

Despite the global slowdown, 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. The European Commission has positively evaluated the first 15 months of project delivery, giving value to the accomplishments so far between the seven Tunisian and European partners. The adaptation to the new reality of the current global pandemic is an additional challenge that the FASTER consortium is facing in the project implementation.

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4TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



Last Friday 23rd of October FASTER held online its 4th Steering Committee. Within the meeting, the different members presented not only the progress made during the last 6 months but also planned how they will keep working on the different areas of the project during the year 2021. The situation caused by the pandemic COVID-19 has demanded an urgent adaptation of the activities planned. [Check out the full article here.](#)



RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

1st Specialized Training



From the 2nd to the 6th of November 2020, the first part of the [specialized training program](#) will be taking place online. During the training, researchers from **CREAF** will share their knowledge and tools in key topics such as improving research skills and adaptation to climate change, terrestrial ecology, innovative governance and water resources management. A second specialized training program will be taking place in 2021, offered by researchers and professors of **Lund University**. Stay tuned to know more!



FARM ADVISORY SERVICES

New e-training programme



FASTER project is working on the implementation of an [E-learning platform](#) to launch a new set of online courses. The training is aimed at FAS technicians, higher education students, young researchers and technicians, representatives of the agriculture industry, and other stakeholders affiliated to **INRGREF**, **IRESA**, and **AVFA**. The courses will be organised around four modules: Applied land and water management, Innovative governance, Approaching farmers, and Capacity Building. All courses will be open-access through the MOODLE platform. Stay tuned on the project's website to benefit from [more than 100 hours of knowledge!](#)

Launch of the Living Lab Process video



The implementation of a [Living Lab on Farm Advisory Services](#) is one of the main activities of the FASTER project. Its mission is to transfer research results to the agricultural sector and to create a multi-stakeholder platform. It was launched in October 2019 and will last until the end of the project. It includes training, co-creation of factsheets for Farm Advisory, field visits, a knowledge hub, and an e-learning platform. Check out the [video](#) to get a deeper understanding of its process, actors, and primary activities. The Living Lab Process video is available in English with French and Arabic subtitles.



NETWORKING

CREAF participates at the Iberian Congress on Water Planning and Management



Our Barcelona-based partner **CREAF** participated in the biggest Water Planning and Management event of the Iberian peninsula: [the XI Congreso Ibérico de Gestión y Planificación de Aguas](#). Researchers Anabel Sánchez and Annelies Broekman presented their experience managing FASTER Living-Lab and its multi-stakeholder platform, under the congress' thematic subject of 'Governance, Education, and Communication'. Read their experience [here](#).

FASTER takes part in AfriAlliance Webinar



FASTER's partner Leonardo Piccinetti, managing director of Europe For Business has recently taken part in [AFRIalliance's](#) project webinar on 'How to create Sustainable Communities of Practice in Africa on Water and Climate Activities'. The development conducted by the FASTER consortium would be of primary interest to AFRIalliance, so we will keep working closely with them to ensure productive cooperation is made. [Click here](#) to know more about the Webinar.

FASTER takes part in the European Research and Innovation Days



From the 22nd to the 24th of September 2020, the online [European Research and Innovation Days](#) took place. Ines Nsiri and Sana Bouguerra, from INRGREF, participated in the event organised by the European Commission to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. Read more about the event [here](#).

FASTER extended website and video-tutorial launch



The project website has been largely extended to include new project achievements. New sections have been created to enlarge the project outreach, including Farm Advisory Systems, Research Excellence, and Publications. Moreover, articles, posts, and news are regularly published to keep the audience informed and engaged. Check out all these new features in this [video tutorial](#).



PUBLICATIONS

NEW SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Our INRGREF colleagues have released a new scientific publication titled **Water and Photosynthetic Rate Flows Under Drought Conditions in a Cork Oak Forest of Tunisia**. It elaborates on the relationships between drought, carbon, and water fluxes that have rarely been studied in south Mediterranean forests. We want to congratulate our colleagues on the research done. [Find the publication here.](#)



USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

EFIMED's October 2020 Newsletter mentioning FASTER

In EFIMED's October's Newsletter FASTER is mentioned in the article 'FASTER joins with AfriAlliance towards sustainable water and climate'.

WEBINAR: Nature and agriculture: understanding EU policy & delivering good practice

In this webinar, you can have an overview of the different EU perspectives and policy changes of the coming Common Agricultural Policy both from DG ENVI and DG AGRI representatives.

Grant management H2020 funding guide

Full Grant Management guide including keeping records, amendments, reports and payment requests, deliverables and much more.

WEBINAR: Sustainability of Public Investments, the case of Centers of Excellence in widening actions

The purpose of this webinar is to raise awareness about fundamental considerations when dealing with sustainability issues either in the context of EU projects including widening actions as well as in already running public investments.