



2nd ANNOUNCEMENT

XVI GREMPA MEETING

Meknes (Morocco), 12-14 May 2015



Organised by:

Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture de Meknès (ENA, Morocco)

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza / International Centre
for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (IAMZ-CIHEAM)

With the collaboration of: Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime

The XVI GREMPA Meeting on Almonds and Pistachios will be held in Meknes, Morocco, from 12 to 14 May 2015

Background and objectives of the XVI GREMPA

Almonds (1,276,000 ha) and pistachios (464,000 ha) are both important nut tree crops in the Mediterranean area and universities and research centres continue to do much research in these two species. Both plant material and orchard management have evolved considerably in the last 40 years in the Mediterranean area. Research and development on both species during this time have been conducted according to the relevance of their respective surface area and production.

It is almost 40 years since the GREMPA (Mediterranean Research Group for Almond and Pistachio) working group was established with CIHEAM support in the 1970s. The work carried out by this group was fundamentally based on the study and improvement of genetic resources of Mediterranean origin. Later, the group evolved by promoting debate on research in all aspects of the cultivation and industrialisation of the two species, and was integrated into the FAO-CIHEAM Research Network on Nuts during the 1990s. GREMPA has been holding meetings approximately every 4 years, where scientists have exchanged research methods and results and debated the main challenges of almond and pistachio research and development.



The aim of this XVI GREMPA is not to be a Congress, but rather a colloquium to discuss the issues challenging almonds and pistachios and to promote the active participation of researchers from all Mediterranean countries. Researchers from other Mediterranean climate areas of the world where those species are important are also invited to participate.

Therefore, to enhance debate, the format of the meeting will be based on thematic sessions with an invited keynote lecture followed by a limited number of short theatre presentations selected from the free contributions submitted by the participants on the basis of their interest and geographical diversity. After the theatre presentations, substantial time will be allocated to moderated debates in each session. The rest of contributions will be presented as posters which will also be integrated in the general discussions of each session.

The XVI GREMPA Meeting is organised by the National School of Agriculture of Meknes (ENA Meknès, Morocco) and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM), with the collaboration of the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Meeting will last three days, providing a forum for scientific and technical exchanges and a mid-day field trip. A parallel national Workshop addressing to the producers and the industry will be also organized the 13th May with the objective of debating on the current situation and perspectives of almond and pistachio in Morocco while presenting and exchanging views with other countries experiences.

Scientific Committee

Ossama KODAD (ENA, Morocco).
Mohamed BOULIF (ENA, Morocco)
Rafael SOCÍAS (CITA, Spain)
Federico DICENTA (CEBAS-CSIC, Spain)
Ettore BARONE (University of Palermo, Italy)
Azza CHELLI CHAABOUNI (INRAT, Tunisia)
Bekir Erol AK (Harran University, Turkey)
Safia BELHADJ (University of Djelfa, Algeria)
Henry DUVAL (INRA, France)
Maria José RUBIO (CITA, Spain)
Ali LANSARI (Morocco)
Agustí ROMERO (IRTA, Spain)

Organising Committee

Ossama KODAD (ENA, Morocco). Convener
Rachidi Foad (ENA, Morocco)
Messaoudi Zerhoun (ENA, Morocco)
Abdallah ABOUDRA (ENA, Morocco)
Rafael SOCÍAS (CITA, Spain)
Xavier MIARNAU (IRTA, Spain)
Mercè ROVIRA (IRTA, Spain)
Antonio LOPEZ-FRANCOS (IAMZ-CIHEAM)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

12 MAY	
9:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 11:00	Opening ceremony Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Morocco Wali of the Meknès Region Director of ENA Meknès Coordinator of FAO-CIHEAM Network on Nuts Representative of CIHEAM Meeting Convener – Ossama Kodad (ENA Meknès, Morocco)
11:00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Introductory presentation: GREMPA: A useful initiative for cooperation in almond research. <i>Rafael Socías i Company (CITA, Spain)</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Visit to the almond germplasm collection of ENA Meknès
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Visit to posters and lunch</i>
15:00 – 18:00	Session 1. Genetic Resources. Cultivars <i>Moderator: Federico Dicenta (CEBAS-CSIC, Spain)</i> <i>Secretary: Azza Chelli Chaabouni (INRAT, Tunisia)</i>
15:00 – 15:20	Introductory presentation by the Session moderator
15:20 – 16:20	Oral presentations (10 min. each) 1. Paternal effects on nut characteristics of some almond cultivars. <i>Izzet Acar (Harran Univ., Turkey)</i> 2. Performance of the CITA almond releases and some elite selections. <i>José Manuel Alonso (CITA, Spain)</i> 3. Morphometric features of local and foreign female pistachio varieties and ecotypes in the Tunisian northeast conditions. <i>Azza Chelli Chaabouni (INRAT, Tunisia)</i> 4. Self-compatibility sources and sources of variation in advanced almond introgression lines. <i>Thomas Gradziel (University of California Davis, USA)</i> 5. Genetic characterization of almond (<i>Prunus dulcis</i>) cultivars and natural resources. <i>Julia Halasz (Corvinus Univ. of Budapest, Hungary)</i> 6. The expression of the <i>Sfa</i> -allele in homozygote <i>SfaSfi</i> genotypes indicates a stylar mutation as the origin of self-compatibility in almond. <i>Ossama Kodad (ENA, Morocco)</i>
16:20 – 16:50	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:50 – 18:00	Discussion on Session 1
20:30	<i>Social dinner</i>

13 MAY	
9:00 – 13:00	Parallel activities (participants may choose one of the following activities)
	<p>Technical trip. Almond plantation and visit to “Chateau Rhozlane” nearby Meknes</p> <p>Workshop: “The almond and pistachio crops in Morocco in a changing international context”. This workshop, addressed to the Moroccan almond and pistachio industry, aims to generate a discussion on the current situation and perspectives of the two crops in Morocco, profiting the presence of international experts who will present their experiences in their own countries</p> <p>9:00 – 9:20. Introductory presentation. Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Morocco.</p> <p>9:20 – 11:30. Oral presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The almond crop in the USA. Current situation and challenges for the future. <i>Thomas Gradziel (University of California Davis, USA)</i> 2. Pistachio production and industry in Turkey: current status and future perspectives. <i>Kamil Sarpkaya and Serpil Karadag (Pistachio Research Institute, Turkey)</i> 3. The almond sector in Spain. Sinergies among the public and private sectors for the developing of the crop. <i>Rafael Socías i Company (CITA, Spain)</i> 4. Pistachio crop in Iran. Current situation and future perspectives. 5. Pistachio culture and industry in Tunisia. Current situation and future axis of improvement. <i>Mohamed Ghrab (Institut de l'Olivier, Tunisia)</i> 6. Challenges for almond cropping in Morocco. <i>Ali Lansari (consultant, Morocco)</i> 7. The almond valorization in Morocco, a tool for the development of the traditional sector. <i>Ossama Kodad (ENA Meknès, Morocco)</i> <p>11:00 – 12:00. Coffee break</p> <p>12:00 – 13:00. Discussion and recommendations</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	<p>Session 2. Genetic Resources. Rootstocks Moderator: <i>María José Rubio (CITA, Spain)</i> Secretary: <i>Henry Duval (INRA, France)</i></p>
14:00 – 14:20	Introductory presentation by the Session moderator
14:20 – 15:00	<p>Oral presentations (10 min. each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of osmotic drought stress on carbon isotope discrimination and growth parameters in three pistachio rootstocks. <i>Ali Esmailpour (Ghent University, Belgium)</i> 2. Field evaluation of new rootstocks for almond. <i>Xavier Miarnau (IRTA, Spain)</i> 3. Assessment of control pollinated progenies as almond rootstocks. <i>Saloua Mselmi Taoueb (INRAT, Tunisia)</i> 4. Morphological variation in Pistachio terebinth tree (<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i> L.; Anacardiaceae). <i>Safia Belhadj (Univ. Of Djelfa, Algeria)</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Discussion on Session 2
16:00 – 17:00	Coffee break and visit to posters
17:00 – 19:00	<p>Session 3. Pest and diseases Moderator: <i>Mohammed Boulif (ENA Meknès, Morocco)</i> Secretary: <i>Safia Belhadj (Univ. Of Djelfa, Algeria)</i></p>
17:00 – 17:20	Introductory presentation by the Session moderator
17:20 – 18:00	<p>Oral presentations (10 min. each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pistachio seed wasp, pistachio twig borer. <i>Mohamed Braham (Centre Régional de recherche en Horticulture et en Agriculture Biologique, Tunisia)</i> 2. The natural parasitism of green stink bugs in pistachio orchards in Iran. <i>Mohammad Reza Mehrnejad (Pistachio Research Institute, Iran)</i> 3. Alternaria blight of <i>Pistacia</i> species in Turkey. <i>Hilal Ozkilinc (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Univ., Turkey)</i> 4. Susceptibility to the major almond diseases red leaf blotch and almond canker in the main almond Spanish cultivars. <i>Laura Torguet (IRTA, Spain)</i>
18:00 – 19:00	Discussion on Session 3

14 MAY	
9:00 - 11:00	Session 4. Orchard management <i>Moderator: Ali Lansari (Consultant, Morocco)</i> <i>Secretary: Bekir Erol Ak (Harran Univ., Turkey)</i>
9:00 – 9:20	Introductory presentation by the Session moderator
9:20 – 10:00	Oral presentations (10 min. each) 1. Past advances in almond irrigation and future opportunities. <i>Robert Curtis (Almond Board of California, USA)</i> 2. Update in super high density almond orchards. <i>Xavier Rius (Agromillora, Spain)</i> 3. Efficacy evaluation of two bud dormancy agents and the possible role of phenolic compounds on bud breaking on female pistachio (<i>Pistacia vera</i> L.) trees. <i>Peter A. Roussos (Agricultural Univ. of Athens, Greece)</i> 4. Climate change and nuts crops vulnerability in the Mediterranean area. <i>Mohamed Ghrab (Institut de l'Olivier, Tunisia)</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Discussion on Session 4
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Coffee break and visit to posters</i>
12:00 – 14:00	Session 5. Quality, industrialisation and marketing <i>Moderator: Ettore Barone (Univ. of Palermo, Italy)</i> <i>Secretary: Agustí Romero (IRTA, Spain)</i>
12:00 – 12:20	Introductory presentation by the Session moderator
12:20 – 13:00	Oral presentations (10 min. each) 1. Chemical composition of roasted kernel of Moroccan almond seedlings. <i>Ossama Kodad (ENA Meknès, Morocco)</i> 2. BIOFOS: Micro-ring resonator-based biophotonic system for food analysis. <i>Agustí Romero (IRTA, Spain)</i> 3. Relations between the yield and some quality traits on pistachios. <i>Ebru Sakar (Univ. of Harran, Turkey)</i> 4. Investigation of pistachio export target markets with focus on commercializing. <i>Mohammad Tirgari Seraji (Ferdowsi Univ. of Mashhad, Iran)</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Discussion on Session 5
14:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting conclusions, final debate and closing
16:00 -	<i>Guided tour to Meknes old city (optional)</i>

Languages

The working language of the Meeting will be English.

Meeting Proceedings

The XVI GREMPA Proceedings, including the full text of the introductory lectures, theatre presentations and posters accepted by the scientific committee will be published in the CIHEAM journal Options Méditerranéennes. Texts are to be written in English and submitted electronically through the Meeting website. **Deadline for manuscripts submission is 4th May 2015.**

Venue

The meeting will be held at the Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture de Meknès (ENA Meknès), Morocco. ENA Meknès, created in 1942 is the oldest establishment of agricultural higher education in Morocco. ENA is located 10 km South-East from Meknes city.

Meknes is an ancient city located in Northern Morocco, close to the Middle Atlas Mountains. It is the capital of the Meknes-Tafilalet region and has around 650,000 habitants. Meknes has a rich history, being one of the four ancient "Imperial cities of Morocco" and the capital city of the kingdom during the 17th century. Meknes was declared Unesco's World Heritage city in 1996.

The city has good connections by plane (the Fes-Saiss international airport is 75 km from Meknes) and by train (4.5 hours from the Casablanca Mohamed V international airport).

Transportation from Fes airport to Meknes and return will be organized for the participants. A special bus will take participants from Meknes city to ENA and return during the Meeting days. More details on transportation will be communicated to GREMPA participants and published in the website.

Meeting Secretariat and registration

The XVI GREMPA Secretariat will be held by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (iamz@iamz.ciheam.org)

Registration and abstract submission will be done **on line through the website of the XVI GREMPA** www.iamz.ciheam.org/grempa2015.

Before 15 April 2015 registration fees for the two days of Meeting and the technical trip will be 250 euro, after which fees will be 300 euro. Fees include attendance to the Meeting, refreshments and lunches and a copy of the Proceedings.

Payment should be made **by bank transfer** to the following account:

Account holder: CENTRE INT HAUTES ETUD AGRON MEDIT
INST AGRON MEDITER DE ZARAGOZA
IBAN ES60 2085 1425 5603 0018 8187
Bank Name: IBERCAJA
Swift Code: CAZRES 2Z
Postal Address: Av. Montañana 290, 50059 Montañana
(Zaragoza), Spain.
To be indicated on the Bank Transfer: "GREMPA 2015"
(Note: All transfer expenses must be paid by the sender)



Accommodation

Pre-booking at special low rates has been arranged with the **Hotel Oasis Tafilalet**, Meknes (www.hoteloasistafilalet.net)

	Prize (taxes and breakfast included)
Single Room	330 Dirham (around 33 Euro)
Double Room	440 Dirham (around 44 Euro)
Triple Room	495 Dirham (around 49.5 Euro)

Note that payment by card is not possible. Tariffs are fixed in Dirhams and exchanges rates are subject to changes.

For hotel booking please go to the hotel reservation page available at the Meeting website. Booking available until 1st May 2015.

A limited number of rooms will be available at **ENA Meknes Students Residence**, offered by ENA free of charge. For reservations please contact Dr Ossama Kodad (osama.kodad@yahoo.es)

Contact: IAMZ-CIHEAM (att. Antonio López-Francos): iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

ENA Meknès: Ossama Kodad (osama.kodad@yahoo.es)

www.iamz.ciheam.org/grempa2015

