

The FASTER project continues to progress in its mission to support Tunisia's adaptation to climate change in land and water management through

Farm Advisory Services, Research Excellence and Networking.



FARM ADVISORY SERVICES

FASTER launches its 1st Spring School Program on Farmer Advisory Services.



1st Spring school
for Farmer Advisory Services Agents of Change
16-20 March 2020 Tabarka, Tunisia

The first Spring School will consist on 5-days activities including **training, workshops and field trips** to interact and share experiences, as well as contributing to the co-design of adaptation solutions and sharing of scientific information relevant to the agricultural sector in North and North-West Tunisia. **Two Spring Schools will be held until 2021.**

[Learn More](#)

The FASTER FAS Living Lab continues its process



The H2020 project FASTER includes a Living Lab process to test specific Farm Advisory System solutions targeting the complete series of actors in the farming chain in the North-West region of Tunisia. The solutions found will be converted into practical knowledge: a series of FAS Living Lab Factsheets.

A **preparatory workshop** was organized on February 13th with more than 100 participants to discuss the selection of topics of interest for the realization of the factsheets on climate change adaptation solutions. The next FASTER FAS Living Lab workshop will be held on 23 March 2020 in Tunisia.

Download the FASTER FAS Living Lab Process Factsheet

[Download](#)



RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Success for the 1st year of the Mobility program



2 Researchers
went to CREAF



2 PhD Students, 1 Researcher
went to LUND UNIVERSITY

The first year of the FASTER mobility programme was a complete success.

3 researchers and 2 PhD students visited the European partners, overcoming the initial objective of an average of 3 study visits per year. The outcomes were encouraging and among other things a [published paper in an international journal](#).

Download the Factsheet "FASTER Mobility Program at a glance"

[Download](#)

The First Scientific Report on Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean

On December 12 was presented during a side-event of the Cop25 in Madrid, the preliminary results of the **1st Mediterranean Assessment Report**, the first-ever comprehensive scientific report on the impact of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean region. Researchers from FASTER's Consortium, also members of MedECC (Mediterranean Expert on Climate and Environmental Change) were deeply involved in the writing of this major study.



NETWORKING

FASTER shares about its project with GIZ Palestinian Experts



Within the context of a study trip to Tunisia by a delegation of Palestinian experts from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the H2020 FASTER project organized an encounter to present its initiative. It provided the occasion for sharing and exchanging of experience as well as the orientation towards future collaborations.

[Learn More](#)

FASTER generated interest among officials in Sweden

Ronny Berndtsson, FASTER's Swedish project leader and Acting Director of Center for Middle Eastern Studies of the Lund University, recently had the opportunity to present the project to the Foreign Policy Commission of the Swedish Parliament. They exchanged on the involvement and collaboration in FASTER and the cooperation with Tunisia.



Supporting young people in Tunisia and making education and training opportunities relevant

Along with Horizon 2020 Tunisia and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, FASTER H2020 participated in December in the #EU4YOUTH Forum. Organized by EU to support young people in Tunisia and make education and training opportunities relevant to their needs, the event was dedicated to advise, guide and inform project leaders towards the internationalization of their innovation.



PUBLICATIONS

Strong partnerships have led to qualitative outcomes in research

Twinning, collaboration and cooperation have led to improvements towards the objective of #ResearchExcellence. The last months of the FASTER project have been filled with many successes, notably the publication of numerous articles with the participation of the project's members and partners. **Consult the list below:**

- A. Chebil, A. Frija, M. Makhlof, C. Thabet and S. Jebari (July 23rd 2019). Effects of Water Scarcity on the Performances of the Agricultural Sector and Adaptation Strategies in Tunisia. Agricultural Economics - Current Issues, Surendra N. Kulshreshtha, IntechOpen. [Read here.](#)
- S. Cherif, O. Ezzine, M.L. Khouja and Z. Nasr (August 15th 2019). Hydraulic Traits Performances of Three Pine Species in Tunisia. Journal of Agricultural Science - Canadian Center of Science and Education. [Read here.](#)
- S. Bouguerra, S. Jebari and J. Tarhouni (October 1st 2019). An analysis of sediment production and control in Rmel river basin using InVEST Sediment Retention model. Journal of New Sciences. [Read here.](#)
- N. Zemni, F. Bouksila, M. Persson, F. Slama, R. Berndtsson and R. Boulhila (November 29th 2019). Laboratory Calibration and Field Validation of Soil Water Content and Salinity Measurements Using the 50tH Sensor. Sensors, 19(23), 5272. [Read here.](#)
- M. Khalfoui, H- Daly-Hassen, B. Stiti, S. Jebari (February 11th 2020). Toward Decision-Making Support: Valuation and Mapping of New Management Scenarios for Tunisian Cork Oak Forests. Forests, 2020; 11(2):197. [Read here.](#)



OPEN CALLS

[Workshop on "Communication for EU Projects"](#)

1-2 April 2020, Brussels.

The **Official Spanish Chamber of Commerce** in Belgium and Luxembourg and **Vision Communication** organise a training to guide on how to effectively design and manage communication in projects granted by the EU.

Register now

[Young Leadership Program](#)

The programme is designed for emerging leaders from the research, education, NGOs, governance or business side of the forest sector or a related area who are working in or with the Mediterranean countries.

Deadline for application: 23 March 2020

[PRIMA calls 2020](#)

The PRIMA calls aim to support research and innovation through two distinct types of actions in sectors like water management, agro-food, farming, etc.

Deadline for proposals: 1 April 2020

[Open call for short-term exchanges in all research areas: MSCA Individual fellowship](#)

The Research and Innovation Staff Exchange #RISE funds short-term exchanges of personnel between academic, industrial and commercial organisations throughout the world.

Deadline for proposals: 28 April 2020

[Call for abstracts – 4th International Symposium on Forest Entomology and Pathology](#)

The focus of this year is on "Outlining the Forefront Research in Forest Entomology and Pathology", as well as forest insect pests and how damage can be prevented or controlled..

Deadline for submission: 30 May 2020

[Call for contributions - Publish in the MDPI open-access journal "Sustainability"](#)

For its special issue on Sustainable Applications in Agriculture, MDPI is looking for contributions on two main topics: Precision agriculture; and Sustainable use of resources in agriculture in environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

Deadline for submission: 31 August 2020



USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

[Grant management H2020 funding guide](#)

[WEBINAR: Rural advisory services helping to face uncertainty \(FAO\)](#)

[WEBINAR: Speak Out Toolkit - Use our tips, practice the techniques to sharpen your skills and be a better communicator about farming](#)

[WEBINAR: Sustainability of Public Investments, the case of Centers of Excellence in widening actions](#)