#### GTFS/REM/070/1TA

# Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East

Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The use of pesticides in the Near East Region is associated with growing health and environmental problems. Standards on pesticides residues, in particular, for export to Western markets, are becoming more stringent. Consumer concern about food safety is creating markets for food products of better quality. The project, which is financed by the extraordinary Italian Contribution to the FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, strengthens the capability of governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farming communities of participating countries to plan and implement programs which support community-based integrated pest management (IPM). This strategy contributes to the protection of farming communities, their environment and consumers, and to the expansion of high value crop markets.

#### **■** Beneficiaries

- Farmers and communities
- Women
- Consumers
- National institutions
- Local and international market

#### Objectives

The overall objective is to sustain food security and the nutritional status of the rural population

The specific objectives are:

- 1. Increase of farmers' participatory approaches in crop and pest management
- 2. Better understanding of hazards caused by pesticides
- 3. Investigation of market opportunities for IPM products
- 4. Facilitation of exchanges of expertise and implement pilot activities in the sector

#### Strategies

Improvement of regional capacity to develop and implement ecologically based pest management



- > Enabling farming communities to develop curricula and strategies for horticultural crop production
- > Supporting regional and national studies related to IPM development
- Training of farmers and facilitators
- Adopting cost effective integrated horticulture pest management strategies
- Strengthening local institutions
- Adoption of a participatory approach

#### **Expected results**

- > Strengthened analysis, planning capacity and awareness at community and institutional levels on IPM tactics and related health issues and environment protection
- > Agricultural school opening
- Improvement quality and quantity agricultural production

#### Ongoing results

- > Creation of 200 agricultural schools
- 3000 farmers and 100 facilitators trained
- > Improvement quality and quantity of selected produce through the adoption of IPM technologies
- Establishment of a network on IPM among involved stakeholders, including farmers and local communities

#### Overall Objective:

Contribute to the achievement of food security through an integrated pest management approach

#### Donor:

Government of Italy

#### **Contribution:**

US\$2 982 633

#### **Participating** countries:

Egypt, Islamic Republic Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Syrian Arab Republic

#### **Duration:**

2 years and 6 months From 01 Apr 2004 to 30 Sep 2006



#### GCP/SYR/010/ITA

#### Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural systems

### Participatory and Integrated Forest Fires Management Plan



#### Overall Objective:

To assist the Syrian Government and people living in forestry areas to optimize the benefits coming from the forests and to develop management programmes to control forest fires

#### Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$1 031 592

# Participating countries: Syrian Arab

Syrian Arab Republic

#### **Duration:**

3 years From 01 Aug 2004 to 31 Feb 2007 The importance of forest should not be underestimated in a country as widely arid as the Syrian Arab Republic, where the forests provide stable feed for large number of grazing animals, plays a significant role in water catchment, in desertification control and in prevention of soil erosion and in conservation of biodiversity.

Forest fire in Syria is primarily a social problem. In fact, more than 95 percent of the annual fires are set directly by rural people living in and around forests and/or indirectly by their related activities (agricultural activities like grazing within forest stands, conversion of forest lands to agriculture and house construction, etc.).

Previous assistance to the country in forest fire management, has concentrated on developing the country's capacities in fire detection and control; this project is aiming at strengthening the capacities in fire prevention and preparedness through a multisectoral approach with the direct involvement of local communities.

In this context, through FAO technical assistance and funding from the Italian Government the present project intends to assist the government and the rural people

in forested areas to maximize the benefits of forests by supporting the development of environmentally sound fire management practises.

#### Beneficiaries

- > Small holders
- > Technical forest staff
- > Forest communities
- > Women through their active involvement in project activities concerning forest fires management

#### Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the national capability to manage fires in an integrated way, enabling the country to prepare a national Forest Fire Management Plan.

Immediate objectives:

- National strategy for forest fire management prepared together with multiple level stakeholders
- 2. National forestry staff trained on implementing Integrated Forest Fire Management (IFFM) approaches
- 3. National Forest Fire Management Campaign implemented
- Institutional, administrative and technical development which involves the strengthening of capacities and involvement of local communities in the forest fire management
- 5. Draft national forest fire management plan prepared

#### Strategies

- > Training of Syrian staff at central and provincial level to design an integrated and participatory programme on fire management
- > Design a National Forest Fire Management Campaign
- > Prepare national fire awareness material involving local artists and media
- > Work on gradual involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the



- selected project sites, in implementing the national strategy in mitigating fire impacts on the sustainable use of forest resources
- Identify existing and potential benefits for forest villagers
- > Support to sustainable activities linked with the conservation of forest biodiversity and the reduction of deterioration process and desertification
- > Strengthening the collaboration and complementarities with other institutions and agencies working in forest fire control, including international organizations like the FAO, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Silva Mediterranea, etc..
- Prepare an International Agreement on crossborder actions in case of fire transboundary emergencies

#### **■** Expected results

- > Revision of the legislation governing forest fire management prepared together with local communities
- > Training of Syrian staff at central and provincial level to design an integrated and participatory programme on fire management
- > Adoption of institutional and legislative changes to contribute to implement the local people participation
- > Introduction of new techniques to protect the forests
- Draft national forest fire management plan finalized

- > Training of forest officers and project staff. Besides on the job training 20 national operators attended a course. The subjects matters were: management of forest fires and their monitoring, people participation and realization of a sensibilization campaign
- > National Forest Fire management Campaign being implemented. To this effect a slogan has been created:"Together to protect our forests", a logo has been selected among those proposed by local artists, pamphlets and posters have been designed and meeting have taken place with various groups of woman, school children and farmers
- > Organization of a national seminar on forestry legislation with the participation of representatives from all the groups involved. The seminar introduced the role and the importance of forestry policy as well as of the methodologies for their formulation and the sensibilization in the forestry fires management
- > Institution of training courses forestry environment and social impact of the fire control participative management
- > Fire prevention through the creation of new fire resistant species along the fire cutting-lines and the roads. These green barriers are made of laurel (Laurus Nobilis) and Carrube (Ceratonia Siliqua) planted in one or two lines







#### GCP/TUN/028/ITA

#### Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural systems

### Soil and Water Conservation Programme in the Governatorates of Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan, Tunisia



March 1999. Project GCP/TUN/028/ITA is also executed in the context of the 2002 UN International Year of Mountains and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The project also draws from lessons learned through the Tunisia component of the pilot project GCP/INT/542/ITA, which represented a successful case of improved use of natural resources through the participatory approach and the partnership among local population, technical services, local administration, and non–governmental organizations (NGOs).

#### Overall Objective:

To increase food security in marginal areas, to develop sustainable agricultural production, protect the soil and preserve the biodiversity

#### Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$12 479 788

# Participating countries: Tunisia

#### **Duration:**

10 years and five months From 01 Jun 1996 to 31 Oct 2006 The case of the Republic of Tunisia represents a good example of success in relation to the improvement of food security, and documents presented at the World Food Summit held in 1996 showed the increase in food production reached by the country. Despite this positive evolution in food security, instability in agricultural production still represents a problem in some more difficult areas of the country. This is why the improvement of the duration and effectiveness of interventions for the conservation of natural resources has become a national priority, which also highlights the need for an active participation of the local population in development activities.

Project GCP/TUN/028/ITA has been designed in the framework of the national soil and water conservation policies and is in line with the described participatory approach applied by the Government of Tunisia. Moreover the project is funded under the multi-bilateral programme and is part of a wider framework agreement between Italy and Tunisia 'Programme intégré pour la mise en valeur des régions du Sahara et du Sud de la Tunisie', signed in

#### **■** Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural communities

#### Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security in marginal areas, to develop sustainable agricultural production, protect the soil, and preserve the biodiversity.

The specific objectives are:

- 1. Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources
- Strengthen the partnership system at the national and sub-national levels in the framework of the decentralization process of the public administration of the government

#### Strategies

- > A multi-scale approach is adopted to intervene in an effective way at local, regional and national levels; the area of intervention in the Governorates of Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan covers approximately 80 000 ha and the total number of beneficiaries is of about 20 000 people
- > Promotion of the transition from informal farmer association to legally recognized agricultural development groups (GDA)

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- > Other agreements have been established with national and international institutions, the private sector and NGOs in the framework of the creation of a permanent collaborative network. Collaborations, among others, have been developed in Italy with the University of Turin, the Italian NGO Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud and, in Tunisia, with the Tunis National Institute of Agriculture, the Bureau of Animal Breeding and Pasture and Kef's High school of Agriculture. The participation to international networks and programmes like 'World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Techniques', 'Land Degradation Assessment' and 'Global Land Cover Network' has also been supported
- > Promotion of the partnership between the farmers and other development stakeholders which could create further investments
- > Promotion of local development through the realization of basic infrastructures, training, irrigation, improvement of agricultural practices and creation of income generating activities based on micro-credit

#### ■ Expected results

- > Delimitation of homogeneous socioterritorial units (UST)
- Production of participatory development plans (PDP)
- Development of infrastructure
- Implementation of soil and water conservation measures
- > Support to income generating activities
- > Development of a monitoring and evaluation system

- > Development of decision support tools based on integrated information systems
- > Production and distribution of technical papers and quidelines
- Training of national officers
- > Development of GDAs in self-development entities through which farmers will cooperate and will be able to act in the agricultural market with the establishment of GDAs in each region

- > 43 km of roads have been built or restored and 55 km of drinking water distribution points developed
- > Delivery of electricity to beneficiary families
- > 3000 ha of land have been directly protected from soil erosion through terracing
- > Some hundred hectares of lands have been recovered and put to production planting olive and fruit trees that have been planted, also as an erosion preventing initiative
- > Conservation techniques derived from traditional practices have been promoted
- Creation of informal farmer associations that engage themselves to support development and assure the execution of the activities agreed in the PDP: so far 30 UST signed a PDP and become active partners of the project
- Improvement of the sustainability of the soil and water protection
- Realization of basic infrastructure, training, irrigation, improvement of agricultural practices and promotion of income generating activities to be supported by micro credit





Thematic area: Sustainable food and agricultural

systems

#### GCP/TUN/030/1TA

### Upgrade of Refrigeration Infrastructure in the Fishing Ports of Tunisia



Overall Objective:

Development of cold chains for product marketing

#### Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$1 007 542

# Participating countries: Tunisia

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#### **Duration:**

3 years and 8 months From 14 Apr 2003 to 31 Dec 2006 The development of the fisheries sector is closely linked with the development of cold chains for product marketing. Refrigeration is essential to maintain product quality and hence in determining the price of the products. Upgrading the equipment and management of the refrigeration infrastructure is required to respond in an adequate way to the requirements imposed by national and international markets.

The fisheries sector in Tunisia presents a notable dichotomy. There is, on the one hand, the private sector that is investing resources to develop the sector and, on the other hand, the Tunisian governmental institution, Agence des Ports et des Installations de Pêche (APIP), which presents various problems. At present APIP is managing 40 ports bad inadequately equipped and managed. A recent survey of the Italian Cooperation revealed the absence of adequate refrigerating infrastructures in many of these ports. Moreover, even in the ports where these infrastructures exist, the refrigerating powers installed are underexploited. Indeed, more than 50 percent of the

capacity of the installations was considered out of service by the survey. The present project is part of a wider framework agreement between Italy and Tunisia and is funded under the multi-bilateral programme.

#### Beneficiaries

- > Public sector staff operating in fishery
- > Fishermens
- > National and international consumers

#### Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the public sector of cold chains managed by APIP

The specific objectives are:

- Improvement of the equipment of the refrigeration infrastructure in the harbours and creation of maintenance systems
- 2. Upgrade refrigeration infrastructure in the harbours to address adequately the market requirements
- 3. Enhancing managerial capacities, including in particular financial and personnel management

#### Strategies

- > Coordination of all project activities
- Involvement of refrigeration technicians as well as managers of the APIP which will be undertaken at local level with the collaboration of the specialized Tunisian institutions
- > Acquisition of furniture and equipment through tenders
- > Training of technicians and managers of the fishery sector
- > Organization of an international seminar on public enterprises connected to fishing

#### **■** Expected results

> Improvement of the infrastructures inside the ports as one of the assets to improve

- the commercial relations of Tunisia with other foreign countries and in particular with the European Union
- > Adequate public sector facilities for the production and handling of ice, for chilled storage of fishery products and for marketing
- > Public sector staff capabilities strengthened for technical maintenance and for management of the facilities
- > Renewal of refrigeration infrastructures

- > A letter of agreement was signed with **APIP**
- > Establishment of a coordination unit
- Identification of the head of the coordination unit. The unit has held two meetings to discuss and revise the workplan in order to adapt it to the emerging project needs
- > Purchased vehicles designed for maintenance, and necessary equipment for the project activities
- > Organization of several training courses to assist APIP in the development of its functions to conform to the requirements of the markets, in particular those of the European Union





Thematic area: Knowledge exchange and policy

### GCP/SYR/006/1TA

# Agricultural Planning and Policy Analysis in Syria



Overall Objective: Contribute to agricultural and economic development

#### **Donor:**

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$9 080 574

# Participating countries: Syrian Arab

Syrian Arab Republic

#### **Duration:**

10 years and seven months From 01 Apr 1997 to 31 Oct 2007 The economy of the Syrian Arab Republic has long been characterized as centrally planned and the agricultural sector, which still maintains a major role in the country economy, was no exception. When in the mid 1980s the Government of Syria initiated a policy reform process towards a market-oriented economy, the Agricultural Planning and Statistics Directorate (APSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) was entrusted with the implementation of the agricultural policy reform programme. In light of the above-mentioned political developments, the Government of Syria requested technical assistance for the elaboration, development and analysis of agricultural policies. Project GCP/SYR/006/ITA - was thus started in 1998 to strengthen national policies and the development of a market economy. In November 2001 the project entered a three-year Phase II aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the results achieved. In particular, one of the main achievements of GCP/SYR/006/ITA Phase I, was the establishment of the National Agricultural Policy Centre within MAAR. This centre was established to perform agricultural

formulation and policy analysis functions within the ministry, as well as training activities.

#### **■** Beneficiaries

- > Staff of the National Agricultural Policy Center (NAPC)
- Staff member of MAAR and other relevant public institutions and parastatal, political and professional organizations related to agricultural policy
- > Farmers, traders and other agents involved in the agricultural marketing and processing chain
- > Consumers
- > The economy as a whole is expected to gain from the project, in terms of sustainability and effective functionality of the NAPC

#### Objective

The overall objective is to promote institutional capacity of MAAR and to improve ministerial analysis, formulation and monitoring ministerial capabilities in the field of agricultural policies.

The specific objectives are:

- Training of a specialized team for the management of the national Centre of Agricultural policies
- Improve the adequacy of basic statistical information for the analysis of agricultural policies facilitating their diffusion and use
- Strengthen NAPC to contribute to the agricultural and economic development of the country increasing both the institutional and managerial capacity and facilitating the use and diffusion of databases

#### Strategies

> Transfer of project operations to the FAO Representation in Damascus and henceforth its direct involvement and

# Mediterranean and Near East



CP/SYR/006/1T,

- support to project activities, allows for a reduced presence of full time resident experts and for relaxing the working language constraint
- > Organization of short-training courses abroad for NAPC staff at research and academic institutions and their participation to international symposium conferences and seminars. This participation will strengthen the links with other international institutions
- > Organization of frequent technical support missions
- Increase the NAPC staff and creation of a library scientific committee
- > Institution of various English and internet training courses. NAPC staff took part in the political forum initiative in the course of the seminar organized by the centre in cooperation with FAO, as well as in a number of seminars held internally on various political and technical subjects
- > Organize overseas post-graduate training at the Master level for the 5 NAPC professional staff who were the best among those trained in the first phase of the project

#### ■ Expected results

- > Implementation of adequate tools to measure the impact of political reforms in the agriculture framework
- Launching the institutional reform process
- Better management of NAPC

- > Production of two reports of the restructuring of MAAR and on the role of NAPC composed of a scientific and consulting commettee
- > Assistance to NAPC for the creation of the first electronic database in English and Arabic. Moreover additional 15 basic and specialized courses for 50 government officers. Individual seminars and courses were also offered
- The NAPC intranet (NAPnet) has been renewed, improved and translated into Arabic. It has also been enriched with seven NAPC training documents. The paper 'Implementation of the Great Arab Free Trade Area Agreement: The Case of Syria' has been finalized in English. Furthermore, a study on 'Accession to the World Trade Organization: procedures, issues and lessons for Syria', has been completed. This last study aims at supporting the on-going debate on reforming agricultural policy intervention compatibly with the constraints that might derive from WTO
- > Production of 14 studies which results have been used by the government of Syria to elaborate sustainable agriculture development strategy
- Didactic material both in Arabic and English supplied for the execution
- Selection of an international consultant in the field of institutional development
- Four members of the centre have successfully completed a Master in the USA and 4 have started their training in post-graduate distance learning programmes at the Imperial College of London. Three members were trained in France on comparative costs





Thematic area: Knowledge

exchange and policy

#### GCP/SYR/011/ITA

# Institutional Development of Organic Agriculture in Syria



#### Overall objective:

Facilitating the realization of a platform for the sustainable development of organic farming in Syria

#### Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$999 954

# Participating countries: Syrian Arab Republic

Duration: 3 years From 13 Sep 2005 to 12 Sep 2008 Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Syrian economy as shown by its contribution to GDP and to employment, around 30 percent in year 2000. It also gives a significant contribution to the balance of payments, as agricultural exports are second only to crude oil.

Syrian agriculture is characterized by a large number of small-scale farms that operate traditional management systems, and a smaller number of large-scale state farms and mixed private and public joint ventures. Almost all raw or processed organic products are exported to the European market, and certification is generally granted by foreign Certification Bodies. Tunisia is the only country within the Near East and North Africa with a national legislation. Nevertheless, Governments of several other countries are currently working on its elaboration.

The Syrian Government has shown a growing interest in this form of agriculture, recognizing that organic agriculture contributes to food security by enhancing household self-sufficiency and by building farmers' self-reliance. Nonetheless, this dynamism meets

a major challenge in the lack of national legislation and in the use of prevailing confusion that still exists in the mind of many decision makers concerning organic farming.

#### **■** Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Pastoralists
- > Fruit and olive growers
- > Traders
- > Agribusiness entrepreneurs
- > Consumers

#### Objectives

The overall objective is to prepare the ground for the establishment of an institutional framework for the development of organic agriculture including legal, institutional and training aspects

The specific objectives are:

- 1. Make a proposal for the implementation of a national legislation and its regulation. This would be based on the knowledge and experience of countries with long experience and legal frameworks in this area. These may include the European Union (EU) and the US, which have promoted international standards and to which the Syrian legislation would need to adapt to be able to export to their markets
- 2. Produce a proposal for the creation of an association of organic producers that would be legally recognized. This will give the opportunity to analyze the organization, functions, tasks, personnel and budget of similar associations
- 3. Put forward a proposal for setting up a legally recognized certification body. The entity would need to be integrated into the existing international system of certification and accreditation, as required by international trade system and by the EU regulations covering agro food trade with other countries. This

- action will be based mostly on the analysis of international regulations, enriched by visits to Italy and Tunisia
- 4. Strengthen human resources capacity in organic farming: the project will provide capacity building, working both on the technical and the methodological aspects of organic farming research within an international setting. This is expected to create in the future a critical mass of technicians and advisors who could provide information and quidance to farmers and breeders
- 5. Assess the market in order to identify the products which could be more easily converted into organic and the areas where such products have more chances to achieve good yields and adequate returns, also taking into account the demand of foreign markets and the potential Syrian consumers

#### ■ Strategies

- > Use of a synergic intervention of several actors to create a scientific and legal platform with the active participation of reserchers, producers, entrepreuners and traders
- > Promotion of a more efficient and rational use of natural resources in general and land and water in particular
- > Analyse national legislations and EU regulations: this action will support the acquisition of legislation, its comparative analysis, the knowledge and experiences in other countries
- > One study tour of ten days, for 20 people in Italy. The study tour will allow the participants to understand the different roles of the various actors (public, private and non-governmental organizations -NGOs) in the research, diffusion, marketing, certification, control, etc., through visits and meetings with Italian and international experts
- > Organization of seminars to improve people participation in the biological agriculture issue
- > Elaborate proposal for a legislative framework and regulations adapted to the Syrian situation, aiming at guaranteeing acceptation of Syrian products into the international markets, with specific reference to EU and USA
- Study about certification procedures for quality products

- > One week stage for five people at a selected certification body in Italy will allow to acquire first hand knowledge of the complexity of the certification procedures and of its organization
- > Elaboration of didactic materials, to be used in the planned training courses
- > Participation of six scientists in international scientific and organizational events to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences

#### **■** Expected results

- > Training of technicians, scientists and representatives of agricultural associations on all the aspects of biological agriculture
- > Extended areas for biological cultures. This process is required by the growing demand of biological products and by agricultural policies concerning sustainable environmental development
- > Elaboration of guidelines for the establishment of a certification body
- > Information, training and education of an adequate number of Syrian nationals (technicians, scientists and opinion leaders)
- > An applied research program defined and partially implemented

- Develop a proposal for national legislation and related regulation
- Develop the proposal for the organization of a certification body to be legally established
- > Development of human and technical resources
- > Identification and development of markets for organic agriculture



Thematic area: Food security

#### GTFS/PAL/022/ITA

### West Bank and Gaza Strip: Agricultural Revitalization Programme



#### Overall Objective:

Strengthen food security, fight poverty, and create rural employment

#### Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution: US\$1 500 000

### Participating countries:

Palestinian Territories

#### **Duration:**

2 years From 15 Aug 2004 to 31 Dec 2006 The agriculture sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is vital as it represents a refuge against poverty and an important source of food security and employment for an increasing share of the population. In order to prevent the sector from a further collapse, an Agriculture Revitalization Programme (ARP) was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Authority, supported by FAO and the United Nations development programme (UNDP).

#### Beneficiaries

- > Rural communities
- > non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- > Universities
- > Rural associations

#### Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the rural environment, with specific reference to food security, poverty reduction, rural employment, and income increase.

The specific objectives are:

- Rehabilitate the basic production and the small infrastructures, when inadequate or damaged
- 2. Increase the availability and efficient use of natural resources (land, water, and genetic resources)
- Reduce production costs and increase production yields in terms of quality and marketability
- 4. Introduce and propagate new management practices
- 5. Development of local capacities

#### Strategies

- > Support the provision of inputs and the rehabilitation of assets and infrastructure to achieve long term objectives of sustainable development, such as the more efficient use of natural resources and the build of local capacities
- > Building new infrastructures and training of human resources
- > Adoption of appropriate techniques to reduce the soil erosion process and the degradation of the the natural resources
- > Creation of working opportunities in the rural areas
- > Focus project activities on the reduction of the rural poverty
- > Strengthening the capacity of the staff of the Departments of Agriculture in 4 districts, as these are considered to be the key players in providing technical and managerial advice to relatively isolated farmers
- > Strengthening the skills of the Ministry of Agriculture in agricultural trade negotiations
- > Introduce appropriate managerial practices in the agricultural and pastoral sectors

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#### **■** Expected results

- > Rehabilitation of small infrastructure to sustain a medium/long term process of agriculture revitalization
- > Increase availability of natural resources (land, water) through a more efficient use
- > Improve genetic resources through the introduction of new fruit tree varieties
- > Enhance the capacity of the public and private sector in proper management and sustainable use of inputs and natural resources
- > Creation of employment and income opportunities

- > Rehabilitation of small infrastructure
- > Improved use of natural resources
- Introduction and dissemination of proper management practices in order to decrease the production costs and raise the yields quality
- > Decreased on-going processes of erosion and degradation of the main natural resources due to agriculture practices introduced and/or disseminated



