



PROFILE PROJECT

Morocco-German Technical Dialogue on Agriculture and Forestry Component 1: Organic Farming

COUNTRY

Morocco

PROJECT TITLE

Morocco-German Technical
Dialogue on Agriculture and
Forestry
Component 1 : Organic
Farming

PROJECT NUMBER

MAR 24-01

PROJECT REGION

Rabat, Maroc

DURATION AND PHASE

01/2024-12/2026, 2.Phase

PROJECT HISTORY

10/2019 – 12/2023, 1. Phase
including 1 year extension

BUDGET (CURRENT PHASE)

1,46 Millions. EUR (brut)

OPERATIONAL PROJECT PARTNER

Moroccan Ministry of
Agriculture

1. Project approach and target groups

Morocco's "Green Generation" rural development strategy for the period 2020-2030 calls for vigorous development of organic farming. The aim is to increase certified areas to 100.000 ha, improve productivity, develop the downstream sector through aggregation and processing, diversify markets, modernize internal distribution and marketing channels, and increase exports to 600,000 tonnes/year. Although the organic sector in Morocco is set to increase production from 11.500 ha to 19.000 ha between 2020 and 2021, it is still underdeveloped, with around 530 farms currently certified organic. Professional processing and supply chains are virtually non-existent, investment capacity is insufficient, and quality management and logistics systems are poorly developed. Likewise, the new EU Organic Farming Directive, in force since January 1, 2022, represents a challenge for export-oriented companies. In May 2023, the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture (MAPMDREF) signed a contract with the private sector, represented by the new Fédération Maroc-Bio, created in 2022, to jointly promote investments in organic farming. The technical dialogue approach should enable the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture to develop an integral strategy both for the negotiation process with the EU to reach a trade agreement on organic products, and for strengthening organic production for the national market. Within the framework of international partnerships, public and private actors in Moroccan organic farming will be encouraged to become fully involved in the private sector. A Moroccan region is to become a model "Bioregion", in which organic farming and basic agro-ecological production approaches are actively promoted by public and private actors. The target group includes MAPMDREF decision-makers at national and provincial level, representatives of the competent authorities in the fields of agricultural extension, training, legislation and commercialization, as well as organic professional associations, local cooperatives of women, young agri-preneur start-ups and organic agricultural or processing companies.

2. Current project activities

The organic farming component of DIAF has trained over 150 public and private managers, agricultural engineers and technicians on topics related to organic legislation and technical aspects of production over 4 one-week training sessions. A particular highlight was the internationally-certified specialist training in organic plant production, which was carried out as part of a modular "blended learning" approach over several months with international partner IFOAM-Organic-Academy. In addition, the DIAF developed and implemented the first organic livestock production training course in Morocco. In cooperation with IFOAM-Organic-International, Moroccan organic legislation 39-12 was evaluated and improved, so that the Bio-Maroc organic legislation was integrated into the IFOAM Family of Standards. With a view to improving the performance of control authorities, the Component 1 Organic agriculture of DIAF supports capacity-building for the relevant departments of MAPMDREF and provides support for the establishment of a regulatory framework and the certification of sales outlets of certified organic products and, more generally, accompanies the development of the Moroccan organic standard (BIO-MAROC) in line with the European standard (EU Regulation 2018/848). As part of a specialized fact-finding mission (FIF) funded by the BMEL Innovation and Transformation Dialog (ITD), Moroccan participants visited bioregions in Portugal in September 2023 to discover points relating to the institutionalization of Bioregions as a model for promoting the Moroccan organic sector in climate change effected vulnerable territories.



3. Perspectives

For the first semester of 2024, the project foresees:

- An analysis of the need to adapt the Moroccan regulatory framework to EU compliance requirements and advice on a possible trade agreement between the EU and Morocco, including the organic farming sector.
- Promoting the development of institutional partnerships with other countries, in particular a partnership with the Bavarian Institute of Agriculture (LfL) to support advisory processes and skills development measures.
- Ongoing awareness-raising and training activities, in particular for the technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture (DDFP, ONSSA, DSS), to enhance skills for adapting or implementing organic farming legislation.
- Advising institutions such as the future Technical Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (CTABio) or the ENA Meknes Agro-Ecological Centre to develop a viable service offering for public actors and the private sector (research, training, dialogue actions, etc.).
- Promote a partnership with an European Bioregion (e.g. Portugal or Germany) and support the process of mutual learning and exchange.
- Continuation of a market study with reference value chains for organic olive oil and carobs to analyse the national and international market and create an example of a pilot distribution chain to assess domestic demand and develop a national market strategy for organic products (in collaboration with FIBL Switzerland and the National Research Institute INRA).
- Start of an assessment for the promotion of organic cooperatives (existing and in conversion) in selected pilot regions for the development of organic farming, in collaboration with Component 2 of DIAF (inter-company cooperation and promotion of cooperatives OPA).
- Advice to the Vocational Training and Research Department (DEFR) of MAPMDREF and to support agricultural vocational schools (ITA, ITSA) in pilot regions for the development and promotion of additional qualifications in agro-ecological approaches and organic farming (in collaboration with IFOAM Organic International).

4. Project implementation

GOPA-AFC GmbH
Baunscheidtstraße 17, 53113 Bonn
www.gopa-afc.de

5. Project team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Site</u>
Martin	Dr.Baumgart	Martin.baumgart@gopa-afc.de	GOPA-AFC	Teamleader of the Component 1	Rabat
Imane	Amghar	Imane.amghar@gopa-afc.de	GOPA-AFC	Long-term national expert	Rabat
Fatima Zahra	El Miri	diafcoordonateur.elmiri@gmail.com	MAPMDREF /DSS	National coordinator of the DIAF project	Rabat
Daniela	Böhm	Daniela.boehm@gopa-afc.de	GOPA-AFC	DIAF Project Manager / Backoffice Bonn	Bonn

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