LIVINGAGRO's two Brokerage events on Multifunctional Olive Systems and Grazed Woodlands concluded successfully in Jordan

The National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), the Regional Forest Agency for Land and Environment of Sardinia (Fo.Re.S.T.A.S.) and the entire LIVINGAGRO Consortium successfully concluded their first seminars on "**Brokerage event to foster innovation in Multifunctional Olive Systems**" and "**Brokerage event to foster innovation in Grazed Woodlands**" held in Jordan, on the 13th and 15th of December, 2022, at the Movenpick Hotel/Amman.

During both events, the opening and welcome speeches were delivered by Dr. Salam Ayoub, Director of the Department at NARC-Jordan, and Dr. Sara Maltoni, from Fo.Re.S.T.A.S. Speakers and innovators from Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Jordan shared their experiences with more than 50 participants in each event, who joined from different parts of Jordan representing private and public entities. All attendees, researchers, representatives of cooperatives/farmers and multiple stakeholders in private companies/consultants, had the opportunity to share their comments, considerations and questions concerning proposed and presented contents focusing on innovations targeted to economic operators and stakeholders of the Mediterranean olive and olive oil sector and the grazed woodland sector.

Participants in the "**Brokerage event to foster innovation in Multifunctional Olive Systems**", were able to join a panel of acclaimed speakers in discussions and debates on matters related to the olive sector. Leading innovations presented during the event included an "overview of Agroforestry in Mediterranean Countries" by Dr. Peter Moubarak, from the Lebanese Agricultural Research Center (LARI) – Lebanon; a discussion on "Chickpea intercropping in olive groves" presented by Prof. Anastasia Pantera, from the Agricultural University of Athens, Karpenissi – Greece; a research on the "Effect of soil management and different cover crops on soil characteristics, olive production and olive oil characteristics" by Dr. Milad El-Riachy, from the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) – Lebanon; a study on the "DNA-based authentication of the varietal origin of monovarietal olive oils" by Dr. Panagiotis Kalaitzis, from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH) – Greece; the introduction of "The First Use of KASP Technology for Assessment of Genetic Diversity in Olive" by Dr. Mazen Kilani, from the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) – Jordan; and a research on the "Agricultural Blockchain traceability for olive oil" presented by Mr. Abdelrahman Habashneh Chairman, Founder of Decapolis company – Jordan.

The event continued in the afternoon with a round table organized to facilitate and promote an open discussion between speakers and organizing entities with the event participants. The open discussion focused on different topics among which participants shared their thoughts about issues and innovations related to the use of green manure and how some species can help increasing soil fertility, the advantage of agroforestry and the common characteristics between permaculture and agroforestry, in addition to ways of traceability, identifying and authentication of the quality of olive oil.

Moreover, leading innovations in the "**Brokerage event to foster innovation in Grazed Woodlands**" included, the practice of thinning and pruning trees in silvopastoral systems presented by Prof. Anastasia Pantera from the Agricultural University of Athens in Greece; the use of trichoderma for enhancing resilience of tree and grassland species for Mediterranean wooded grasslands linking this practice to actions and activities of the "SALAM MED" project presented by Prof. Pier Paolo Roggero from the University of Sassari in Italy; the developed policy guidelines for agroforestry in Mediterranean Partner Countries by Dr. Claudia Consalvo from the Italian National Research Council (CNR-IRET) in Italy; the developed research using "natural intelligence" for innovating the way of monitoring grazed woodlands for their sustainable management; the use of remote sensing techniques to monitor oak by Dr. Ihab Jomma from the Lebanese Agricultural Research Center (LARI) in Lebanon, and the use of willow trees as non-traditional feed resource for sheep and goats by Dr. Sami Awabdeh from the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Jordan.

During the afternoon session, a round table was organized to facilitate and promote an open discussion between speakers and organizing entities with the event participants who expressed their interest to join the LIVINGAGRO project. Discussions focused on different topics mainly the use of trichoderma in arid and semi-arid regions like Jordan followed by a presentation by Prof. Roggero on the topic, ways to increase green areas in Amman and updating related policies, and the use of remote sensing techniques and other innovative systems to monitor the evolution of grazed woodlands in specific areas.

The success of these events was highlighted by all participants who expressed their appreciation and gratitude, underlining the importance of such opportunities in helping interested stakeholders to find relevant solutions to the problems facing the agroforestry sector.

The Cross Border Living Laboratories for Agroforestry (LIVINGAGRO) Project is co-funded by the European Union through the ENI CBC Med Programme 2014 – 2020 and implemented in Italy, Greece, Lebanon and Jordan. The project aims to support education, research and development, innovation, and technology transfer, including sharing of research results, by establishing two Living Labs, one for multifunctional olive systems (Living Lab 1) and the other for grazed woodlands (Living Lab 2).