

LIFE Platform Meeting on
**Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture and Forestry
in the Mediterranean Region**

Madrid, 13-14 March 2018

WORKING GROUP TOPICS & ORGANISATION

Overview

Four Working Groups (WGs) will be held in the afternoon of 13 March, to discuss the topics indicated below and then report to the plenary. The platform meeting participants will be divided up by the organisers among the four WGs, according to the preferences that they expressed during the online registration and the relevance of the project or organisation they represent to the WG topics. Persons from the same project or organisation will be assigned to different WGs. Discussion at the WGs will be based on pre-set questions, which are given below under the title of each WG. The discussion will be organised according to a “World Café” format. A brief explanation of that is provided at the end of this document.

Objective

The focus of the WGs will be to draw conclusions on good practices emerging from the work of relevant LIFE or H2020 projects, how those practices serve EU policy objectives and how they can best be shared with interested professional associations and the industry for further replication. Identification of barriers, including how they might be overcome, and opportunities will also form part of the exercise.

WG1

ENSURING THE RESILIENCE OF STAPLE MEDITERRANEAN CROPS AND THEIR GROWERS

*Good practices /
Policy relevance /
Barriers /
Opportunities /*

Discussion questions:

- a. What is the main threat that climate change poses to your respective Mediterranean crops and what is the main way that you have chosen to respond to it through your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument? What are the results that you have had up to now?
- b. What alternative cultivation methods and/or crops are there, which could be more resilient to climate change impacts? Is your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument trying any of these in practice, if so what are the results, if not why?
- c. What is the impact of climate change on farmers and other concerned stakeholders? What steps is your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument testing or taking to increase their resilience, e.g. guarantee their employment and income level?

WG2

INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF FORESTS AND MAINTAINING FOREST OUTPUTS

*Good practices /
Policy relevance /
Barriers /
Opportunities /*

Discussion questions:

- a. What is the main threat that climate change poses to your Mediterranean forests and what is the main way that you have chosen to respond to it through your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument? What are the results that you have had up to now?
- b. What alternative forest management methods and/or tree species are there, which could be more resilient to climate change impacts? Is your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument trying any of these in practice, if so what are the results, if not why?
- c. What is the impact of climate change on forest workers, forest owners and other concerned stakeholders? What steps is your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument testing or taking to increase their resilience, e.g. guarantee their employment and income level?

WG3

IMPLEMENTING ADAPTATION POLICIES - OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

*Good practices /
Policy relevance /
Barriers /
Opportunities /*

Discussion questions:

- a. Which European, national or local level policies are relevant to the work of your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument in the context of climate change adaptation in Mediterranean agriculture or forestry? Do you consider that those policies are supporting your work or are adding to the burden?
- b. How do you perceive the enforcement of European, national or local level policies? Is it strict or lax, fair or arbitrary, well-organised or incoherent? How does that affect the work of your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument and what broader impacts does it have on advancing climate change adaptation in Mediterranean agriculture and forestry? How can things be improved?
- c. Judging from your work up to now, to which European, national or local level policies can the findings of your project's / association's / business' / policy instrument's / funding instrument's work contribute to developing further? What are the policy-relevant conclusions that you have reached up to now?

WG4

ENSURING THE UPTAKE OF CLIMATE RESILIENT PRACTICES BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

*Good practices /
Policy relevance /
Barriers /
Opportunities /*

Discussion questions:

- a. How aware are farmers/foresters and other concerned stakeholders of the climate change impacts on their farms/forests and crops/products? What means does your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument/others use to increase awareness of the challenges? What are the results that you have had up to now?
- b. How well-informed are farmers/foresters and other concerned stakeholders about available new ways to manage a farm or forest and increase resilience to climate impacts? What have been their responses to innovative ways that your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument is testing or promoting? What are the results that you have had up to now in terms of buy-in and enhanced action?
- c. What further steps is your project / association / business / policy instrument / funding instrument willing to take to ensure a better understanding by key stakeholders of the climate change challenges and ways to increase resilience in the Mediterranean agriculture and forestry sectors?

Organisation of the discussion at each WG – “World Café” format – 2 hrs total duration

- **Introductory presentation, rapporteur selection and splitting into sub-groups**
 - The WG facilitator presents the theme of the WG, the working method and the discussion questions.
 - The facilitator assigns three persons from the WG to serve as rapporteurs, one for each discussion question (a, b, c) and asks them to establish themselves in three different corners of the WG room.
 - The WG participants split into 3 smaller groups ('sub-groups') of equal size, preferably with diverse participation in each sub-group (projects, policy-makers, industry, experts).

- **Discussion in sub-groups – Rounds I, II and III**
 - Each sub-group approaches one of the three rapporteurs and starts discussing the respective question.
 - Main points raised and any conclusions reached are registered by the rapporteur on flip chart paper.
 - Then sub-groups are asked to switch to another rapporteur, so that eventually all sub-groups discuss all questions.
 - The rapporteurs stay where they are and record the answers to the question each one of them has been entrusted with from all subgroups.

- **Return to WG plenary – final conclusions**
 - The three rapporteurs summarise the discussions they had with the sub-groups on their respective question in front of the WG plenary.
 - The WG facilitator asks any clarification questions and involves all participants in a discussion to reach consensus answers to each question.
 - The WG facilitator captures the WG answers to the three questions on a flip-chart paper and presents them to the platform meeting plenary that follows.

Note: Participants from LIFE and H2020 projects are not asked to prepare set presentations for the WGs in which they participate. They can contribute the outcomes of their project's work through the discussion in the WG and the sub-groups in which they will participate.