

PRACTICE ABSTRACT Nº 10

Community gardens: stimulating associative farming systems in Fernena governorate, Tunisia

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The community garden aims to foster collaboration among local farmers by encouraging shared investment in climate-resilient technologies, such as drip irrigation systems. A total of 56 plots, each of 100 m², were implemented, with each plot equipped with a modular drip irrigation system. A well was dug in the area, and a photovoltaic-powered pump was installed to provide the necessary energy for irrigation. A common warehouse was constructed to store shared materials, and participating farmers have access to a solar drier (established through a different project task), enabling the production of innovative, value-added products such as spices and dried vegetables. Farmers can choose between different business models: they may grow vegetables for personal consumption or sale in local markets, either fresh or dried. Training sessions focusing on two key areas were provided. First, technical training covering agroecological management techniques, including crop rotation, mulching, crop fertilization, and drip irrigation, is provided by the public local extension service (CRDA). Second, training focuses also on administrative garden management using a bottom-up approach (e.g., maintenance of materials, materials logistics, and management of the solar drier). A farmers' assembly must be established to ensure transparency in garden management. This assembly should hold regular meetings to address any management issues and provide feedback for the continuous improvement of garden operations. Finally, the farmers will collaboratively develop a set of regulations outlining the rules and guidelines they will follow to ensure smooth and efficient community garden management.



Training on administrative and technical Management of the garden (top and middle), and a group of farmers in the garden (bottom)

