

Within the objectives of the 4PRIMA Project on Partnership for Research & Innovation in the Mediterranean Area; and within the framework of work package 2 – under direction of CNRS-L & CIHEAM - on the **Alignment of Research at National, European, and International level- State of art will; with the main objectives of:**

- Supporting dialogue among national R&I funding institutions, agencies & programme managers to explore the way forward towards common research activities dealing with food systems and water resources.
- Paving the way for an effective and long-term cooperation among programs, initiatives, and actors identified.
- and Feeding the development of the PRIMA Strategic Research Agenda.

The National Council for Scientific Research-Lebanon had the pleasure to convene in Beirut, Lebanon on February 16, 2017 a 4PRIMA Stakeholder Event on the Alignment of National Programmes.

The Event was organized in parallel to the ERANETMED Funding Agencies Meeting (February 15, 2017) & the MEDSPRING National Science Café and H2020 Information Event (February 17, 2017).

Stakeholders:

Approximately 50 participants (project partners and stakeholders) - from Cyprus, Egypt, France, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, Germany, Morocco, Slovenia, Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon – attended the event.

Welcome Session

Rula Atweh, CNRS-L Programme Officer/International Cooperation welcomed participants to the CNRS-L and the Event, presenting the program of the day and highlighting the important presentation for the presentation of PRIMA to stakeholders – some familiar, others not – and stressing the importance of the sessions dedicated to stakeholder presentation, keeping an eye on possible collaborative opportunities within the PRIMA for the alignment of national programmes. R. Atweh, also stressed the possibilities and importance of networking for the collaboration.

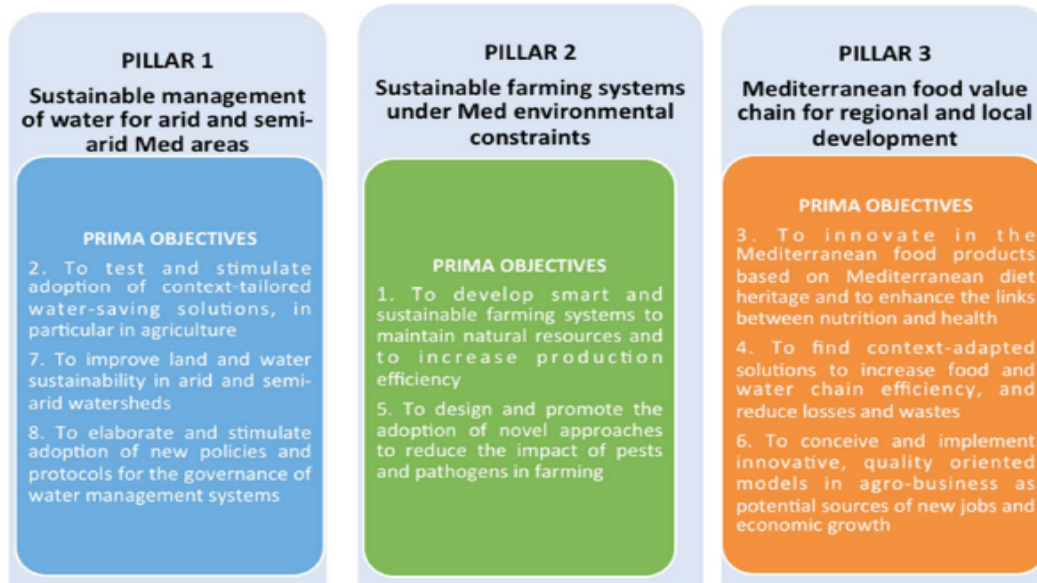
A tour de table followed, where participants briefly introduced themselves.

PRIMA & 4PRIMA

Maria Uccellatore, Chiara Gliozzi, MIUR – Italy; an introduction to the PRIMA Initiative was presented to stakeholders, focusing on PRIMA as the most ambitious programme that will be undertaken by both sides of the Mediterranean for joint programming and integration at scientific, management and financial levels for a period of 10 years.

“The Mediterranean Area is united by both common challenges and common opportunities for the sustainable production and provision of adequate quality and quantity of food and water for enhancing socio-economic conditions, wellbeing and health of its peoples within a reinforced EU-MED Cooperation.”

PRIMA Operational Objectives: Grouped in 3 pillars



Specific Objectives:

- To **enhance** knowledge and unlock its innovation potential for food security and water availability
- To **advance** existing knowledge and innovation for water and food quality and safety

Within the scope of the event, M. Uccellatore also highlighted possible alignment of Italian National Programmes, Instruments and Initiatives on Food & Water with in PRIMA; focusing on:

- The National Research Programme (PNR); 2015-2020; having 12 areas of specialization - with Agrifood being one of the priority fields. The Programme prioritizes the most promising applied research initiatives and fostered the creation of Technological Clusters as permanent dialogue platforms between the public research systems and companies.
- The National Agrifood Technology Cluster (CL.A.N), aimed at creating shared technology roadmaps, opportunities, and technological perspective scenarios in fields of agriculture, food, and marine; working on 4 lines of intervention: nutrition & health, food safety, sustainability and food production. Such clusters bring together the main actors of the food industry: companies, consortium companies, scientific and technological parks, universities and research institutions, and associations and organizations.

Claudio Bogliotti, CIHEAM, Bari-Italy; presenting the mapping and SWOT analysis carried out within the activities of WP2; he highlighted the objectives of research and Innovation funding institutions programmes in the Euro-Med region, focusing on the support of a coherent planning for Euro-Mediterranean programming in R&I in the view of supporting PRIMA.

C. Bogliotti focused on mutual challenges within the fields of agriculture, environment, natural resources, and health; highlighting also that Bilateral Cooperation Agreements & Programmes have shown the similarity of challenges faced by France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain, Germany, Morocco & Turkey.

C. Bogliotti also presented the SWOT analysis of National R&I Programming in Mediterranean Countries, enabling the awareness of limitations of national programmes strengths and opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

SWOT Analysis of National R&I Programming in EU Member States*

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most national programmes are opened to non-national researchers Programmes are multi-sectorial and linked to broader strategic intervention Openness to international cooperation is seen as the main strategy to tackle societal challenges Coverage of national programmes is quite uniform with a strong accent on agriculture, environment, health – which are also targeted by several bilateral agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to strengthen the link between research and innovation Low research competitiveness compared with major international research players (USA, Canada, Japan)
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential of building important critical mass by aggregating different budget lines of national programmes Long-term and cross-country collaboration might guarantee a more stable al location of funds and larger regional impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding un-sustainability Few multilateral agreements between MPCs and EU Member States

* Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, Malta

SWOT Analysis of National R&I Programming in Mediterranean Partner Countries*

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture is the topical area supported by most programmes Strategic orientations of R&I programmes are quite similar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total financial efforts is still limited to tackle important transnational challenges Level of industry involvement is weak
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to establish synergies with EU countries showing strategic programming in the same themes High potential for a stronger integration of research areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of time and resources due to complex administrative procedures Availability of funds subject to unforeseen changes not related to national research policy

* Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

C. Bogliotti highlighted the different recommendations for possible synergies among national programs; namely:

- Challenges perceived as the most urgent by R&I programme managers of MPCs and EU Member States are quite similar and all mainly related to **agriculture, environment, natural resources, health but also energy and social science / humanities**.
- **Lack of continuity in funding** is one of the main threats that all national programmes are subject to
- **Euro-Mediterranean mobility schemes have margins for improvement**, especially in terms of impact and of stronger involvement of non- academic sector
- The moment for an up-scaling of bi-regional Euro-Mediterranean cooperation is now mature, and **there might be a collective (regional) response to individual (national) problems and shortcomings**

Concluding with the key role of PRIMA for: (1) Building water-food nexus awareness; (2) Building synergies on research-capacity building-mobility; (3) Enhancing innovation for water and food in the region; (4) Seeking synergies with other challenges

Opening Session

Mouïñ Hamzé, Secretary General, CNRS-L; welcomed participants at the Council, recalling the importance of the 4PRIMA Coordination and Support Action, having as a purpose to create and develop a set of activities aimed at supporting the establishment of a long-term, and integrated partnership for research and innovation on food systems and water resources. He placed the focus on the importance of collaboration and better coordination between countries to achieve the objectives of both 4PRIMA Project and the PRIMA initiative.

M. Hamzé highlighted the role of stakeholders in introducing activities of their national programmes, agencies and funding institutions - placing the focus on the possible alignment within PRIMA thematic scope and joint activities.

Cosimo Lacirignola, Secretary General / CIHEAM

Recognizing the efforts of the CNRS-L for the organization of the events, C. Lacirignola stressed the developments within EU-MED collaborations, working within the spirits of co-ownership, mutual benefits and co-funding. As the coordinating institution (CIHEAM / IAM-Bari) of the ERANETMED, he stressed the important achievements of the project as a basis for the long-term cooperation envisioned within PRIMA: building on the achievements and extracting both ‘success stories’ and ‘lessons learned’ for the cooperation.

We have actively worked together for over 10 years now; and through new opportunities, programmes and projects will continue to refine our collaboration based on new challenges, more resources (human and financial), new priorities and new possibilities. The PRIMA initiative and 4PRIMA Project are thus a natural continuation towards building on our bi-regional collaborations.

Carolina Rodriguez, Policy Officer; DG Research and Innovation/EU Commission: Thanking also the CNRS-L for hosting this important event, C. Rodrigues highlighted how the collaboration of projects like ERANETMED and MEDSPRING enhanced and lead to the development of 4PRIMA. *“We are keen on enhancing EU-MED collaboration through such an ambitious initiative”*

Moreover, she mentioned two important aspects - in the works - for the further development, adoption and setting up of the PRIMA Initiative:

- PRIMA inter-institutional process: which takes into account the Basic Act of the Commission, the development and establishment of the Dedicated Implementation Structure (DIS), the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA)...
- PRIMA International Agreements with MPCs (Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Lebanon) for MPC participation in an Article 185 - PRIMA

Technical Alignment with National Research Programmes for PRIMA Initiative

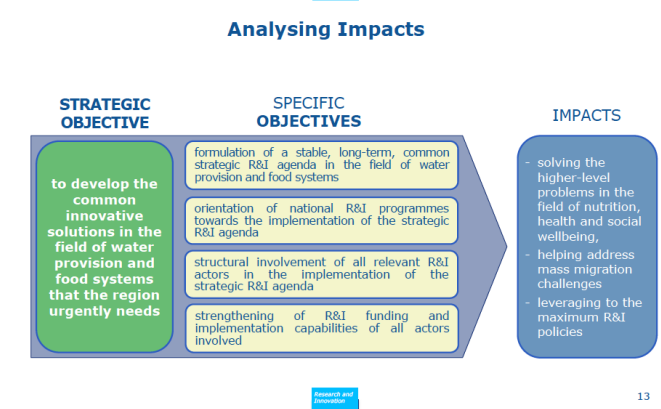
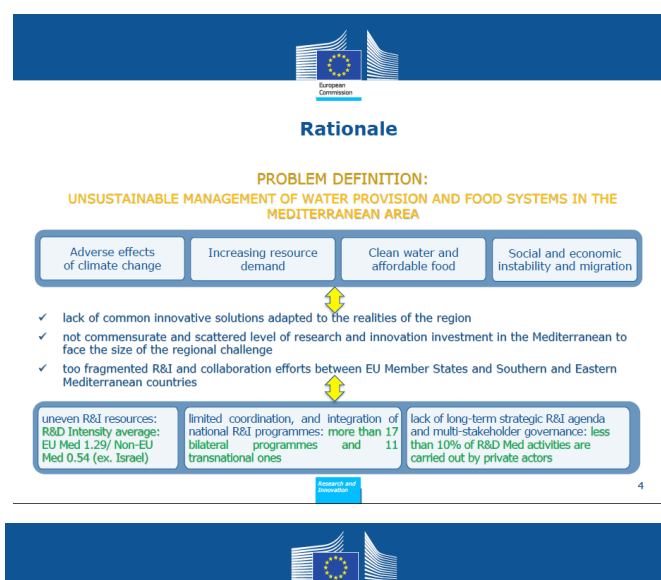
C. Rodriguez framed the rationale of the PRIMA Initiative and subsequent Basic Act; focusing on the problem definition of unsustainable management of water provision and food systems in the Mediterranean; three main **problem drivers** were highlighted:

1. Uneven R&I resources in the Mediterranean regions,
2. Limited coordination and integration of national R&I programmes;
3. Lack of long-term strategic R&I agenda and multi-stakeholder governance;

Focusing on the 3 PRIMA Pillars (see above) and specific objectives of: (1) formulation of stable and long-term common strategic agenda, (2) orientation of national R&I Programmes, (3) structural involvement of R&I actors and (4) strengthening R&I funding and implementation capabilities; the programme will have an impact on: solving problems of nutrition, health and social well-being, helping address migration patterns and leveraging R&I Policies.

C. Rodriguez also presented the actions of the PRIMA, focusing on the latter two as key areas from the alignment of national programmes:

1. Transnational Calls Centrally Managed and financed by the DIS
2. Transnational Calls managed by the DIS and financed by participating state
3. Activities of participating states managed and financed at the national level.



Stakeholder Presentations

Ramy Bou Jawdeh, Agrytech/Berytech-Lebanon; Presenting Berytech, one of the first incubators both in Lebanon and the Region, R. Bou Jawdeh stressed the key role of the incubator in providing entrepreneurs with an enabling environment to create and develop start-ups as well as SMEs within different fields. Berytech's innovative tools include grants, accelerators and incubators, clustering, and online platforms and communication.

R. Bou Jawdeh focused in his presentation on the recent launch of the **Agrytech**, focused on entrepreneurship opportunities within the agri-food sector and highlighted regional collaborations within the 5STOI Project on Energy, **Water and Agriculture** in the South Mediterranean. He stressed the important collaborative and entrepreneurship opportunities for collaboration within the PRIMA programme, through linkages with start-ups and SMEs in the Agri-food sector in Lebanon.

Mouad Chentouf, National Institute of Agricultural Research-Morocco, covered in his presentation the **Green Moroccan Plan** built around the two pillars of: (1) Mediterranean food value chain for regional and local development and (2) Modernization with a social impact to combat poverty.

M. Chentouf highlighted in his presentations the transversal areas of agricultural research & development, including: socio-economic, technology transfers, soil degradation, climate change, soil fertility, biotechnologies, and water management. focusing also on the main components of the value chain in structuring agricultural research programmes: genetic material, production and commercialization; covering the whole research & innovation spectrum.

Amr Helal, CEO of International Trade and Marketing-Egypt; presenting the activities of the organization, A. Helal highlighted a project on stunting (low length-or height-for age), that affects a sufficient number of children and is a consequence of poor nutrition, health, sanitation and environment – all of which are often linked to poverty, and highly prevalent in the developing world.

Taking into consideration such topics - and particularly its links to food and water - opens opportunities for regional/international collaboration through partnership across both sides of the Mediterranean. A. Helal, highlighted a variety of cross-sectorial project partners, including: Knowledge Partners & Research Institutions; Industrial Actors, and Business Development Partners, as well as a bi-regional collaboration in a consortiums bringing together EU and Egyptian Partners.

In conclusion, A. Helal focused on collaborative opportunities within PRIMA, namely:

- Joining innovation clusters in food security
- Joining regional plans for sustainable intervention
- Joint – bi-regional - research and innovation activities for developing innovative & sustainable food production, food waste management and grains storage.

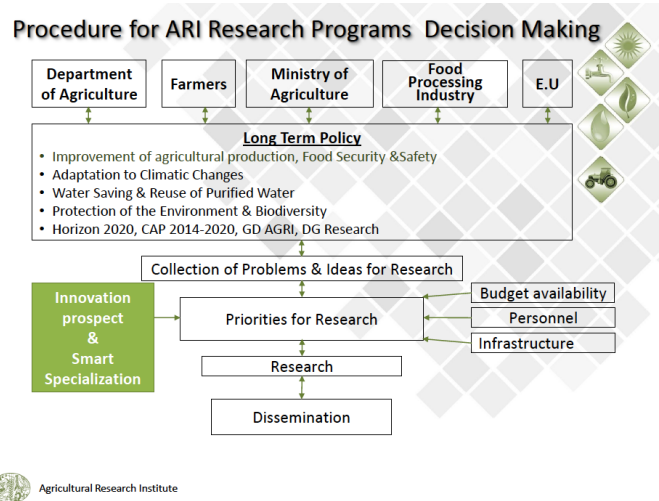
Anwar Jiries, Head of Water and Environment Technical Committee-Jordan, introduced the Scientific Research Support Fund (SRSF, established in 2007) as a financially and administratively independent government institute. The SRSFs' mission aims at building Jordan as a competitor through strategic investment, improving its research and technological capacity, and reinforcing its innovation power. Projects sponsored, categorized by scientific fields, have shown that - following medical and pharmaceutical sciences (73/305 Projects) - Agricultural and Veterinary Projects (52/305 Projects), Basic Sciences (46/305 Projects) & Water and Environment Projects (29 Projects) receive a good portion of SRSF project funding.

A. Jiries highlighted the main objectives of SRSF to support, guide and fund Jordanian research from both public and private institutions; while also stressing on the cooperation with Jordanian, regional and international organizations in support of scientific research and technical development through agreements on scientific and technical cooperation with international organizations and other countries.

Polycarpou Polycarpou, Agricultural Research Institute (ARI)-Cyprus; focused in his presentation on the introduction of ARI (established in 1962) as a cooperative project between the government of Cyprus and the UNDP - entrusted to the government of Cyprus (1967) - for providing the knowledge base and practical solutions to major challenges in the agricultural sector in Cyprus through conduction high quality research, fostering innovation, advising on the sustainable use of natural resources and dissemination of research to stakeholders (public and private).

P. Polycarpou also highlighted the regional and international dimension of the ARI as country representation in international forums and, as a Research Centre, an important partner in several research programs - supported by national, bilateral, European, and international funds.

Procedures of ARI Programme Decision making also bring together an array of public-private stakeholders, including: the department of agriculture, farmers, ministry of agriculture, food processing industry and the EU for the improvement of production, food security and safety, adaptation to climate change, water saving and reuse, & protection of the environment and bio-diversity.



In conclusion, P. Polycarpou stresses on the importance of the continuation of research programs, joining research in relation with the European research funding mechanisms. Moreover, within a focus on the thematic of Water, Food, Feed, and Energy in Agriculture, a strong linkage and opportunities for cooperation were envisioned within PRIMA, having mutual interests in building synergies, enhancing research, capacity building, mobility and innovation for water and food in the region.

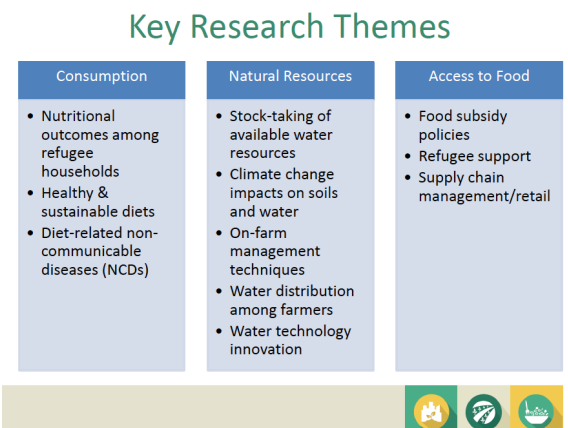
Rachel Bahn, Coordinator, Food Security Program, AUB-Lebanon; within the mission of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS), and its mission to foster health and well-being of people and nature; the Food Security Programme of the American University of Beirut (AUB) was launched in 2015 and aims to:

- Promote food security through **education, research, community action, and policy-oriented professional practice.**
- Address nutritional health, agricultural production, economic development, environmental sustainability, and socio-cultural considerations in a **holistic approach.**
- **Educate a new generation of leaders** in the Middle East and North Africa, within the vital issue of food security.



Academic offerings of the programme include a non-degree programme /diploma (starting 2015), designed to meet the needs of recent graduates and mid-career professionals by focusing on capacity building and outreach and a Master of Science Degree Programme (starting 2016) which focuses on **Research, Capacity Building and Outreach.**

In the Research component of the programme, presented by **Martin Keulertz, visiting assistant professor, food security programme, AUB-Lebanon;** key research themes were highlighted under the broad thematic of: consumption, natural resources and access to food; and



several on-going research projects target four important dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability.

In conclusion, R. Bahn and M. Keulertz highlighted the Food security programme as an established academic programme – first in the region - in food security, employing also a comprehensive research approach to address food security, environmental sustainability and healthy diets; stressing that important research gaps can be addressed in partnerships with PRIMA.

Carla Khater, Researchers, CNRS-L- Lebanon: Noting that observatories are an indispensable tool for the understanding of environments and mechanisms; O-LiFE’s work focuses on answering to environmental issues through (1) observation, research and training; (2) shared scientific activities; and (3) creating a community of public and private institutions and establishing a shared expert group.

C. Khater highlighted the achievements of O-LiFE, focusing also on the established Key Environmental Variables (KEV)- in Water, Biodiversity and Soil/Sediments – established through a consultative national, regional and international process

In parallel, O-LiFE provides means of mobility and shared services by:

- Constructing and feeding environmental databases
- Creating collaborative software tools
- Providing scientific and technical support to facilitate responses from researchers to international calls.



In turn, **Laurant Drapeau, Researcher; IRD/CNRS-L;** highlighted the observatory, as a data repository, which allows overcoming data challenges (dispersed data, not updated, not published/accessible, lack of storage and lack of computational resources) through:

- Planned data redundancy
- Improved data consistency
- Improved data sharing
- Enforcement of standards
- Improved data quality and accessibility
- Improved decision support.

The presentation also highlighted perspective for the platform, including: finalizing definition of KEV, implementing common working sites for observation, further develop on-field and online tools, and sustaining mission of regional and international networking with an eye towards expanding the platform towards a Network of Environmental Mediterranean Observatories (NEMO).

Since its inception, OLIFE was developed as a regional collaboration between IRD-France and CNRS-Lebanon. It has since expanded partnerships with national institutions and universities in France and Lebanon; and has commenced collaboration with an observatory partner in Tunisia. Further collaborations within data collection, data sharing and networking desirable within an initiative like PRIMA.

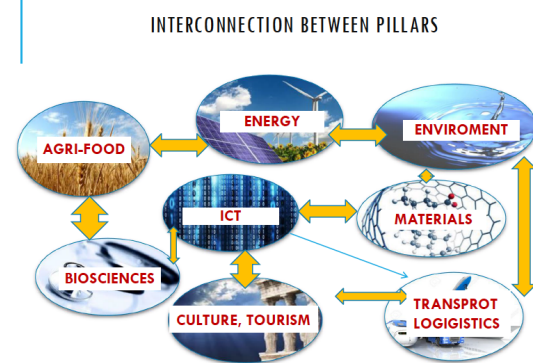
Dora Feiani, Knowledge Economy Foundation (KEF)-Egypt; highlighted in her presentation, a running project named “Bashaier”, the 1st Agriculture Marketing Network fulfilling the farmer’s primary needs for sustainable marketing solutions. “Bashaier” is based on a partnership between innovation funding and food industries.

D. Feiani stressed on the importance of small-scale agriculture in securing food security; also adding that small farmers must be supported by a network securing their integration in their value chain, through an ICT Based and Inclusive Business Approach, summarized as follows:

ICT Tools: The project launched the 1st Agriculture Online Marketplace on mobile and web to support: (1) market and technical information sharing and (2) matching between market buyers on one side and farmers and their associations on the other.

Inclusive Business Approach: the project supports on the Sell Side of the business approach: selecting, training, designing/managing contracts and market planning for an active network of farmers/Coops and NGOs; while on the Buy Side, it support markets through mapping, and creating linkages & clusters with farmers/associations and market-driven MSMEs.

Marios Koniaris, General Secretariat for Research & Technology-Greece & Anagnostis Argyriou, Center of Research & Techonlogy, Senior Scientist; presented the Greek National Strategy on Research, Innovation and Smart Specialization; highlighting also the new approach (RIS3 –NEW EU STRATEGY) to research and innovation with a focus on priorities and resource optimisation in 8 interconnected innovation pillars, including agri-food and environment.



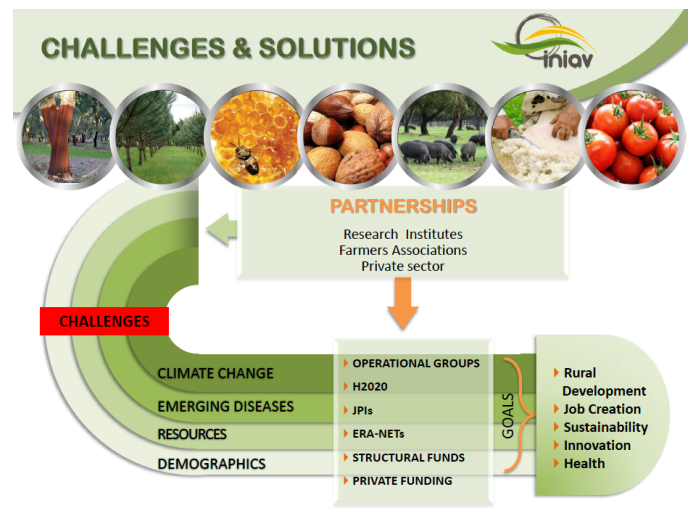
The presentation emphasized on collaborations within PRIMA, towards:

- 1) Enhanced cooperation with MPCs and joint action on climate change and water resource management.
- 2) Enacting cooperation in agri-food business sector
- 3) Bi-directional transfer of best practices in agri-food production and water management
- 4) Exchanges expertise and enhances cooperation between research and academic entities
- 5) To build a sustainable development process in the MED area

João Ribeiro Lima, National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinary Research-Portugal; highlighted through his presentation, INIAV's mission, which is based on applied research, scientific and technical support, laboratory services, and state functions (national reference laboratories in animal health, food safety, animal feed, and plant health).

INIAV places the importance on promoting adaptation and security of food systems by coping with challenges related to climate change, emerging diseases, demographics, and resources through partnerships with research institutes, farmers associations and private sector.

Noting a lack of interactions between R&D and Private/Public Partnerships; J. Lima presented the Strategy for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) with the main goals of ensuring **competitiveness** of agricultural sector and **sustainability** of agricultural production; based on increase RD&I and increased public-private partnerships.



Additionally, J. Lima describes a value added focus of R&I as starting from production, through industry, retail, and finally consumers (Farm to Fork).

Juan Climent Blasco, Ministry of Economy, Industry, Competitiveness, Technical Advisor-Spain; highlighted in his presentation the thematic of water and food as key elements within the National Plan for R&D and Innovation. In parallel, he stressed Spain's activities at the regional level, placing the focus on EU project & programmes, namely:

- JPIs (Water, Climate, Biodiversity)
- ERANET (ERANETMED, ARIMNET)
- Susfood, Suscrop, Forest Value, Health Diet for Healthy Life, Leap Agri...

Additionally, J. Blasco highlighted a questionnaire sent to PRIMA General Assembly (GA), aimed at formulating a clear idea, based on direct input, about the best actions to use in order to implement the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The questionnaire focused on key actions divided within 4 types of activities, namely: (1) To explore emerging research areas, (2) To invest in transnational research, (3) For mobility and capacity building and (4) To join research and innovation:

Results of the survey show an indication of very high relevance for:

1. Actions to invest in transnational research
 - Joint calls for research proposals (10/12 votes)
 - Joint calls for young researchers (9/12 votes)
 - Hub network and knowledge network (8/12 votes)
2. Actions for mobility and capacity building:
 - Entrepreneurial capacity building (9/12 votes)
 - Research staff exchange for promoting international and inter-sector collaboration (8/12 votes)
 - Individual fellowship for researchers (8/12 votes)
3. Actions that allow to join transnational research with innovation:
 - Public-private joint calls for research proposals (10/12 votes)
 - Actions to knowledge transfer from research to innovation (9/12)
 - Industrial PhD (8/12 votes)
 - Set up of a programme for the creation of spin-offs and startups (8/12 votes)
 - Research and innovation staff exchange for promoting international and inter-sector collaboration through R&I (8/12 votes)

Maurice Héral, ANR, Head of Department-France / JPI Water (Chair), JPI FACCE (Vice Chairs); highlighted in his presentation the importance of the Water Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI Water) & the Food Security, Climate Change, and Agriculture Initiative (FACCE) in helping the coordination of national and regional public research, developing also international cooperation in relation with regional initiatives such as PRIMA. Additionally, M. Heral stressed on the thematic scopes and objectives of JPI FACCE (Food Security, Climate Change, and Agriculture) and JPI Water (Ecosystem sustainability, safe water, competitiveness in water industry, water wise bio economy, and closing water cycle gap)

With three main target groups: (1) European Initiatives and Partners, (2) International Initiatives and partners and (3) Third Countries (Developed and Emerging); the main objectives of JPI Programmes consist of:

- 1- Promotion of greater complementarity and structuring of research to cope with global challenges efficiently and effectively.
- 2- Facilitation of exchange of information, mutual learning with other regions that have similar initiatives
- 3- Sharing common calls for faster responses and innovations by increasing scientists in both public and private sectors.

In conclusion and for facing global challenges, M. Heral highlighted the following priorities:

- Global networks
- Engage in joint alignments of strategy, including co-funded calls,
- Promote faster research solutions and innovations in the industrial sector
- Avoid duplication and enhance twinning opportunities

Marco Orlando, Policy and Strategy Executive, Malta Council for Science and Technology; Joining over a Skype Call; M. Orlando highlighted a transition in the type of research supported in Malta, with a focused effort on identifying priority areas within a national strategy for smart specialization, and focusing on: environment (including water) and energy, ICT, value added manufacturing and services, health and biotechnology. Since 2013, Malta has stressed on increased collaborative research, innovation & commercialization of research.

M. Orlando presented the 2 linked funding programmes within the Maltese National Research Funding Programme - FUSION: a funding programme that supports Research and Innovation with the ultimate goal of promoting and supporting local research and innovation as well as providing the necessary handholding in order to enable researchers and technologists to turn their innovative ideas into a market ready reality.

Commercialization Voucher Programme: focused on feasibility assessment, and potential of commercialisation. Applications (Single Entities Apply) are evaluation based on excellence, impact and implementation and must submit to a number of stages including stage reports on: Barrier and Opportunities of commercialization (ex. Intellectual Property Rights), combined activity of market research and product development; and a combined activity of economic impact and risk profile. Once funds are provided, projects are aligned with service providers for continues guidance, and regular stage reports that follow-up on beneficiary progress.

Technology Development Programme: a collaborative programme with consortium applications (entities must have passed the commercialization voucher programmes highlighted above), requiring a cooperation between 1 public and 1 private entity. Accepted projects can also receive support in optional voucher programmes (initial patent applications, business plan and investors meeting support).

E.Köksal, Assoc. Prof., Ondokuz Mayıs University, Agricultural Faculty-Turkey; introduced in his presentation, the National Support Programs of Turkey, highlighting the main funding departments of TUBITAK, which are Academic Research, Technology and Innovation, and Science Fellowship and Grants.

Within the strategic framework of the National Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy, E. Köksal presented the focus on the need-oriented approaches in areas with a demand for gaining acceleration, in food and water, highlighting the development of Human Resources, Research results in products and services, multi-actor and multi-discipline R&D, the role of SMEs, R&D infrastructures, and finally international STI cooperation.

Additionally, E. Köksal emphasized the visions of the National R&D and Innovation Strategy on Food & Water; the first aiming at producing high brand and innovative food with high added value through environmentally friendly technologies along the food production chain; the second having as a purpose to protect and sustain water resources use, accessing water to all living organisms, and developing inventive technologies.

Finally, E.Köksal highlighted bilateral academic cooperation, working with 40 countries, having 51 agreements and 88 members of multilateral and international organizations.

Hazem Mansour; MHESR / SRTD Director-Egypt; in an intervention following the presentations, M. Hazem stressed eh alignment with PRIMA, stating that in Egypt, the strategic plan (2030) of the Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research (MHESR), aligns with the thematic of PRIMA in Water, Food, Energy, Health and Environment.

In regards to the innovation dimension; H. Mansour mentioned that in Egypt, the link between research and innovation – not being so prevalent - is due to national legislation where researchers/scientists cannot have (by law) SME's or Industries (a law that is currently being revised). The dual role of MHESR as PRIMA Partner & National Funding Agency (through the SRTD Programme) aligns well for policy, thematic, and funding alignment opportunities with PRIMA.

Conclusion and Discussions

R. Atweh (CNRS-L) and M. Uccelatore (MIUR) chaired the final session.

Commending the very interesting presentations & information shared during the event, they noted that stakeholders represented:

- Varied topics within the broad focus of PRIMA on Water & Food Security.
- Varied actions (research, innovation, mobility, capacity building) within institutional, programmes, projects and funding platforms.
- Demonstrated various levels of innovation

Across the sectors and activities however, participants highlighted the added value of collaboration within PRIMA and bi-regional programmes for collaborative research, knowledge sharing, building on national projects at the regional level, and twinning among programmes/projects and funding.

The following is a summary of the main areas highlighted in the discussions with stakeholders and partners:

Research and Innovation:

- Importance of Research in Water and Food Security for the Mediterranean Area.
- The importance of Research and Innovation (Innovation to Market)
- Involving Industry/Companies from the beginning of research activities
- Importance of dealing also with socio-economic studies and impact
- Focus on SMEs and linkages with large companies (back and forth linkages)
- Overcoming national barriers for research/industry linkages

Benefits of a Long Term Programme/Collaboration (PRIMA):

- Follow-up on promising R&D projects for innovation
- Limit funding over-laps through twinning of programmes/projects
- Sustainability of funding for water and food security

Important Actions:

- Mobility
- Capacity building
- Cross Cutting Issues: ICT / Gender / Youth

Policy:

- Involvement of Government Entities and Ministries
- Research implementation through linkage with decision makers

Stakeholders look forward to further information on the PRIMA, its developments and future calls.

Annex I: Programme

Annex II: List of Participants

Annex III: Pictures

Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
4 PRIMA Stakeholder Event
February 16, 2017 (CNRS-L Jnah)

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rula Atweh, Programme Officer/International Cooperation; CNRS-L <i>Followed by a Tour De Table</i>
9:45 – 10:00	Session 1: The PRIMA Initiative: General Goals and Expected Impacts Maria Uccellatore and Chiara Gliozzi (MIUR, Italy)
10:00 – 10:30	Session 2: 4PRIMA Mapping (WP2) 4PRIMA Analyses for the Mapping of Research & Innovation Funding Institutions, Programs, Investments and Instruments, Mobility Schemes (Claudio Bogliotti, CIHEAM, Bari) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Mapping & SWOT Analysis - Good Practices
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-11:15	Session 3: Technical Alignment with National Research Programmes for PRIMA Initiative (Carolina Rodrigues Rodrigues , Policy Officer, DG Research & Innovation; EU Commission)
11:15 – 11:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mouïñ Hamzé, Secretary General of the CNRS-L - Cosimo Lacirignola, Secretary General, CIHEAM - Carolina Rodrigues Rodrigues, Policy Officer, DG R&I; EU Commission
11:30 – 13:00	Session 4: Presentations of Stakeholders <i>Invited stakeholders shortly introduce the activities of their national programmes with a focus on possible alignment within PRIMA thematic scope (Water & Food); focusing on Gaps and Needs for the Cooperation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ramy Bou Jawdeh, Agrytech, Berytech; Lebanon (TBC) - Mouad Chentouf – National Institute of Agricultural Research; Ministry of Agriculture; Morocco - Amr Helal – CEO of International Trade and Marketing; Egypt - Anwar Jiries – Water and Environment Committee at the Ministry of Higher Education / Mutah University; Jordan - Polycarpou Polycarpou, Agricultural Research Institute; Cyprus - Rachel Bahn, Master Programme in Food Security, American University of Beirut; Lebanon
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00	Session 4: Presentations of Stakeholders (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carla Khater – OLIFE; National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L); Lebanon - Dora Feiani – Knowledge Economy Foundation; Egypt - Hazem Mansour, Science, Technology Development Fund; Egypt - Marios Koniaris, General Secretariat for Research & Technology; Greece - Joao Ribiero Lima – National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinary research; Portugal - Eyüp Selim Köksal, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Agricultural Faculty; Turkey
15:00 – 16:00	Working Session: Definition of Joint Activities to be undertaken within the PRIMA Programme, Aligning with National Research Programmes and Possible Cooperation Opportunities.
16:00 – 16:15	Sum Up and Conclusion

Annex II

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Annex III



