agri benchmark in Tunisia: Achievements and first results on Durum Wheat production

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1. Establishment of *agri benchmark* in Tunisia
2. Key results on Durum production
3. Next steps
Institutional Setting

Partnership

- Agricultural School of Mograne (ESA-Mograne)
- Farmers association: Association for Sustainable farming (APAD)
- National Institute of Cash Crop (INGC)

Technical Assistance & Funding

- FAO- Sub regional office for North Africa (Fao-SNE)
Achievements

- Training sessions for the AB tools, in Germany
- Panel meetings organized in Tunisia
- Results presented:
  1. Cash Crop Conferences: Australia in 2010 & Denmark in 2011
  2. Beef & Sheep Conference: Austria 2011
- Article for the Cash Crop Report 2010
First typical farm: TU200BIZ

- Northern Tunisia
- Intensive tillage system
- Precipitation: 450 mm/year
- Size bigger than the average size in the region
FIRST RESULTS ON DURUM WHEAT PRODUCTION (2010)
Durum wheat yields (t/ha)

Durum yields in Tunisia much lower than in Europe but higher than in Canada
Crop establishment cost Durum (USD/ha)

Crop establishment cost in Tunisia in the same range as in France
Almost twice as high as in Canada
Compared to French and Italian farm Operating cost much lower in Tunisia. Machinery by far the most important component.
Tunisia is a high cost producer (USD/t); land cost being one of the key factors
Operating cost not a clear cost advantage, despite very low wage rates
Maschinery cost the big issue
Due to extremely high prices Durum is very profitable for TN farm
But total CoP is higher than in France and +100 USD/t higher than Canada
Conclusions and next questions regarding Tunisian Durum Wheat production

1. High land cost create a major cost disadvantage for typical Tunisian farm.

2. Due to relative low yields and high labor input operating cost are not as low as assumed (given low labor cost per hour).

3. Due to massive political price support, high cost of production are not a problem now.

4. But: Are price premiums of 200 USD/t compared to EU sustainable?

5. Question: Is Durum Wheat the right crop for this location?
What I have learned

1. Discussions with farmers, researchers and advisors have built a national network

2. People with whom we have already worked started to be convinced by the importance of documentation and traceability at the farm level

3. Involving farmers into the panel discussions give a more precise idea about the cost structure

4. For Tunisia, it’s the first time that the country is involved in an international network on farming systems
1. **Comparison between conventional vs. no-till farming.**

2. **Comparison on small and medium-sized farms.**

3. **Analyze policy interventions on the farm level by using focus groups with growers & advisors**
THANK YOU

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