



## **FASTER FINAL CONFERENCE**

FROM TWINNING TO  
EXCELLENCE HUB  
FOR TUNISIAN FARM  
ADVISORY SYSTEM

### **DRAFT AGENDA**

Wednesday, October 20

## FASTER IN A NUTSHELL

Farmers' Adaptation and Sustainability in Tunisia through Excellence in Research (FASTER) is a Twinning Project funded by European Commission (Directorate-General for Research and Innovation) through Horizon 2020 funding programme. FASTER aims to reinforce the research and knowledge transfer capacity of INRGREF related to innovative land and water management for climate change adaptation and its implementation through the use of Farm Advisory Systems (FAS).

FASTER has developed a sustainable framework for research capacity building, international networking, and FAS practice to achieve its mission.

The consortium gathers seven European and Tunisian partners: two EU partners of established scientific excellence in the topic, CREAM and the Lund University, have been ensuring the strengthening of researchers and technicians of INRGREF and the associated IRESA (the Institution for Agricultural Research and Higher Education) centres. Europe for Business evaluated the experience from the economic perspective. At the same time, Vision Communication ensured public awareness, dissemination of results, and training support. Finally, AVFA (the Agriculture Extension and Training Agency) serves as a liaison with policymakers and related stakeholders, making sure to integrate the FASTER results into national policies.

## CONCEPT

“From Twinning to Excellence Hub for Tunisian Farm Advisory System” represents an opportunity for FASTER Consortium to share the Project findings and main outputs after three years of intense work; enhancing research, developing digital capacity building and networking instruments as the e-learning platform and the FASTER Excellence Hub.

The event will have a hybrid format consisting of the following sessions:

- 🍃 A **morning session**, organised online (English language), where synergies and clustering activities with ongoing initiatives will be showcased to foster innovation ecosystems in Tunisia and beyond, creating better linkages between academia, business, and government.
- 🍃 An **afternoon session**, organised in presence in Tunisia (French language), where local stakeholders will have the possibility to visit the FASTER Exhibition presenting the main outputs and findings of the project. There will be moments of discussion and stakeholder engagement. Participants could provide their feedback and testimonial on fostering rural development and the empowerment of Tunisian research about natural resources management and climate change.

# AGENDA

## MORNING SESSION

20 October 2021 - 09:30-13:00 (GMT+2) ONLINE

**SESSION CHAIR: Leonardo Piccinetti, Europe For Business (EFB)**

09:30	Welcoming words by <a href="#">Marios Markakis</a> European Research Executive Agency - Future Society - Widening Participation EA.C.3.002
09:40	<i>Mr Markakis, representing the European Research Executive Agency, will introduce the Funding Programme, welcoming all the Participants</i>
09:40	Presentation of the FASTER project by <a href="#">Sihem Jebari</a> , National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry   INRGREF
9:55	<i>PhD Jebari, FASTER Project Coordinator from INGRES, will start the first part of the Morning session, introducing the project and its main topics.</i>
09:55	Key-note speeches
10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🍃 <i>“Climate Change Adaptation”</i> by <a href="#">Wouter Vanneville (TBC)</a>, European Environment Agency   EEA</li> <li>🍃 <i>“The Role of the Universities and Research Centers in the road to COP26”</i> by <a href="#">Charles Bestwick (TBC)</a>, Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes   SEFARI</li> </ul>
10:20	BREAK
10:40	
10:40	FASTER key results and lessons learnt
11:20	<p><i>The second part of the Morning session will resume from PhD Jebari FASTER introduction to better explain and display the main project outcomes, deliverables and results, presented directly by the Work Package Leaders.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🍃 <b>WP3 Capacity Building</b>, presented by Professor <a href="#">Ronny Berndtsson</a>, Lund University</li> <li>🍃 <b>WP4 Living FAS Lab</b>, presented by PhD <a href="#">Annelies Broekman</a>, CREAM</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WP5 Sustainability of excellence presented by <a href="#">Zied Bouslahi</a>, Agriculture Extension and Training Agency   AVFA and <a href="#">Thouraya Souissi</a>, Tunisian Institution of Agricultural Research and High Education   IRESA</li></ul>
11:20 12:45	<p>Key results from other European and international initiatives Moderated by <a href="#">Richard Elelman</a>, Technology Center of Catalonia   EURECAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">WaterAgri</a> presented by <a href="#">Miklas Scholz</a>, Lund University</li><li><a href="#">FIT4REUSE</a> presented by <a href="#">Attilio Toscano</a>, University of Bologna   Unibo</li><li><a href="#">MEDFORWATER</a> presented by <a href="#">Philippe Ker Rault</a>, KER</li><li><a href="#">PHEMAC</a> presented by project manager <a href="#">Gustavo Perez</a>, Autonomous University of Barcelona   UAB</li><li><a href="#">SOILdarity</a> presented by project manager <a href="#">Cristina Cruz</a>, University of Lisbon</li><li><a href="#">European Water Junior Programme</a> presented by Director <a href="#">Naomi Timmer</a></li><li><a href="#">NEWAVE</a> presented by scientific project manager <a href="#">Caterina Marinetti</a></li><li><a href="#">Global Water Partnership Med Programme</a> presented by programme officer <a href="#">Sondos Njoumi</a></li></ul>
12:45 13:00	<p>Closing remarks by <a href="#">Richard Elelman</a></p>

# AFTERNOON SESSION

20 October 2021 - 14:00-18:30 (GMT+1) TUNISIA

**SESSION CHAIR: Zouhair Nasr, National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry | INRGREF**

<p>14:00 14:10</p>	<p>Welcoming words</p>			
<p>14:10 15:30</p>	<p>Visit of the FASTER Exhibition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🍃 <b>ATLAS for Adaptation to Climate change &amp; FAS Living Lab Factsheets:</b> presenting climate change adaptation measures and solutions co-created by the stakeholders engaged in the project's Living Lab;</li> <li>🍃 <b>Excellence Hub:</b> presenting the platform, supporting and providing guidance to participants with their enrolment;</li> <li>🍃 <b>Video Gallery:</b> watching the videos produced within the project</li> </ul>			
<p>15:30 16:30</p>	<p><b>Parallel Sessions</b></p> <p><i>Roundtables with 10 minutes of presentations from each speaker, followed by discussion and Q&amp;A with the participants</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1261 1540 2042"> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1261 911 2042"> <p><b>Roundtable 1: European funding for better rural development</b></p> <p>Smallholder farmers often face challenges, such as limited access to financial services and lack of training and support, which would enable them to advance further their own development. Opportunities, frameworks, processes and management strategies to reach EU funding will be described by the leading institutions with broad experience. The panellists will focus, among others, on the socio-economic impacts related to the funding</p> </td> <td data-bbox="911 1261 1540 2042"> <p><b>Roundtable 2: Innovative natural resources management in future climate conditions</b></p> <p><i>Future climate conditions push managers in many sectors, especially agricultural ones, to consider concrete adaption measures. The latter need to be mainly technical, practical and societal when dealing with natural resources. To do so, Innovation is crucial, and all the panellists will share their views and experiences covering a wide range of implementations.</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><b>Roundtable 1: European funding for better rural development</b></p> <p>Smallholder farmers often face challenges, such as limited access to financial services and lack of training and support, which would enable them to advance further their own development. Opportunities, frameworks, processes and management strategies to reach EU funding will be described by the leading institutions with broad experience. The panellists will focus, among others, on the socio-economic impacts related to the funding</p>	<p><b>Roundtable 2: Innovative natural resources management in future climate conditions</b></p> <p><i>Future climate conditions push managers in many sectors, especially agricultural ones, to consider concrete adaption measures. The latter need to be mainly technical, practical and societal when dealing with natural resources. To do so, Innovation is crucial, and all the panellists will share their views and experiences covering a wide range of implementations.</i></p>
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schemes presented. Finally, the panellists will discuss crucial findings on climate change while considering new adaptation solutions.

- 🍃 «Horizon 2020 R&I office to speak about opportunities and open innovation» by [Helmi Mardassi](#), General Director of UGPO-H2020, Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- 🍃 «European fund for research on the mainstreaming of climate change into rural development in Tunisia» by [Hichem Ben Salem](#), Director-General of the Tunisian Institution of Agricultural Research and High Education | IRESA
- 🍃 «Research at the service of the socio-economic world: knowledge transfer tools» by [Chedly Addelly](#), Director-General of the National Agency for the Scientific Research Promotion | ANPR
- 🍃 «Key findings on Climate change: an output of the first Mediterranean Assessment Report» by [Semia Cherif](#), member of the Editorial Committee of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change network | MedECC

*Consequences, vulnerabilities and ways to face climate change will be presented along with success stories about using a participatory approach and developing living labs.*

- 🍃 «National challenges and priorities in the field of climate change» by [Mohamed Zmerli](#), Head of section, Tunisian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- 🍃 «Co-construction at the service of territorial development» by [Naoufel Ben haha](#), Deputy Director of Planning for the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries
- 🍃 «Natural resources management in the socio-economic context of the mountainous areas of North-Western Tunisia» by [Hichem Khemiri](#), General Director of the Office of Sylvo-Pastoral development of the Northwest | ODESYPANO

16:30 17:00	COFFEE BREAK
17:00 18:00	<b>Testimonials</b> <i>Invited stakeholders will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and commitment towards the work carried out within the project.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>🍃 Extensionists and farmers</li><li>🍃 Decisions makers and project partners</li><li>🍃 Lab leaders and scientists</li></ul>
18:00 18:30	Closing remarks





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