

What are Field Labs?

The NATAE project will set up a series of field laboratories in 5 countries in North Africa where methodologies will be developed, tailored for local strategies, and tested for replicability.

An agroecological field lab is a place of structured exchanges on the agroecological transition where co-construction of knowledge occurs due to the dialogue organised between key stakeholders, including farmers, industries, governments, NGOs, consumer organisations, research institutions and local advisory services.

NATAE will organise **six Living Labs** in a set of areas representative of North Africa farming systems and agroecological zones diversity in Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia: oasis and peri-oasis systems, cereal plains, irrigated valley and plain, mountains, peri-urban.

Seven Replication Labs have been selected in areas where the methodologies and findings of Living Lab will be tested for replicability.



Living Labs (LL)

- Mauritania: Riyadh, PK 17 LL (Peri-urban)
- Tunisia: Siliana LL (Cereal plains)
- Algeria: Laghouat LL (Oasis and peri-oasis system)
- Morocco: Boulmane LL (Mountains)
- Morocco: Meknès LL (Peri-urban)
- Egypt: Luxor LL (Irrigated valley)



Replication Labs (RL)


- Mauritania: Atar RL (Oasis and peri-oasis system)
- Tunisia: Kebili RL (Oasis and peri-oasis system)
- Algeria: Setif RL (Cereal plains)
- Algeria: Tizi-Ouzou RL (Mountains)
- Morocco: Saïss plain RL (Cereal plains)
- Egypt: Kafr El Sheikh RL (Irrigated valley)
- South Africa: South Africa RL (Peri-urban)

Consortium

NATAE consortium consists of 22 partners.

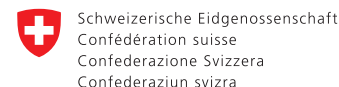


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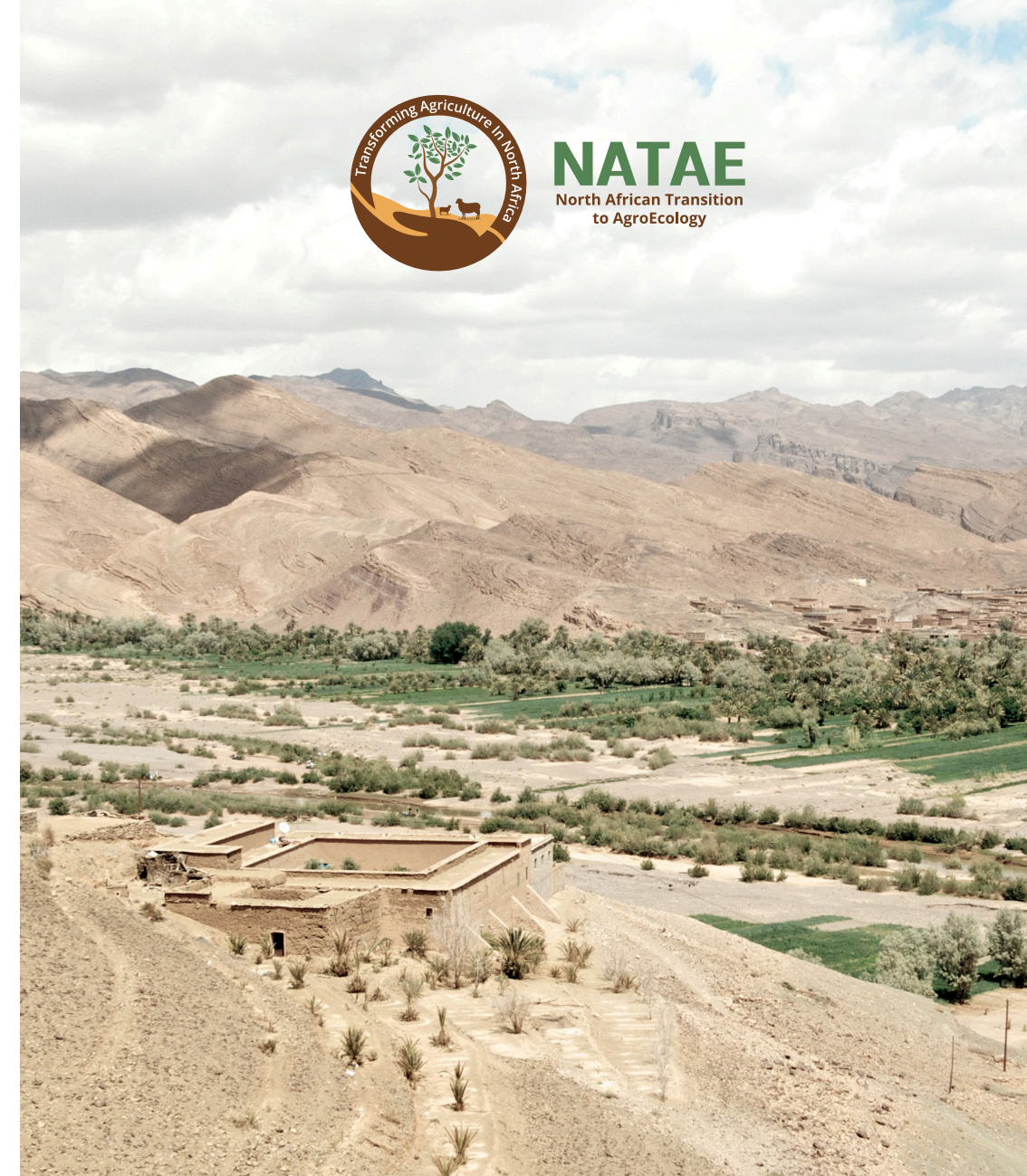
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NATAE
North African Transition
to AgroEcology

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About

The process of agroecological transition is often seen as context specific, but it is also based on transdisciplinary approaches, in which the agroecological knowledge is shared and co-built between the farmers and the researchers and intends to make connection with consumers and therefore food system, through structured dialogue and exchanges in particular with public decision-making and civil society associations.

In this context, the NATAE project (North African Transition to Agroecology) will set 6 living labs in a participatory way so as to characterize, assess and stimulate local stakeholders' dynamics around the agroecological potentials and constraints for the region. Furthermore, these living labs represent the main relevant agro socio environmental zones of the region: oasian and peri-oasian; peri-urban; mountains; cereals plain; Nile cultivated lands. Last, they are characterized by previous development and research projects implementation in the field of sustainable agriculture bringing in valuable inputs with regards to already existing agroecological practices.

NATAE aims at identifying optimal combinations of agroecological practices (AEP), and developing a replicable methodology to design evidence-based locally-tailored strategies for agroecological transitions on one hand, at networking through the setting-up of a durable Mediterranean network and community of knowledge: MEDAE. Building on the strength of an exceptional multi-actor and multidisciplinary consortium, NATAE will broadly disseminate its findings, impacting future curricula in North Africa and Europe, future development programs and future policies.

NATAE is a project funded by the European Commission that started in December 2022 and will end in November 2026.



Objectives



To Comprehend

- To identify promising agroecological practices combinations
- To analyze stakeholders' knowledge and perceptions on agroecology



To Enlarge

- To broaden agroecological value chains
- To strengthen market access strategies for small producers and to enhance consumers' demand for agroecological food products



To Network

- To set up a Mediterranean multi-actor network on Agroecology, fostering knowledge exchange across different communities and countries



To Empower

- To empower key stakeholders in charge of policy elaboration and higher education to foster agroecological transition



To Assess

- To measure the qualitative and quantitative impacts of agroecological strategies for different farming systems
- To identify levers and constraints for the AEP diffusion and conditions, means and tools to support agroecological transitions

Key Project Figures



22

Partners



7 M€

Budget



48

Months

Work Plan

WP1

Multidimensional and multiscale AEP strategy evaluation framework

WP2

Optimizing the performance of agro-ecological practices combinations by developing and using an integrating modelling chain decision tool

WP3

Evaluating and fostering the integration of AE in multi-scale food systems

WP4

Living Labs and Replication Labs

WP5

Networking, capitalisation and dissemination Work

WP6

EU-compliant policies to foster AE transition in North African countries

WP7

Introducing AE in Education and extension on North African Agriculture

Ethics and protection of personal data is an essential element in NATAE. To ensure compliance of the project implementation with EU best practices and national state policies of relevant countries when applicable, NATAE has appointed an External Ethics Advisor to ensure that all the identified ethics issues are taken into consideration and adequately addressed.

