



LIVINGAGRO

Cross Border Living Laboratories for Agroforestry

ENI CBC Med Programme 2014 – 2020, first call for standard projects
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LIVINGAGRO: Innovation, transfer of knowledge and technology for Mediterranean agro-forestry

Get to know our Project Managers Part I – FORESTAS (LP) and LARI (PP3)

Life @ FORESTAS with Giulia PINNA (LP)

About the Regional Forest Agency for Land and Environment of Sardinia (Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.)

Since 2016 **Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.** operates as the **technical-operational governmental structure of the Sardinia Region for the forestry and environmental sector**: an organization for the management, promotion and technical-administrative support of research and experimentation. The Agency operates in the field of **forest management** and forest areas insistent on terrestrial coastal ecosystems, in the management of the regional **ecological network in forest areas** (in agreement with other management bodies and with the municipalities involved). In addition, Fo.Re.S.T.A.S. deals with maintenance of rural areas, civil protection and fight against forest fires, but also with research, innovation, technology transfer and training.



Learning to know Giulia PINNA, Project Manager at Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.

With a higher degree in law, Giulia is a **legal and procurement officer at the Department of General and Legal Affairs** of the Fo.Re.S.T.A.S. Agency, **Procurement unit**. She had several professional experiences within different Public Administrations, among which the one at the Joint Managing Authority of the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Basin Programme which has played an essential role in her educational and professional background.

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Work during COVID19 health emergency

At **Fo.Re.S.T.A.S. Agency** almost all employees are currently working from home, exception made for carrying out those functions that can only be carried out at the office such as the contact center, payroll processing and some activities related to the budget. In this sense, in order to avoid creating unsafe working conditions, the **presence of staff at the Agency's offices is very limited** and has to be eventually authorized for necessary circumstances; even managers do alternate working hours to avoid overcrowding. Gloves and masks are provided to the staff who is obliged to go at the office. Concerning smart working, the exchange between colleagues is, despite the unusual situation, continuous and effective through e-mail, telephone and videoconference meetings.



Life @ LARI with Milad EL RIACHY (PP3)

About the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI)

LARI is a **governmental organization that supplies several services for farmers, traders and NGOs**. These services include **laboratory tests for imported and exported food products** including olive oil, honey, milk and wine (quality, microbiological and mycotoxins); water (chemical and microbiological tests); soil; fertilizers and forages. Despite the Corona Virus, these services remain available in addition to several research projects that are still ongoing, among which LIVINGAGRO project.



Learning to know Dr. Milad El Riachy, LIVINGAGRO Project Manager at LARI

The LIVINGAGRO Project Manager at LARI is Dr. Milad El Riachy, **specialist in olive and olive oil production** from the University of Cordoba (Spain) and **Head of the Department of Olive and**

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Olive Oil at LARI since 2012. Dr. El Riachy has a wide experience on olive growing and olive oil production and quality with around 30 publications in European journals on the impact of agro-industrial practices on olive growing and olive oil composition.

Work during COVID19 health emergency

Dr. El Riachy and his colleagues at LARI continue their **work in rotation at the Center or work from home**, while taking all the necessary precautions to avoid direct contact between each other and between farmers and other clients. In addition, Dr. El Riachy continues seeking for the **completion of the team** that will be working on the implementation of the project activities and keep continuous contact with the National Contact Point (NCP) and the Control Contact Point (CCP) for selecting the Audit company. Moreover, the Head accountant of LARI (Fadi Naddaf), in collaboration with the project manager, is working on procurement issues such as resolving the VAT exemption issues and preparing the general tender conditions in order to advance in the most urgent activities related to the implementation of the project.

Get to know our Project Managers Part II – CNR DISBA(PP1) and MAICH (PP4)

Life @ CNR with Marina BUFACCHI (PP1)

About the Italian National Research Council, Department of Bio-Agro-Food Sciences (CNR DISBA)

The **Department of Bio-Agro-Food Sciences (DISBA)** carries out **research, innovation and training** activities in all fields related to **agriculture and food sciences**. DISBA wants to contribute to the progress of scientific and technological knowledge useful for the development and enhancement of a sustainable and innovative agro-food system to face the important global challenges of the earth's future, including the need to supply food, water and energy to a growing population, through the sustainable use of limited natural resources. The Department is **made up of 9 Institutes** and, in terms of international, territorial and neighborhood cooperation, participates, also through the institutes that belong to it, in more than 180 national and international research projects. **CNR ISAFOM (Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Systems of the Mediterranean)** is one of the institutes belonging to DISBA and deals with the study and analysis of the physical, chemical and biological processes that determine the **functioning and dynamics of agro-ecosystems in Mediterranean climate environments**, for the qualitative and quantitative improvement of production, for the optimization of the use of natural resources and for the enhancement of the functions of agricultural and forestry systems.



Learning to know Marina BUFACCHI, Project Manager at CNR ISAFOM

After graduating in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Perugia, Marina Bufacchi has been involved for over 25 years in the **promotion, organization and management of research, development and diffusion of innovation activities**, at the beginning in the **agro-food and environmental sectors** and, subsequently, in the sector of **technologies applied to cultural and**

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environmental heritage. For some years she has dealt with international cooperation with developing countries. Since 2012 he has been working at the Perugia office of the Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Systems of the Mediterranean –**ISAFOM** where he oversaw, among other, the design and coordination of two EU-funded projects (FFW, 7° FP GA#308733 - BeFOre, Horizon2020 GA #645595). She is currently involved in the implementation of LIVINGAGRO project funded under the ENI CBC MED Program. She currently holds the position of **Acting Director of the CNR ISAFOM Institute.**

Work during COVID19 health emergency

Following the measures taken to adequately contrast spreading of SARS COV 2, the CNR has ordered the use of **smart-working to all professional and technical figures** able to work remotely. This also influenced the implementation of LIVINGAGRO project. In particular, once activities relating to meetings and co-presence meetings were postponed to a date to be identified, video-conferences were organized whenever possible, using various tools for remote connection, such as Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting, etc., thus, managing to maintain contact with the other project partners. Thanks to these technologies it was possible to continue sharing information and experiences, even if with some limitations. Efforts were concentrated on activities such as the study of the model for the Living Laboratory “Olive Multifunctional System”, the definition of the “Capitalization plan” and the composition of the Cross Cutting Issues Committee. The same technologies are expected to be used to organize the first Steering Committee meeting of the project previously postponed due to the SARS COV 2 emergency.



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Life @ MAICH with Panagiotis KALAITZIS (PP4)

About the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH)

The **Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania** is the **4th constituent institute of CIHEAM**, the **International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies**, an intergovernmental organization which was founded at the joint initiative of the OECD and the Council of Europe on May 21st 1962 under an agreement signed by the governments of seven southern European countries: France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The 1962 agreement establishing the Centre stipulates that **CIHEAM's mission** consists in “providing supplementary **education** (economic as well as technical) and developing a spirit of **international cooperation among agricultural personnel in Mediterranean countries**”. CIHEAM is made up of four Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAIs), located in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain), and a General Secretariat based in Paris. Since 1986 and as the 4th constituent institute of CIHEAM, **MAICH** pursues its three main complementary missions through **post-graduate specialized education** networked **research facilitation** of regional debate with focus in **the fields of Business Economics and Management, Geo-information in Environmental Management, Horticultural Genetics and Biotechnology, Food Quality** and Chemistry of Natural Products, **Sustainable Agriculture** and has established itself as an authority in Mediterranean agriculture, Food and **Rural Development**.



Learning to know Panagiotis KALAITZIS, LIVINGAGRO Project Manager at MAICH

Dr. Panagiotis Kalaitzis achieved his Ph.D. in Molecular & Cell Biology at the University of Maryland, in the USA. He then **joined the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, as Research & Studies Coordinator of the Department of Horticulture and transformed it** within couple of years **into the Horticultural Genetics & Biotechnology Department**. His research interests are focused on the molecular physiology of horticultural crops and, specifically, in the regulation of developmental programs such as fruit ripening of the model crop tomato and olives as well as abiotic stress responses due to climate change. In addition, he has significant experience in food authenticity by using biotechnological approaches in food matrices such as olive oil. He has more than 50 publications and has coordinated and participated in more than 30 different European and national research projects. He is Vice-Chair of the COST ACTION ROXY CA18210 “Oxygen Sensing a novel mean for biology and technology of fruit quality” and member of the Core Group of the COST ACTION CA1711 “Data integration of maximize the power of omics for grapevine improvement”.

Work during COVID19 health emergency

During this period, the Corona Virus crisis has spread further the growth of online work and, through regular e-meetings, Dr. Kalaitzis is working on the implementation of LIVINGAGRO project. Through **conference calls with Greek farmers and entrepreneurs** of the olive

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multifunctional system, he is working to assess their specific needs for innovation and re-orient research activities to satisfy their needs and examine the possibility of transferring ready-to-use innovations.

Get to know our Project Managers Part III – NARC (PP2) and ATM (PP5)

Life @ NARC with Salam AYOUB (PP2)

About the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC)

NARC is the principle agricultural research institution on the national level. NARC consists of a main headquarter in Al-Balqa and eight regional centers covering the different areas of Jordan. NARC aims to **promote the agricultural sector in Jordan** through the implementation of **applied agricultural research** and **introduction** of appropriate and **effective technology** in cooperation with relevant national and international institutions for **enhancing the economic and environmental level of Jordanian farmers**. The organization includes expert researchers in the field of olive cultivation, horticulture, cereals, legumes, biodiversity, fodders, water, soil, animal husbandry, environment and climate change. NARC has also well-established laboratories and operates with 13 research stations representing different agro-ecological conditions of Jordan. NARC made a very important accomplishment aligning its goals endorsed within its new strategy (2019-2023) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (Agenda 2030).



Learning to know Salam AYOUB, LIVINGAGRO Project Manager at NARC

Dr. Salam Ayoub is a **senior researcher and the Director of Horticulture Research Directorate at the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC)**. He obtained his Ph.D. in Horticulture / Olive tree physiology from the University of Jordan. He is an expert in olive cultivation and olive oil quality and works as principal investigator for several research projects related to characterization and conservation of olive cultivars, reuse of olive mill wastewater and utilization of reclaimed wastewater. His research interests include olive cultivars and genetic resources, olive oil extraction and quality, olive irrigation, management of olive mills by-products and organic farming. He has published 12 peer-reviewed articles, 8 booklets and one book-chapter. He is a member of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), member of the AARINENA Olive Network, olive oil expert for the International Olive Council, member of the Jordanian Society for Organic Farming, member of the Jordanian olive oil tasting panel and the organizer of the 5th International Olive Conference (OLIVEBIOTEQ-2014). Dr. Ayoub is currently working on the implementation of LIVINGAGRO project including submitting the request to purchase the equipment (personal computers), start the procedure for procurement of the external financial auditor and establishing a demonstration site for olive multifunctional system at Maru Research Station in Irbid (North of Jordan).

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Work during COVID19 health emergency

During the ongoing COVID19 crisis, the **government and private sectors in Jordan are off-work** since March 18th 2020. The government bodies are working with the minimal staff to sustain the life and to provide the people with their essential needs. NARC staff continue to work remotely to provide the farmers with awareness letters, information and learning videos on how to manage their farms and to sustain their production and taking the health precautions during the COVID19 crisis. The deal with **Smart working** continues from home with colleagues from NARC to follow up project activities. The progress in implementation of project activities was discussed via Skype meeting with partners from LARI, Lebanon.



Life @ ATM with Dina PORAZZINI (PP5)

About ATM Consulting s.a.s. (ATM)

ATM consulting s.a.s. is a consulting company based in Italy in different regions such as Sardinia, Umbria and Lombardy. It deals with **assistance, design and innovation transfer in the agro-forestry sector**, not only in the national territory but also in other countries of the European Union. The company was founded in 1990 by a group of agronomists including the legal representative who has still today the managerial role. It provides its services with a “network” philosophy, using a network of skills and collaborations that expands every year according to a virtuous mechanism of relationships between positive systems. The pillars of ATM's action are good knowledge of innovations suitable for transfer, technical ability, experience and precision in “doing”. The sector of work concerning the services related to the application of studies and researches in the agricultural, forestry, agro-industrial, agro-food and environmental sectors is one of the main scope of the company.

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Learning to know Dina PORAZZINI, LIVINGAGRO Project Manager at ATM

Dina Porazzini was co-founder of ATM in 1990, being the company involved in many activities and experiences within projects related to the agricultural and forestry sector such as regional development programs, local development plans, innovation transfer and European projects. Dina is graduated in agricultural sciences and has a long experience in transfer innovation and an experience of assistance to companies of over 30 years. She covers the role of Project Manager for ATM within LIVINGAGRO project.

Work during COVID19 health emergency

During the COVID-19 emergency some of the working activities at ATM were carried out quite normally, whereas some were put in standby or reduced. Most of the work, in order to contrast the spreading of the virus, was done via **smart working**. Therefore, for some collaborators the situation has changed little, since they already carried out their **activities remotely**, while the **workplace moved from the office to home** for the rest of the staff. What really changed was the scheduling of meetings, daily activities and the organization's way. In fact in this period all the staff has limited to organize himself to regular meetings via Skype, that however have been very productive. Obviously some activities concerning physical meetings and co-presence meetings were postponed. However, despite the difficulties, the work was carried out without too many complications and from a certain point of view, indeed, it was possible to experiment new platforms which enable work remotely.

FROM THE PROJECT PARTNERS – In this edition: News from the GREEK PP



Agroforestry Systems: innovation for sustainable agricultural production



**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ
ΑΓΡΟΔΑΣΕΙΚΟ
ΔΙΚΤΥΟ**
GREEK AGROFORESTRY NETWORK

On Sunday 2nd of February 2020, during the 28th International Fair for Agricultural Machinery, Equipment & Supplies "AGROTICA 2020", the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece-branch of Central Macedonia in collaboration with the Hellenic Agroforestry Network organized a meeting focused on the "**Agroforestry Systems: innovation for sustainable agricultural production**". **Farmers, cooperative's** representatives and **researchers** discussed on different issues regarding the national agroforestry systems. It was reported that **traditional agroforestry systems occupy significant areas**, especially in the **semi-mountainous areas** and in some cases, they were transformed into monocultures. During the meeting all the participants agreed that the **maintenance of agroforestry systems** is considered **imperative for the preservation of the good condition of the soils, the biodiversity and the landscape** as well as the **provision of financial support to the rural population**. More information about the meeting and the Greek Agroforestry Network can be found at the following [link](#).

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PLANT UP-Upgrading the plant capital



PLANT UP



“PlantUp” aims at the introduction and development of an **integrated** and **cutting-edge infrastructure** for the preservation and

exploitation of the wealth and heritage of the **Hellenic plant biodiversity**, while assuring consumers' health and environmental protection. The implementation of *PlantUp* reinforces existing infrastructures and is expected to produce a number of significant results, including: the **preservation of biodiversity** and the **conservation of plants' genetic resources**; **efficient plant health maintenance**; a **safeguard against any invasive, non-indigenous harmful organisms** in new plant species; certified domestic plant propagating material; the **introduction of new plant species and cultivars into cultivation**; the development of modern, advanced and more sustainable technologies in cultivation practices; the discovery of natural products of pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmeceutical and agrochemical interest, as well as the development of high-added-value products.



The **Department of Horticultural Genetics and Biotechnology** from **MAICH**, will upgrade its existing infrastructure with complementary state-of-the art equipment in the scientific area of genomics and phenomics. The main objective concentrated mostly **on the molecular genotyping**



of cultivars in order to assess their **genetic diversity**. This project focuses on the discovery of **novel characteristics** from two local varieties, a **bell shape** and a **beef type**. Emphasis will be placed on **selecting agronomically important characteristics** for both **field- and greenhouse-grown Cretan tomatoes**, which include resistance or tolerance to the devastating Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus and Tomato leaf miner, longer shelf-life, salt tolerance, post harvest behavior and nutritional content such as vitamins, lycopene, antioxidants, ascorbic acid and carotenoids. **Traditional and novel breeding methods** will be deployed, **along with classic and honeycomb design**.

Moreover, by using advanced methodologies from applied mathematics, image processing and scientific computing will perform **morphological analysis** of **different crop species**.

“PlantUp” is implemented under the Action “Reinforcement of the Research and Innovation Infrastructure”, funded by the Operational Programme “Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation” (NSRF 2014-2020) and co-financed by the Greek Government and the European Union (European Regional Development Fund).

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LIVINGAGRO project has been funded by the EU under the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020.

The total budget of **LIVINGAGRO** project amounts to 3.3 Million € with an EU contribution of 2.9 Million € (90%).

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The **2014-2020 ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme** is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI). The Programme objective is to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development, which may advance cross-border integration and valorize participating countries' territories and values. The following 13 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia. The Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French. For more information, please visit: www.enicbmed.eu.

The **European Union** is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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