What are Field Labs?

The NATAE project sets up a series of field labs in five countries in North Africa where methodologies are being 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 is currently organising **seven 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 and peri-urban.

Five Replication Labs have also been selected in these areas where the methodologies and findings of the Living Labs 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)
- Algeria: Tizi-Ouzou LL (Mountains)
- 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)
- Morocco: Saïss plain RL (Cereal plains)
- South Africa: South Africa RL (Peri-urban)

Consortium

NATAE consortium consists of 23 partners.



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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 by farmers and researchers, aiming to establish connections with consumers and consequently, the food system through structured dialogue in particular with public decision-making and civil society organisations.

In this context, the NATAE project (Fostering Agroecology Transition in North Africa Through Multi-actor Evaluation and Networking) established seven Living Labs in a participatory approach 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: oasis and peri-oasian; peri-urban; mountains; cereals plain; irrigated valley. Lastly, they are characterized by the implementation of development and research projects in the field of sustainable agriculture bringing in valuable inputs into existing agroecological practices.

NATAE aims to identify optimal combinations of agroecological practices (AEPs), and to develop a replicable methodology for the design of evidence-based locally-tailored strategies for agroecological transitions. Also, Natae is working on networking through the setting-up of a durable Mediterranean network and community of knowledge: the 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 it will end in November 2026.





Work Plan

Multidimensional and multiscale AEP strategy evaluation framework

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

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

Living Labs and Replication Labs



Networking, capitalisation and dissemination

WP6

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



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.

