



Executive summary “Second B2B event on Multifunctional Olive Systems” **(Activity 4.1.1)**

The second B2B event on Multifunctional Olive Systems (LL1) was organized by the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) with the support of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh) at Gefinor Rotana Hotel, Hamra, Beirut on November 15th, 2022.

The objectives of this B2B event were:

- Connecting innovators with stakeholders in the olive sector to work on solutions for their problems;
- Matching demands/requests for innovations;
- Releasing and disseminating of a catalogue of available innovations;
- Introducing innovations in the olive, olive oil and agroforestry sectors to producers, cooperatives, agricultural enterprises, company representatives, millers, and other interested stakeholders;
- Laying the foundations for future innovation projects by providing an opportunity for businesses, associations, research institutions, policy makers and other professionals in agriculture and food production to meet;
- Allowing the establishment of new contacts and the sharing of information on innovative ideas, machinery, techniques and services.
- Finally, Highlighting the importance of registering to the ICT Platform of the LIVINGAGRO project at the link: www.livingagrolab.eu to benefit from additional information, trainings, and sharing experiences and knowledge on agroforestry in ‘Multifunctional Olive Systems’ (LL1) and in ‘Grazed Woodlands’ (LL2).

During this event, Face-to-face presentations, round tables and one-to-one meetings were done.

Eight innovations were presented by a group of researchers from Lebanon, Greece and Italy focusing on: DNA-based diagnostic test to authenticate the varietal origin of olive oil; olive tree, wild asparagus and free range chicken polyculture; intercropping of olive trees and legumes; olive and avocado trees intercropping; a tool to identify olive genotypes that are tolerant to salinity; recovery of abandoned traditional olive orchards for multifunctional purposes; surveying and characterizing ancient olive trees in Lebanon to elaborate a conservation strategy; and finally, VAC-HS-SPME laboratory technique to characterize the aroma profile of olive oil for quality and



authenticity assessment.

The main gaps addressed during the event were related to the high production cost of olive and olive oil production; the need to rehabilitate abandoned traditional olive orchards; soil management and erosion issues; olive oil characterization and authentication; new techniques for identification of olive cultivars tolerant to salinity; and, the urgent need to protect and preserve centennial and millennial olive trees.

In the afternoon, one to one meetings were organized and round tables sessions took place to discuss with the innovators the impact of the presented innovations on the olive and olive oil sector, the challenges of the sector, the problems they are facing in their groves, and the possibility of searching for appropriate solutions. In addition, many experiences, innovative ideas and techniques were shared and discussed.

The total number of participants was 69 in presence and 54 online, including researchers, farmers, policy makers, olive growers and other relevant stakeholders in olive and olive oil sector.

The attendees were impressed by the innovations presented and by the fruitful scientific interactions and communication among economic stakeholder's questions and experts answers. They also appreciated the value of exchanging experiences among the various countries participating in the project and becoming familiar with new and advanced technologies to improve production and quality.



