**REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE AND DEVELOPING VALUE CHAINS IN EGYPT AND TUNISIA**

Food Loss and Waste (FLW) is a challenge for food security and a source of economic loss throughout the world. This project focused on mitigating FLW in Egypt and Tunisia, where evidence indicates that food losses occur across value chains and that food waste occurs at the consumption stage. Two value chains that could benefit from development and support in order to reduce FLW and increase livelihoods were identified in both countries. In Egypt, the project focused on the tomato and grape value chains, and in Tunisia, it focused on cereals and dairy. The overall aim of the project was to build the capacities of public and private sector actors, including young people and women, to reduce FLW in the selected value chains as a means of increasing food security and creating economic opportunities while simultaneously attempting to reduce environmental impact.

**WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?**

The four outputs of the project were achieved. The first step was to assess food losses in both countries to identify the value chains that would be supported and developed. Rapid assessments were done for each of the selected value chains, in addition to a literature review in Egypt and a waste assessment in Tunisia. A Food Loss and Waste Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit was set up in Egypt, which ensures and increases the availability of data and information related to FLW from different stakeholders’ perspectives, and can lead to developing and supporting effective solutions and policies for FLW reduction in Egypt. The project also aimed at improving both monitoring mechanisms of milk losses and the exchange of information among the dairy value chain actors in Tunisia, through the development of a web application that provides real-time updates for milk collection by trucks, as well as the status from farm to collection units, and then to the central station. Stakeholder needs were identified, and several technical training sessions and awareness-raising campaigns were designed and conducted to support capacity building. Some of these activities focused specifically on increasing the knowledge and building the capacities of women (approximately 25 percent of participants were women, on average), including the development and delivery of training sessions specifically for women participants. Finally, cooperation was promoted between the public and private sectors in an effort to create plans for FLW reduction in both countries. The project created new food processing facilities in both Egypt and Tunisia. The technology implemented in both countries was sustainable, simple and inexpensive, and was adopted quickly. Supporting the economic sustainability of the processing units by improving marketing practices, connections and business partnerships was the goal of the final output. This was achieved by developing business models, providing direct technical assistance, and supporting negotiations and contract development with buyers. Final workshops were held in Egypt and Tunisia to report on the main project findings and achievements.

**IMPACT**

The project contributed to strengthening the performance of the agriculture sector in Egypt and Tunisia. This was done through the development and greening of selected food value chains, and more effective marketing of primary and value-added food products.

**KEY FACTS**

- **Contribution**: USD 2 300 000
- **Duration**: October 2015 – July 2019
- **Resource Partner**: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- **Partners**
  - **Egypt**: Agricultural Economics Research Institute (AERI); Alexandria University; Horticulture Research Institute (HRI); Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR); Zagazig University.
  - **Tunisia**: Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MARHP); Coopérative Centrale des blés (COCEBLE); Direction Générale des Études et du Développement Agricole (DGEDA); Institut National des Grandes Cultures (INGC); Groupeement Interprofessionnel des Viandes Rouges et du Lait (GIVLait); Institut National de la Consommation (INC); Office des Céréales (OC); Office de l’Élevage et des Pâturages (OEP)
- **Beneficiaries**: Food value chain actors in both countries; Small-scale farmers, breeders and traders; Cooperative members; Small and Medium Agricultural Enterprises (SMAEs); Service providers in the public and private sectors
ACTIVITIES

- Assessment studies on FLW in both countries were produced and disseminated.
- Organizations and stakeholders across the selected value chains were identified to participate in technical capacity-development activities and awareness-raising campaigns; a total of 7,952 stakeholders in Egypt and 4,344 in Tunisia were reached.
- An awareness-raising campaign targeting students and teachers in both countries was organized, focusing on the introduction of food value chains, food loss and waste and the role of students in reducing it, and nutrition.
- A drawing contest on food waste was developed, awarding prizes to five winners.
- New practices and technologies in the tomato and grape value chains in Egypt, and the grain and cereal value chains in Tunisia were introduced to and adopted by local actors.
- Increased value generating activities were implemented along the selected value chains.
- In Egypt, processing units for drying tomatoes and grapes, as well as other crops, were set up, producing a total of 35 jobs.
- In Tunisia, a pilot training and demonstration unit for cheese processing was supported by the project, generating 25 jobs in the demonstration area, and 15 in the cheese production area.

Project Code
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Project Title
Food losses and waste reduction and value chain development for food security in Egypt and Tunisia

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