



**I FORO INTERREGIONAL
MEDITERRÁNEO DE LUCHA
CONTRA LA DESERTIFICACIÓN**

**I FORUM INTERRÉGIONAL
MÉDITERRANÉEN DE LUTTE
CONTRE LA DÉSERIFICATION**

**I INTERREGIONAL
MEDITERRANEAN
FORUM TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION**

CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1ST MEDITERRANEAN INTERTERRITORIAL FORUM TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Forecasts of climate change in southern Europe show a significant increase in the risk of desertification, especially in the Mediterranean regions of south-eastern Spain, southern Italy, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and the Danube Delta in Romania, as well as in the regions of North Africa.

That is why climate change poses itself as one of the major challenges for agriculture and food, given that the consequences of rising temperatures could alter the fragile balance in which many crops are developed.

Clearly sensitive to these phenomena are areas such as the Mediterranean, where agricultural production is particularly vulnerable due to a high proportion of poor soils with low precipitation levels. An increase in temperature accompanied by a decrease in available humidity increases the rate of aridification. The direct consequences are clearly negative in rain-fed agriculture, as they would not be compensated by the stimulating effect of CO₂ on photosynthesis.

The fight against desertification should include approaches and proposals from all sectors involved, in particular the agricultural sector, and sectors linked to water resources management. Efforts to combat desertification should be part of integrated land use in arid and semi-arid areas, mostly rain-fed, for the prevention and reduction of land degradation, the rehabilitation of partially degraded land, and the recovery of already deserted land.

The election of Spain as the venue for the celebration on 17 June of the Day of Desertification and Drought 2022 in the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), is a great opportunity to celebrate in Murcia, the 1st Mediterranean Interregional Forum to Combat Desertification, in which representatives of regions equally vulnerable to desertification can present and discuss possible strategies for the management and sustainable use of resources in the fight against desertification and land degradation and their synergistic effects with other ecosystem services, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

In this first Forum, organised by the Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Environment and Emergencies of the Region of Murcia and the INTERMEDITERRANEA Committee of the Conference of Peripheral Regions of the Mediterranean (CIM CRPM), representatives of the Government of Spain and the Regions of Puglia (Italy), Western Greece (Greece), Tulcea (Romania), Valencian Community (Spain) and the Region of Murcia (Spain), as well as the Executive Secretary of the CIM CRPM as moderator of the event.

Organizado por:



Financiado por: Programa LIFE de la Unión Europea



Climate change adaptation
of dryland agricultural systems
in the Mediterranean area

LIFE AMDRY4 - LIFE16 CCA/ES/000123



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As an experience of Combating Desertification, the first results of the LIFE AMDRYC4 project, coordinated by the University of Murcia, were presented, whose main objective is the promotion and promotion of adaptation to climate change by rainfed agriculture in Mediterranean areas and to strengthen its mitigation function as carbon sinks, increasing the organic carbon of the soil as set out in the 4 by 1000 initiative.

The speakers' interventions, as well as the discussion during the Round Table, highlighted the multifactory nature of desertification processes and the measures taken to reduce their progress, focusing primarily on the sustainable use of scarce water resources and the adaptation of sustainable agricultural practices.

As a result of this meeting, the following conclusions are set out below:

- The desirability of establishing a commitment on the part of the Mediterranean regions to combat desertification and climate change and the determination to work together to find solutions to prevent and reduce their impact.
- The design of any strategy to combat desertification must necessarily include approaches and proposals from all the sectors involved, in particular the agricultural sector, and sectors linked to water resources management.
- Agriculture should be seen as a strategic sector within the perspectives of climate change, which contributes to climate change, but can at the same time be heavily affected by it.
- Combating desertification and land degradation contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, with collateral benefits for biodiversity and sustainable population development.
- The implementation of the Carbon Farming strategy is of great importance to combat desertification and climate change, as maintaining and increasing European soil organic carbon reserves is a multidimensional action that benefits climate change mitigation while contributing to biodiversity and soil fertility, food security, water protection, agricultural resilience and circular economy.
- The development of the Carbon Farming strategy can be particularly effective in organic carbon-poor soils, which are typical of the degraded territories of the Mediterranean regions.
- The need to advance the recognition of systems for measuring and certifying levels of organic carbon in soils, and the ecosystem benefits derived from increasing levels of organic carbon.





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- The establishment of a new economic model to reward farmers for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration, in particular through the Coal Farming initiative;
- The creation of an *ad hoc working group open* to other regions to facilitate the exchange of experiences and proposals, enabling synergies between the regions concerned.
- The approval of a joint Roadmap, with the aim of justifying to the Community institutions the need for a specific project to combat desertification in the regions concerned, within the framework of the legislative package of the General Objective For Fit 55.
- The constitution of this Forum was born with the will of continuity in the future, as an instrument of representation of the member regions, before the official institutions, under the umbrella of the CIM CRPM.



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