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Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N°7 :

FINANCING AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS TO EMPOWER RURAL WOMEN

<https://bit.ly/3fiBhE7>



Message from PAFO President KOLYANG PALEBELE

The vision of PAFO is to achieve a vibrant, prosperous, and sustainable African agriculture that ensures food security and sovereignty, including socio-economic and cultural development As president of PAFO, we will encourage the participation of farmers' organizations in decision-making bodies and in the formulation of development policies, programs and agricultural projects at the national, regional and continental levels, which requires advocacy at all levels.

Producers' organizations must not remain on the side-lines of development debates in Africa. Indeed, when politicians get together to talk about the African continent, farmers' organizations participate less and feel excluded.

These organizations should also be present at all stages of the process of debates, negotiations, and conclusions. They must also participate in the development and evaluation of the mechanisms put in place as well as in the implementation and monitoring of economic, social, cultural, and environmental development initiatives in Africa. We will also encourage the implementation of suitable tools for financing African agriculture. And, to achieve these objectives, we must mobilize human resources, both African, foreign, and also from the diaspora.

Concretely, it is to contribute to building the capacity of African farmers' organizations in the development and negotiation of a public policy favorable to their development.

Some farmers have certainly been able to capitalize on the opportunities offered to them for more than 10 years in their country or in their sub-regions by their governments or by technical and financial partners whose impacts are not small, but for many rural people, the production conditions have deteriorated in recent years (difficult access to inputs, scarcity and increase in the cost of production credit, deterioration of the security environment, health COVID 19, climate change, strong instability of the prices of agricultural products, difficulty of access to land especially women and young people etc.). Many family farmers, unevenly but often poorly endowed with means of production, are below the renewal threshold and are experiencing serious processes of marginalization and exclusion, as evidenced by the high prevalence of poverty in rural areas. PAFO will strengthen its alliance and partnership with all actors working for socio-economic development in rural areas.

Financing agricultural value chains to empower rural women

<https://bit.ly/3fiBhE5>

STUDY PRESENTATION



In Africa, women represent more than half of the population, the majority living in rural areas. A considerable number of the agricultural workforce are women who are also responsible for nutrition and food security at the household level. And some of them are the sole providers of their families.

They are found in all links of the agri-food value chain. According to the International Labor Organization, they produce 80% of the food and do most of the work of producing, storing, transporting and marketing products locally, nationally and internationally.....

Conscious of women's importance in African agriculture development; PAFO launched a study on the Financing of agricultural value chains to empower rural women. The objective of the study is to raise awareness of the success of rural women who have succeeded through the funding of agricultural economic initiatives within farmer organizations in Africa.

SITUATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS IN AFRICA



The study carried out with PAFO showed that women have less access than men to resources, credit, services, markets, education, new technologies, means of transport, and warehouses. to processing, communications and information facilities. In the context of exporting, they have difficulty meeting rigorous quality standards and strict supplier deadlines specifically for perishable products.

The weaknesses of rural infrastructure and their inadequacy, increase the burden on women of household chores and reduce the time they can devote income-generating activities with high added value. In addition, unequal power relations within the household, communities and organizations can undermine the benefits and motivations that women have to engage in value chains.



PERCEPTION OF WOMEN IN VALUE CHAINS WITHIN FOS



PAFO's farmer organizations generally adhere to the ethical and legal reasons that justify the promotion of equality between women and men in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) and value chain policy. They also include some of the compelling business cases for greater support for equality between the two groups, including increased productivity, staff retention, larger pools of talent as well as greater safety in the production, processing and marketing of products.

Farmer organizations play a very big role in improving value chain activities. They have the potential to facilitate collective learning and risk allocation while increasing the potential for increased production and improved quality. Members have access to new and more numerous services, including inputs, finance and training. In addition, the bargaining power of members is increased. Unfortunately, women are less represented in the decision-making positions and are often not able to enjoy benefits, services and benefits equally.....

Integration into farmers and agricultural organizations strengthens farm management capacities. However, specific women's support is limited.



UNSUITABLE ENVELOPE AND MONITORING AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

The PAFO study reveals that the envelope dedicated to support for women's activities in value chains is generally limited if not non-existent. Organizations generally fund activities in mixed gender groups.

However, some projects were funded to specifically women groups under the FO4ACP program.

Budgets for economic activities remain particularly limited. Over time, farmers' organizations have noticed the need to provide direct support to the development of value chains, through research and mobilization of funds for cooperatives and in some cases for individual businesses / farms. Unfortunately, given the structure and governance that favors men, support decisions are generally in favor of speculations practiced by men such as cocoa and coffee to the detriment of food crops generally practiced by women.

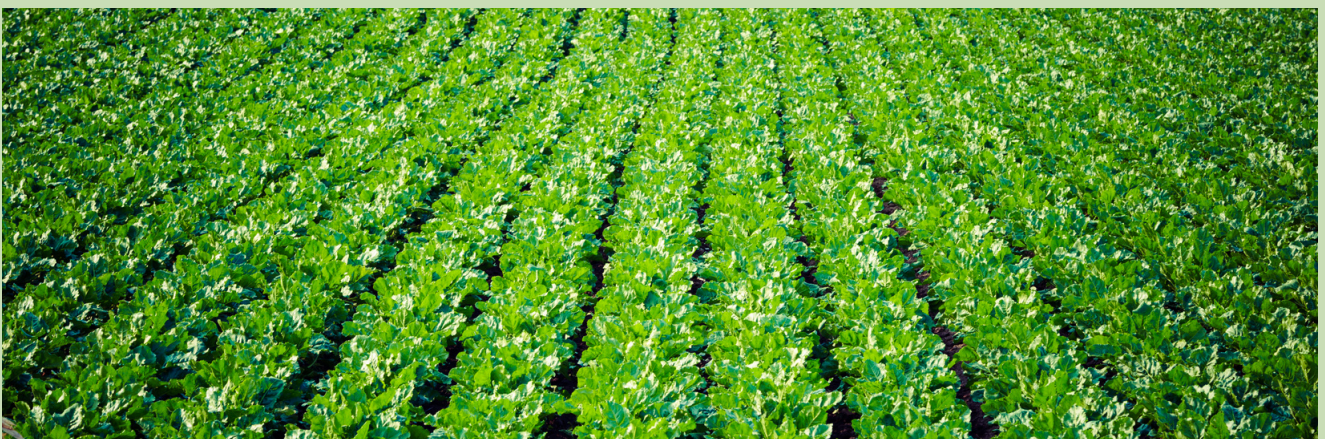
In addition, processing and marketing, which require sizeable resources, remain links that are very demanding for funding and very poorly satisfied, both for men and even less for women.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PAFO recommends creating an appropriate environment facilitating the promotion of financing for rural women in agricultural value chains. For this it offers as a solution:

- To governments, international organizations
- To civil society organizations, the private sector and farmers' organizations
- The commitments of PAFO and its member organizations

For global recommendations visit the PAFO website: <https://bit.ly/3fiBhE5>



PAFO NEWS

CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE AT PAFO



Following the change of governance within Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC) which Chairs PAFO. The PAFO Board, held on 19th & 20th, January 2022, appointed Mr. Kolyang Palebele, as the new PAFO President in accordance with the PAFO constitution,

Mr. Kolyang Palebele is the President of the National Consultation Council of Rural Producers of Chad (CNCPRRT) and Advisor to the Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Council (CESC). He is the PROPAC President and the PAFO president.



THE DEPARTURE OF THE CEO, MS. EMMERANCE TUYISHIME IS THE ACTING CEO



After more than 30 years of professional life, including 25 years with farmers, national and regional organizations, and nearly 7 years as Chief Executive Officer of PAFO, Ms. Fatma Ben Rejeb, has decided to leave the organization and no longer renew her contract in this position. She chose to leave for new professional horizons.

The PAFO Secretariat waved farewell to her for the honourable and great work she has done with the Farmers Organization. PAFO and its member networks, thanks the outgoing Chief Executive Officer for all that she has accomplished, for having carried PAFO so high and so far, for having established the respect of African farmers through their organization, knowing that a few years back, PAFO had neither headquarters nor Secretariat and she carried on her shoulders for more than 4 years, all the work of the Secretariat.

Pending the finalization of the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Emmerance Tuyishime, programs officer, is acting CEO.



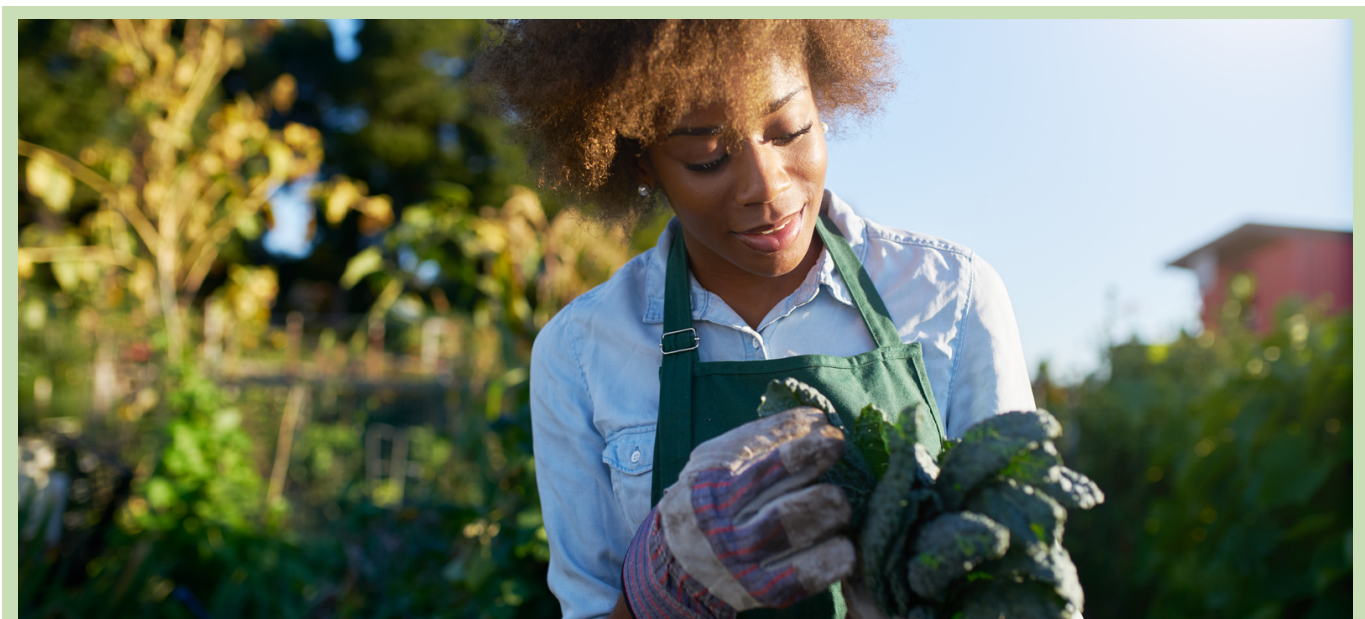
Mrs. Fatma Ben Rejeb, outgoing CEO & Ms. Emmerance Tuyishime, Acting CEO

YOUNG FARMERS FORUMS

PAFO will organize next May, the Young Farmers Summits to promote, strengthen and spread the voice of young farmers in the international arena. In this regard, the event will have 3 parts: first, an African young farmers forum, then a young European and African farmers debate about partnership between Africa and Europe and finally, the international young farmers summit that will include African, Asian, American and European young farmers.

Expected participants:

- **For the African young farmers:** African young farmers and relevant partners.
- **For the meeting of African and European young farmers:** African and European young farmers and relevant partners.
- **For the international summit:** African and European young farmers, Young farmers from the rest of continents and relevant partners



PARTNERSHIPS

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

PAFO- FAO:WORKING TOGETHER FOR AFRICAN FARMERS



The Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have signed a five-year partnership agreement.

It is the first time the two organizations put in place a formal partnership that will ensure that farmers have a greater voice in policy processes, and that African Farmers Organisations are strengthened.

The work program supporting the partnership focuses on several areas including developing the capacity of farmers' organizations across Africa to best serve their members and represent them effectively at high-level policy dialogue processes and other forum.

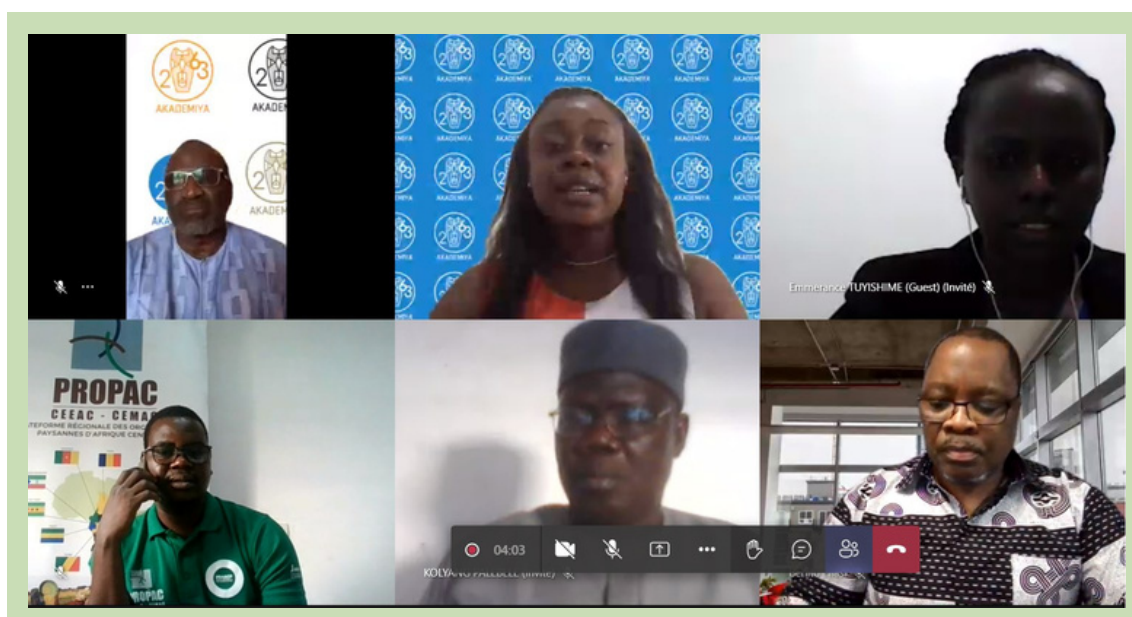
Learn more : <https://bit.ly/3HxqaDV>

PAFO-AKADEMIYA 2063 : SUPPORT DATA AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDS OF AFRICAN FARMERS



Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), represented by its President, Mr. Kolyang Palebele, and AKADEMIYA 2063, represented by its Executive Chairperson, Dr. Ousmane Badiane, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a virtual ceremony. The MoU will facilitate collaboration around the generation of data and knowledge for use by African farmers to drive evidence-based farming and investment decisions as well as effective engagement of farmers in policy dialogue, review, mutual learning, and mutual accountability processes of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

Press release : bit.ly/3gHyAw0



CURRENT PROJECTS

FO4ACP&SAFE2020 MID-TERM REVIEW



The Mid-Term Review of the FO4ACP and SAFE 2020 programs are planned for March 2022. Due to the alignment and the co-funding linking the two programs (in Africa) both missions are combined to ensure resource effectiveness and efficient use of the time of the implementing farmers' organizations involved in both programs.

The MTR will be prepared and carried out in partnership with the recipients which will be consulted at several stages in the preparation process, for organizational purposes and defining the priority focus of the MTR. Exchanges will be organized on the topic during the 2021 supervision missions and specific dedicated sessions on the preparation of the MTR.

In person missions will be planned to the secretariats of EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU, UMNAGRI, PAFO, PIFON and AgriCord, respectively in Nairobi, Yaoundé, Ouagadougou, Pretoria, Tunis, Kigali, Nadi and Brussels.



PAFO-COLEACP INNOVATION SERIES

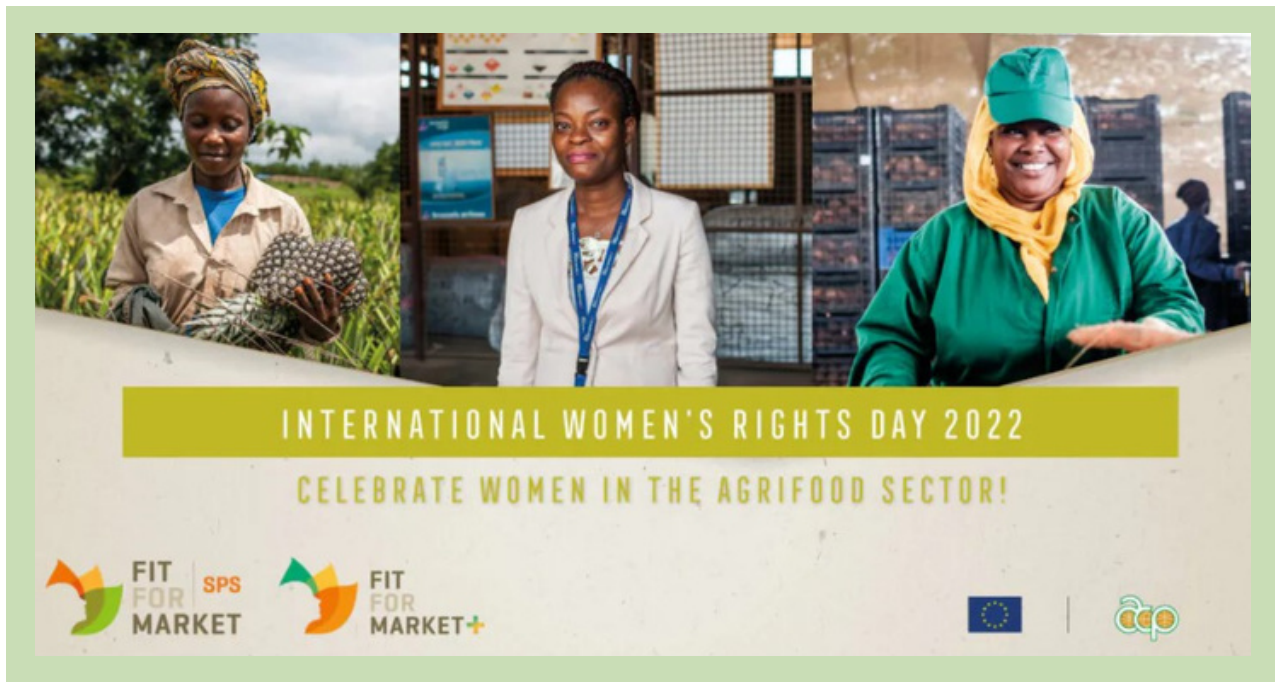


The 8th Innovations Session organized by PAFO and COLEACP was held on February 2022. This virtual session focused on “< Catalyzing young African Agri-entrepreneurs’ investments >”. The 400 participants among session 8 have discussed promoting Youth-led SMEs and businesses such as the drivers of success of youth-led SMEs in the agri-food sector; how to upscale youth-led investments and rural youth enterprises; incentives to be provided to attract and retain youth-led SMEs and smallholders in value-addition in local and export markets.

For more information : <https://bit.ly/3Lxbirv>



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY 2022 CELEBRATE WOMEN IN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR



COLEACP with the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) support women entrepreneurship through farmers' organizations, cooperatives, as well as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) respectively in Africa and in the Caribbean region to seize opportunities in new markets and to establish key partnerships to strengthen their competitiveness.

**Celebrate with COLEACP, PAFO, and IICA amazing women entrepreneurs and their success stories!
Here are some amazing women entrepreneurs featured in our Innovations and Caribbean Agri-food Business sessions.**

Learn more : <https://bit.ly/3sX0f30>



MEMBER'S NEWS



EAFF PARTICIPATION IN THE WOMEN'S PAVILION IN DUBAI



EAFF President, Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala, and Board Member of PAFO, in charge of Women Affairs, has just participated in "GoodFood4All" at Expo 2020 Dubai.

The president participated as a panelist in the session "From Farmer to Boss Lady" at the Women's Pavilion at Dubai Expo. The discussions focused on land ownership, access and barriers faced by women and girls but also heightened initiatives and tools to address this gender gap.

"We can do more. We need to create more awareness, incentives and investments targeted towards women and have collective action towards women empowerment," said the EAFF President.

The future of the world depends on good food for all. It's that simple. Good food keeps us healthy. It helps us reach our potential. It strengthens communities, powers our economies, and protects our planet. But not everyone gets good food every day – and the ways that we produce, transport and market food is harming our environment. This has to change. Now is our time to act. We're bringing together everyone – farmers, indigenous people, young people, government leaders, businesses and citizens from across the globe – to carve a path to a world where good food for all is a reality. We need a world where good food is affordable and accessible, where governments and businesses work together to provide it, and where farmers in every country grow food in a way that protects the planet.



CAPACITY BUILDING: TRAINING SESSION DEDICATED TO PROPAC FINANCIAL TEAMS



Following IFAD supervision missions in 2020 and 2021, it was recommended that PROPAC develop and implement a capacity building plan for the FO4ACP financial management team. Also, a plan has been drawn up and it is within this framework that PROPAC has organized training dedicated to its financial teams, the objective of which is to strengthen the capacities of PROPAC as well as those of the NFOs, in management financial support from IFAD and European Union grants, in order to improve their performance in the execution of the program. More specifically, it was a question of presenting PROPAC's commitments in terms of financial management according to the FO4ACP Grant Agreement signed between PROPAC and IFAD; presenting the financial management requirements for IFAD and European Union grants, in particular, those of FO4ACP; present and explain IFAD's guidelines for the justification of expenditure; train in the use of financial management and reporting tools within the framework of FO4ACP and discuss and clarify various issues affecting the financial management of FO4ACP

This training, which took place from January 31 to February 3, 2022 in the city of Mfou, Cameroon, enabled participants, in particular the financial teams and the staff of the Regional Coordination of PROPAC, to better understand PROPAC's commitments on the financial management plan according to the FO4ACP Grant Agreement signed between PROPAC and IFAD...



FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE SHARING FORUM



The Farmers' Knowledge Sharing Forum in the cowpea, milk and non-timber forest products sectors, was held online, from January 19 to 21, 2022, in Burkina Faso. The forum brought together 129 participants made up of farmers, representatives of FOs (leaders and technicians), technical and financial partners, teachers, parents of students, the Ministry in charge of Agriculture and animal and fisheries resources of Burkina Faso and local elected officials from the communities.

The Forum marks the first stage of dissemination/promotion of a capitalization process of initiatives/practices and experiences led by ROPPA around the milk, cowpea and NTFP sectors. It is the forerunner to the scaling up of practices identified by the producers themselves. Indeed, the Forum is a space for sharing knowledge organized in a comprehensive perspective of promoting farmer practices and knowledge. It aims, among others, at contributing to food sovereignty by disseminating good practices and experiences in the sectors. It also supports the construction of an advocacy speech/content based on evidences established by the actors

For more info : <https://www.inter-reseaux.org/wp-content/uploads/Forum-de-Partage-de-Connaissances-Paysannes-Summary-of-conclusions.pdf>



Sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean: UMNAGRI joins the MAST project.



Promoting the dynamic growth of the tourism sector in the Mediterranean region, which is an important source of income for an increasing number of workers, mainly young people and women, is the main objective of the MAST project “Mediterranean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism post COVID (www.mastproject.eu/it/home)

Funded by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), through Giz and German cooperation, MAST intervenes to support companies in the tourism sector through free online training in four languages (French, Greek, English, and Italian).

In Tunisia, MAST is managed by Umnagri (www.umnagri.net), a regional NGO which, with four Euro-Mediterranean partners (Eild/Greece, Upo/Italy, Mactt/Malta and Orda/Morocco) contributes to the realization of the project.

The training offered by MAST is a free online course; at the end of the program, participants will be invited to submit ideas. The creators of the best ideas will be contacted to develop their business plan in collaboration with the “Università Del Piemonte Orientale”.

For more information, it is possible to contact the national reference partners of the project through the MAST website www.mastproject.eu

Or email umnagri@mastproject.eu.



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