



Menfori

Mediterranean Network of Forestry Research and Innovation





THE CHALLENGE

The Mediterranean is one of the most vulnerable regions to **global change**. While in Europe land abandonment results in new unmanaged forest cover, increasing **fire and pest** risks, in the Maghreb, forests use intensification promotes **desertification**. Forest management strategies must guarantee the **sustainable use** of ecosystem goods and services under global change, in order to achieve a **resource efficient, low-carbon economy**.

Landscape strategies from the north of the Mediterranean, as **associative management** and **certification**, could help stopping deforestation while obtaining economic benefits in the Maghreb, and **traditional knowledge** from the south may help decreasing land abandonment in Europe by developing **eco-innovative businesses**.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

MENFRI is a dialogue and action platform in forestry, encouraging **scientific and technological collaboration within the Mediterranean**.

The main goal of the project is to create a favourable environment for the development of **forestry as an innovative and job creating business** sector in this region while facing climate change.

The project will help **bridging the gap between research and innovation** in ecological research and forest management by better **aligning both research and economic objectives to societal needs**.

MENFRI'S PILLARS

EXPERTS GROUP

To obtain a realistic overview of the situation of the forestry sector in the Mediterranean Region, **MENFRI** is advised by an international and interdisciplinary group of experts.

Politicians, forest owners, scientists, managers, ONG members and entrepreneurs have been gathered in Morocco, Italy and Spain to identify the principal bottlenecks to forestry innovation in the Mediterranean Region and draft possible solutions.



TRAINING SESSIONS

To promote cross border cooperation and encourage the transfer of knowledge, **MENFRI** organises training sessions on business development, forest certification and geographical information systems, and visits for researchers between European and Maghreb countries, based on the principles of common interests and objectives, mutual benefit and reciprocity.



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CURRENT INNOVATIONS SUPPORTED BY Menfri

NETWORK

MENFRI helps reinforcing the Mediterranean forestry sector by putting in contact forest managers, local communities, administrations and policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and other involved stakeholders, in order for them to find adequate partners and build strong collaborations to ensure the creation of eco-innovative business.



RAISE THE VOICE OF WOMEN IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

In the forested areas of Maghreb, women are actively involved in food security and forestry production. Unfortunately, the impact of these activities is poorly appreciated and prevent most of their time to be devoted to education or business development. Innovation in terms of forestry machinery would considerably improve women's working conditions and ensure a more sustainable use of the forest. **MENFRI** puts in contact engineers from the University of Tuscia and women cooperatives from Morocco to find technical solutions and, by reducing the time and effort employed in forestry tasks, allows the voice of women to be heard.



CERTIFICATION OF MEDITERRANEAN FOREST PRODUCTS

Being able to identify a certified product issued from a Mediterranean forest as environmentally friendly and socially fair is key in the development of a market for Mediterranean forest products. Such certified market would favour growth in the Mediterranean by attracting investors, and therefore increasing the interest of local stakeholders in using their source of income in a sustainable way. **MENFRI** works closely with PEFC, the world's largest forest certification system, and Moroccan and Tunisian administrations to explore how forest certification could help Mediterranean forests and their products to be better valued.



YOUTH INTEGRATION IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR

We believe in the potential for forestry as a job-creating sector in the Mediterranean, where in fact unemployment results in youth marginalization. **MENFRI** is collaborating with SocialForest, a European company that provides outcast youngsters training and working experience in the forest sector, in order to support integration, education and employment by developing similar activities in Maghreb countries.



A large, stylized green tree graphic with a thick trunk and several rounded, arching branches. The tree is rendered in a solid green color and occupies the left and center portions of the page.

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