

Learning Route on
 “Farmers Organizations”
 Morocco, 25th of February – 4th of March 2013
 KARIANET II – PROCASUR Learning Route Programme

Call for Applications

The PROCASUR – KariaNet Learning Route Programme

The present activity is organized by KariaNet (IDRC-IFAD partnership, www.karianet.org) and PROCASUR (www.procasur.org)

The PROCASUR-KariaNet Learning Route Programme brings together two knowledge brokers, in an attempt to increase knowledge sharing and the scaling up of best practices in agriculture and rural development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). PROCASUR-KariaNet Learning Route Programme aims to improve the knowledge of development practitioners and decision-makers in agriculture and rural development.

Two Learning Routes will take place in the framework of this programme:

- *Farmers’ Organizations* in Morocco (25th February – 4th March 2013)
- *Sustainable Water Management* in Egypt (10th -17th March 2013).

Farmers Organizations in the MENA Region

Farmers Organizations (FOs) are key contributors to achieving the goals of improving the livelihoods of poor rural people, reducing poverty and attaining food security. Through the services they offer to their members, they can provide invaluable assistance in improving small producers’ production and incomes. Evidence demonstrates their potential to link smallholders to markets; accelerate the adoption of technologies and inputs and encourage the sustainable management of land, water and other natural resources. In the MENA Region, Farmers Organizations are becoming increasingly relevant actors able to provide supports to small producers, contribute to their livelihood and link them to the market. In Morocco, good practices have been developed by farmers’ organizations, which can provide innovative ideas and tools to be replicated, adapted and adopted also elsewhere in the MENA region.

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A Learning Route on Farmers Organizations

Within this framework, PROCASUR Corporation and KariaNet, supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and IDRC, launch the Learning Route on Farmers’ Organizations, a practitioner-to-practitioner training aimed to improve the knowledge of development practitioners and decision-makers in rural development, specifically related to best, field-tested practices in farmers organizations (in Morocco). In addition to the field-based study, exchange and learning, each participant is required to develop an Innovation Plan which can be put into practice after the Learning Route.

A Learning Route is a continuous process of training in the field organized thematically around successful experiences, case studies and best practices on innovative rural and local development in which local actors themselves become trainers.

The Learning Route’s objectives

This Learning Route’s main objective is to improve understanding on **farmers’ organizations (FOs)** and extract lessons applicable in the MENA region.

Moreover, its specific objectives are the following:

1. To identify key elements of the **governance** in FOs, mainly as referred to: management, decision-making processes, legal and institutional framework, internal structure, sustainability, leadership and capacity building.
2. To identify the different kind of **services** and incentives provided by FOs to their members and vice versa;
3. To draw lessons from the experience of FOs in Morocco as organizations able to mobilize themselves to **advocate** for positive changes and empowerment of small-farmers producers.

These objectives will be achieved through face-to-face learning in the field, taking innovative rural development initiatives in Morocco as a source of knowledge.

Hosting cases

The Learning Route will be hosted by the following case studies:

Experience	Description	Main lessons and innovations
1. COPAG (Taroudant, South western Morocco)	COPAG (Coóperative Agricole) is a success story of scaling-up. It started in 1987 as a small initiative to improve the trading position vis-à-vis intermediary traders and better sell their fruit and dairy products. It is now a cooperative which is composed by 72 cooperatives and involve more than 100 individual members. COPAG owns an impressive enterprise with different factories for fruit packaging and the production of special dairy products for supermarkets all over Morocco and abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of the cooperative structure for scaling-up while maintaining the full engagement and ownership of all actors in the organisation (including the small producers, playing a very important role). - The positive impact of integrating different value adding activities in the production process. - Expansion of the cooperative through the diversification of products. - Marketing strategies of the cooperative: how to become a competitive actor in the national market. - Corporate mechanisms to protect the benefits of the small scale farmers

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2. ANCA (Agadir, South western Morocco)	ANCA (Association Nationale des Coopératives d’Argane) represents 56 cooperatives and include a total of 3000 women who extract and commercialize argan oil, a unique product for central-south Morocco. ANCA has been created in 2004 to provide social services for the women cooperatives, to represent them and defend their rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall structure of the association ANCA and its specific social services are an example of how economically based cooperatives can also successfully improve social and cultural aspects of its members, in addition to the generation of income; - Gender aspects of the governance of ANCA, and social, economical and cultural implication of ANCA for the women producing argan; - How ANCA has successfully advocate for the rights of its members.
3. ANOC (Khenifra, Central Morocco)	ANOC (Association Nationale Ovine et Caprine) is an association with 110 groups member that was created in 1980 to support small producers of sheep and goats by putting a technician with a car and technical knowledge and tools at their disposal. Its objective is to improve breeding practices and productivity of small cattle. ANOC has a long history and works in close cooperation with the Ministry of agriculture in Morocco.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of technical services (as an alternative to subsidies) to organize to small producers for the development of a whole productive sector; - How this can be operated in close cooperation with the state, to ensure sustainable relationships and finance.

Dates and locations

The Learning Route will be carried out between **February 25th and March 4th, 2013** travelling across three different farmers’ organizations experiences in Morocco.

Before and after the Learning Route it will be mandatory for participants to take part in the on-line activities for thematic induction and peer-to-peer support.

Participants’ profile

Development practitioners interested in participating are invited to apply by **February 4th, 2013**. The selection committee will give preference to:

- Applicants from the different countries of the MENA region where KariaNet is working, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen;
- Applicants working on FOs with a potential for successful innovation plans and decision-making power to implement these; (This will be assessed on the basis of the application forms and if needed on the basis of prior interviews or consultation);
- Gender balance: equal chances will be given to male and female applicants;
- Young adults (under 30 years) are encouraged to apply;
- Priority will be given to applications coming from KariaNet network members and IDRC and IFAD-funded projects in the 10 eligible countries;
- The remaining participants will be selected amongst relevant stakeholders, namely: farmers organizations and producers, private sector, governmental representatives, researchers, practitioners and project technical staff;
- It is expected that the majority of the participants will be able to cover their travel and participation fee to the Learning Route – partial or full scholarships can be extended only to a maximum of 15 participants per route.

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Inscription and Queries

The training fee is **USD 400** per participant, which includes all the technical and operational services required within **February 24th (arrival to Agadir) to March 5th (departure from Casablanca) 2013** such as:

- Lodging in individual rooms in three stars hotels or equivalent from February 24th to March 5th.
 - Three daily meals from February 24th to March 4th.
 - Terrestrial transportation in Morocco, including airport pickup at the arrival and departure
 - Travel insurance from February 24th to March 5th.
 - Technical and operational assistance before, during and after the training
 - Payment of experts and teachers.
 - Pedagogical materials
 - Simultaneous translation in Arabic - French
- Each participant must cover his/her travel expenses to get to Agadir (where the Route starts) and come back from Casablanca (where the Route ends).
- Each participant is responsible for acquiring the Morocco entry Visa, if required. PROCASUR/KariaNet will provide basic assistance (invitation letters, information on hosting organisations and follow-up by focal points).
- The organizers of the Programme have established a limited Scholarship Fund that may cover partially the fee of those who are unable to cover it. Interested candidates to benefit from the fund are invited to apply accordingly, providing a justification for this need (see the document Scholarship application).



Early application is encouraged; deadline is **February 4th, 2013**.



You will be informed of the result of your application on **February 11th, 2013**



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We will be pleased to assist you!