



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FOSTERING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS BY YOUNG AGRI-ENTREPRENEURS

FAO has supported Mauritania and Tunisia since 2018 to strengthen the ecosystem of responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (RAI) by and for young people through inclusive and multidimensional capacity building. This subprogramme enabled the consolidation and scaling up of achievements while providing new technical, organizational and institutional innovations.

The subprogramme was carried out in close collaboration between the RAI team in the FAO Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, the FAO Subregional Office for North Africa (and particularly the policy team), as well as the country offices in Mauritania and Tunisia, bringing together a wide range of expertise and experiences to enhance the performance of the FVC subprogramme. The operating team included a responsible investment officer, a capacity development officer, a subregional communications expert from the Subregional Office for North Africa, national collaborators in Mauritania and Tunisia, as well as youth employment and junior policy experts, also from the subregional office. The subprogramme aimed to strengthen the ecosystem for responsible agricultural investment for youth in Mauritania and Tunisia, utilize the Agri-Accelerator hub to boost young agri-entrepreneurs' RAI projects that contribute to territorial development and food security in Tunisia and facilitate the application and scaling up of good practices for RAI.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

By making use of the agri-accelerator approach the project managed to promote holistic and sustainable change by simultaneously: (i) enhancing information on responsible investment opportunities; (ii) strengthening the ecosystem for responsible agricultural investment by enhancing programmes, policies and capacities of business advisers; and (iii) directly empowering young agri-entrepreneurs through agri-accelerator hubs which provide technical, coaching and financial incentives for responsible agricultural investment.

The subprogramme fostered cross-sectoral work at country level, including by enhancing the science-policy nexus in Tunisia, through increased collaboration between INRAT and APIA, as well as between different government agencies in Mauritania (in particular MEDD and TECHGHIL). Some of the main achievements include the development of a national strategy for the promotion of RAI in Tunisia, extensive capacity development activities for policymakers, business advisers, and young agri-entrepreneurs, and the first steps in the creation of a national concertation framework for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in Mauritania. The programme has also supported the development and distribution of knowledge materials in both countries.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 500 000

Duration

November 2022-December 2023

Resource Partners

Multilateral (Donors of the Flexible Voluntary Contribution [FVC])

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries (MARHP), Agency for the promotion of agricultural investments (APIA), National Institute of Agricultural Research of Tunisia (INRAT), Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the National employment agency (TECHGHIL)

Beneficiaries

Young agri-entrepreneurs

IMPACT

The subprogramme set out to support young agri-entrepreneurs' RAI, which in turn contributed to improved food security and nutrition, sustainable territorial development and economic growth in Mauritania and Tunisia, while advocating the respect of human rights and ensuring a return on investment for the entrepreneurs. The focus on youth and the use of innovative business ideas lays the groundwork for future initiatives and the dissemination of this impact.

ACTIVITIES

- A draft national strategy for the promotion of responsible agricultural investment in Tunisia prepared.
- A national action plan for responsible agricultural investment in Mauritania developed and validated in a multi-stakeholder setting.
- A learning programme for 62 business coaches, advisers, affiliated experts, and senior government staff from Mauritania and Tunisia developed, based on the results of an inclusive learning needs assessment workshop.
- The investment opportunity fact sheets to support young agri-entrepreneurs' responsible investment published in 2023 and widely disseminated.
- FAO and APIA jointly empowered 20 young agri-entrepreneurs to expand responsible investment projects in the Black Thibar red meat value chain and the aromatic and medical plants value chain in 2023 via the Agri-Accelerator hub.
- A binational knowledge-sharing event organized in December 2023, bringing together 14 stakeholders from Mauritania and 40 stakeholders from Tunisia.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title

Fostering responsible investment in agriculture and food systems by young agri-entrepreneurs to promote territorial development and strengthen sectors

Project Code

FAO: FMM/GLO/179/MUL

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