What will be improved?

The identification and implementation of innovative value chains in agroforestry will create new opportunities for local communities in terms of sustainable farming practices and product diversification. In addition, food production stability will be improved over time, providing high quality agricultural products, while coping with limited resources and environmental constraints and increasing rural incomes. Finally, the project will lead to different innovations with high business potential in the field of agricultural machinery, food products, omics techniques, optimised uses of agricultural, forestry and breeding by-products and residues.

Who will benefit?

- Farmers and their organisations, extension services
- Consultancy firms, research centers, Universities
- Local authorities, public or private companies, SMEs, industry, policymakers
- Users of the developed innovations

Expected achievements

- 2 cross-border Living Laboratories established for innovation and technological transfer in agroforestry
- 4 research agreements between Universities/research centers and the private sector
- 8 enterprises cooperating with research institutions in innovation activities
- 6 training courses on business creation
- 10 new products/services developed in the agroforestry sector
- 10 science to business brokerage events for Researchers and SME's staff
- 20 technology transfer and intellectual property brokering services provided

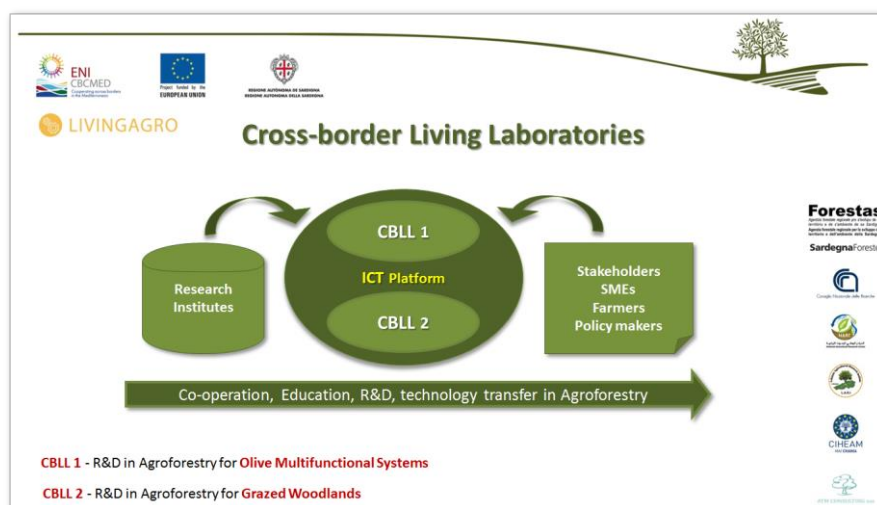


Figure 1. Cross-border Living Laboratory Model of LIVINGAGRO project.

- <http://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/livingagro>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Livingagro>
- <https://enoll.org>