



Morocco – COMCE Cooperation

Strengthening the resilience of family farmers and small-scale producers in the agricultural and agri-food sector in OIC member countries

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September 22nd, 2025 – Rabat



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Strengthening the resilience of family farmers and small scale producers

Olive tree in a moroccan farm

Morocco – COMCEC : A close and dynamic cooperation

In the Agricultural Sector

The kingdom of Morocco is an active and engaged member of the OIC and, by extension, of the COMCEC since 2017. Its participation aligns with its foreign policy, which seeks to strengthening ties between the member countires, particularly within the framework of South-South cooperation.



Field visit 1

Strengthening the resilience of family farmers and small-scale producers in the agricultural and agri-food sector in OIC member countries, a great opportunity to share the Moroccan experience and achievements.

Field visit 2

Enhancing and sustaining rural accessibility in the OIC Member Countries;

Morocco – COMCEC : A close and dynamic cooperation

In the Agricultural Sector

- The COMCEC is a vital platform for Morocco, both in terms of its overall economic engagement and, specifically, within the agricultural sector. Our cooperation exemplifies our commitment to Islamic solidarity and South-South development.

Globally, Morocco's involvement in this cooperation is demonstrated through:

1. **Active Participation in Meetings:** we regularly attends COMCEC ministerial sessions and working group meetings, contributing to discussions and the formulation of resolutions;
2. **Sharing Experience:** The Kingdom shares its experience in economic development and structural reforms, notably the successes of its sectoral plans (like "Plan Maroc Vert" and now "Generation Green") and its efforts to improve the business climate;
3. **Support for COMCEC Initiatives:** Morocco supports initiatives aimed at liberalizing trade among OIC countries (for example, the Framework Agreement on the Preferential Trade System - TPS/OCI) and facilitating investments.
4. **South-South Cooperation:** Morocco's commitment in Africa, particularly through its South-South cooperation, resonates with COMCEC's desire to promote mutual solidarity and collaboration among its members.

Morocco – COMCEC : A close and dynamic cooperation

In the Agricultural Sector

The agricultural sector is a key priority for COMCEC, as it's vital for food security and economic development in many OIC member countries. Morocco, with its recognized agricultural expertise in the MENA region and Africa, plays a significant role in areas such as :

1. Food Security and Rural Development:

Morocco, having successfully implemented agricultural strategies like "Plan Maroc Vert" (and now "Generation Green"), shares its experience in:

- Increasing agricultural productivity;
- Modernizing agricultural value chains;
- Managing water resources for irrigation;
- Developing value chains and promoting local products.

2. Sharing Best Practices and Technologies:

- Morocco, through its research institutions (like INRA) and agricultural development agencies, participates in COMCEC platforms aimed at exchanging climate-resilient agricultural practices, efficient irrigation technologies, soil management, and yield improvement.
 - It can propose demonstration or training projects for other OIC countries, building on its aggregation and modernization model.

Morocco – COMCEC : A close and dynamic cooperation

In the Agricultural Sector

3. Capacity Building:

- COMCEC organizes workshops and training programs for agricultural experts from member countries. Morocco, as a host country or participant, can and will contribute to these initiatives by sharing its expertise in areas like certification, product traceability, and animal and plant health.
 - This includes trainings on drought resilience, seed improvement, or post-harvest management.

4. Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade:

- Morocco participates in COMCEC efforts to boost agricultural product trade among OIC member countries. This involves discussions on reducing non-tariff barriers and harmonizing standards to facilitate agro-food exchanges.
- Morocco is a significant exporter of fruits, vegetables, and seafood, and seeks to diversify its markets within the OIC.

5. Research and Innovation:

- COMCEC encourages collaboration in agricultural R&D;
- Morocco, through its universities and research institutes, can engage in joint research projects with other OIC countries on key themes like water security, agricultural biodiversity, and the development of crops adapted to arid climates.

The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

although it is dominated by small areas of agricultural farms, the agricultural sector plays an important role in the Moroccan economy

Usable Agricultural Area: 8,7 millions Ha
1.6 million farms - 70% with less than 5 Ha (25% of UAA)
6 million ha (rainfed)
1.6 million irrigated
700.000 ha irrigated with

21%

of GDP
(14% for primary
7% for agro-industry)



23%

of export
value



39%

of national
employment



72%

of rural employment
(1.6 million farmers)



13%

of the general
state budget



The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

Undeniable assets and an intrinsic potential linked to:

- the importance and **diversity of its natural resources**
- **the know-how** and the **competitiveness** of the workforce
- the **geographical position** of the country and the proximity of the European market
- a **logistics** in continuous improvement
- the **comparative advantages** of the export sectors
- to growing **potential** for the development of the **agri-food sector**

face a new context (VUCA) marked by:

- **Climate change**, which threatens the sustainability of production systems, particularly water use patterns that are unsustainable in the long term
- The **instability and volatility** of world commodity markets which resulted in rising prices leading, (the food crises of 2007-2008 ; the war in Ukraine 2022-20??)
- **changes in the global competitive landscape** (specialisation, marketing methods, advent of modern distribution involving in-depth transformations of value chains, etc.)
- **growing consumer demands** for product quality and traceability

The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

the achievements are aligned with the objectives that have been initially set (2008-2018)

- The agricultural sector **doubled** its **GDP**
- The **structure** of agricultural **added value** changed with a **drop in the share of cereals** and an **increase of arboriculture**
- **Better resilience** and one the best coverages of basic food needs in the MENA region.
- **Leading non-european union supplier of tomatoes**, the **world's third largest exporter of citrus** and the fourth largest exporter in the mena region.
- Cumulative **public-private investment** amounts to **\$12 billion**, **60%** of which comes from the **private sector**.
- Creation of **300,000 additional job** opportunities..
- The **area equipped with drip irrigation** systems has been **multiplied by 4**
- The implementation of major irrigation programs has **saved 2 billion m3 per year** while producing **higher added value crops**.

The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

After more than ten years of implementing the Green Morocco Plan

- The Covid-19 pandemic, has challenged food systems, specifically the distribution of products in local, regional and global supply chains.
- In Morocco, the Covid-19 pandemic, combined with reduced water availability, has been the biggest test of resilience that our sector has faced in years, and has shown its importance in terms of food security.
- Nonetheless, we managed to overcome this challenge, as we ensured the continuation of agricultural and agro-food activities, supplied all the regions of Morocco with diversified food offers, while maintaining good quality and stable prices. Furthermore, during this period, we continued to respect our export engagements to our partner countries.
- Morocco's success during these difficult times, is mainly due to the work and dedication that has been conducted over the years, that have allowed us to tremendously transform and modernize the agricultural sector.

The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

As part of the continued development of the agricultural sector, Morocco has launched on February 2020 a new strategy, called “Generation Green 2020-2030”.

This new agricultural strategy is based on two foundations:

- **The first one is to consider the human element as a priority in the development of the agricultural sector.**
- The second foundation of this new strategy relates to the pursuit of a dynamic development of the sector.



The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

1st foundation

Priority to the human factor

New **generation** of agricultural middle class

400,000 middle class households
3-4 M farmers with social protection

New **generation** of young agricultural entrepreneurs

1 Mha of valued Collective land
350,000 new farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs
150,000 trained youths

New **generation** of agricultural organizations

x5 consolidation rate
30% of the public budget managed by the interprofessional organizations

New **generation** of support mechanisms

2M farmers connected to agricultural e-services
5,000 agricultural advisors

2nd foundation

Sustainability of agricultural development

Consolidation of agricultural products

x2 GDP and x2 exports
70% of the valorized production

Efficient and modern distribution channels

12 modern wholesale markets
Modern markets

Quality, innovation and Green-Tech

120 certified slaughterhouses
x2 Sanitary control

Resilient and eco-efficient agriculture

x2 water efficiency
Soil conservation



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It aims towards a new generation of agricultural middle class and the generalization of the social welfare system as well as the emergence of a new generation of young entrepreneurs and the creation of 350.000 jobs.

This middle class and these farmers will also be able to rely on a new generation of more innovative agricultural organizations and benefit from new supportive measures enabling them to strengthen their skills.

The Green Generation 2020-2030

General overview

It aims to double agricultural GDP and exports while improving supply chains and distribution process.

It also allows for strengthening the resilience and sustainability of agricultural development as well as increasing innovation.



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The potential of the Moroccan agricultural sector is still very important and provides economic operators significant investment opportunities at all levels of the agricultural value chain.

Moreover, for a greater integration of the agro-industry and to have privileged sites to host investment for the processing and development of agricultural products, six agropoles were launched in the major agricultural regions of Morocco.

Also, within the framework to support the implementation of these agricultural strategies, financial aids are granted by the State to encourage private investment in agriculture. They are implemented through the FDA (Agricultural Development Fund).

Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector

But, building resilience in Moroccan agriculture requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses both the immediate impacts of shocks and the underlying vulnerabilities that make farms susceptible to them. This includes supporting farmers with access to resources, promoting sustainable practices, and developing policies that enhance their ability to adapt and transform their farming systems in the face of a changing climate and other challenges.

Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector

Here are some key elements to highlight:

1. **Generation Green 2020-2030 Strategy:** places a strong emphasis on sustainability, human capital, and strengthening the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change. It aims to modernize agriculture, increase food self-sufficiency, and improve the social and economic status of farmers.
2. **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Initiatives:**
 - **Promoting Water-Efficient Technologies:** Morocco has heavily invested in and promoted drip irrigation systems to reduce water consumption, especially crucial in a water-stressed country;
 - **Conservation Agriculture:** Practices like “no-till farming”, crop rotation, and improved soil and water management are actively encouraged to enhance soil health, reduce erosion, and optimize water use;
 - **Drought-Resistant Crop Varieties:** There's a focus on research and development, often in collaboration with international organizations like ICARDA and INRA, to develop and disseminate drought-tolerant seeds for key crops like barley and durum wheat;
 - **Agroforestry:** Integrating trees into farming systems is also part of the strategy to enhance resilience and diversify farmers' income.

Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector

Here are some key elements to highlight:

3. Financial Support and Risk Management:

- Subsidies for Inputs: The government provides subsidies on essential agricultural inputs like seeds (especially drought-resistant varieties) and fertilizers to help reduce production costs for farmers, particularly in times of drought or high international prices;
- Support for Livestock Capital: Significant funds have been allocated to protect livestock, including subsidizing barley and imported feed, which is vital for rural communities, dependent on animal husbandry;
- Agricultural Insurance Schemes: Efforts are ongoing to expand and reform agricultural insurance systems to provide farmers with a safety net against climate-related losses;
- Access to Credit: Programs are in place to improve farmers' access to credit through institutions like the Agricultural Credit Group of Morocco (GCAM), making it easier for them to invest in resilient practices.

Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector

Here are some key elements to highlight:

4. **The Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) Initiative:** Launched by Morocco, this initiative is a continental platform for enhancing agricultural resilience to climate change across Africa. Morocco is actively involved in driving this initiative, which focuses on improved soil management, water control, climate risk management, capacity building, and securing funding solutions for adaptation projects.

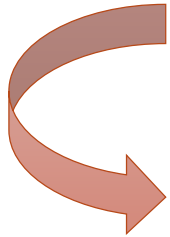
5. Partnerships and Capacity Building:

- **World Bank and FAO Programs:** Morocco collaborates with international partners like the World Bank and FAO on large-scale programs aimed at strengthening climate resilience, enhancing food safety, and supporting small-scale producers. For instance, the recent Morocco Transforming Agri-food Systems Program (USD 250 million) focuses on these aspects;
- **Technical Support and Training:** Organizations like the Agency for Agricultural Development (ADA) and ONCA (National Office of Agricultural Counsel) provide training and technical assistance to farmers on adopting climate-smart practices;

Strengthening the Resilience of Family Farmers and Small-scale Producers in the Agriculture and Food Sector

Here are some key elements to highlight:

6. **Water Resource Management:** Given Morocco's water stress, the government is also heavily investing in water infrastructure (dams, desalination plants) and more efficient water redistribution through the National Hydrological Plan, which directly benefits agricultural resilience.



Morocco is implementing a multi-faceted approach, combining strategic national plans, targeted financial support, promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices, and strong international partnerships to enhance the resilience of its farmers against evolving climate challenges.

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Royaume du Maroc



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