



**LESOR**

Laboratoire d'Economie  
et SOciétés Rurales



**International Symposium  
LESOR'2022**

**Challenging territories tested by  
development models: Achievements,  
challenges and prospects**

*Djerba-Tunisia, 23-25 November 2022*

**Call for papers**

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Site web: \_

<http://www.lesor.tn>

## CONTEXT

The sustainable development in vulnerable rural and arid territories is nowadays an international concern, particularly under the effect of global changes. According to the global dry lands repartition map, 2020 (FAO), about two billion people live in dry lands, 90% of them in developing countries. In addition, dry lands support a wide livestock variety and plant species essential to human food security. The Tunisian arid zones cover approximately two thirds of the national territory, and have several agricultural activities, which play an important role in the country's agricultural sector (red meats, dates, olive oil, etc.). Indeed, despite physical constraints, agriculture has been recognized as an essential activity in these difficult areas. It contributes to ensuring the country's supply of agricultural and food products, wealth creation, and income sources for a significant part of the rural population in Tunisia.

Public development policies have played an important role in promoting agricultural activity in these areas, particularly through the implementation of numerous integrated rural development programs and projects. The effectiveness of these programs deserves to be analysed and assessed. Nowadays, many global phenomena have a direct impact on the household livelihoods, in particular those in remote rural areas. Thus, several impact studies show that climate change, technological innovations (including ICT), and the globalization of economies constitute major challenges for maintaining the agricultural resilience in many regions of the world. They can significantly modify the productivity of the agricultural sector and permanently affect the natural resources (water, soil, and vegetation) which constitute the basis of agricultural production and its main chain values.

More specifically, the persistent droughts periods that are increasingly rife raise questions about agricultural production methods as well as the process of economic and social development. They lead to increased pressure on natural resources and affect the low agricultural potential in these areas. This pressure highlights the vulnerability of the whole economic and social system, which continues to depend on episodic rain-fed agriculture, irrigated sector weakened by the scarcity of water, and pastoral farming reliant on feed supplementation.

Faced with the constraints induced by the socio-economic and climatic situation, the populations of arid zones use their traditional techniques of adaptation to aridity. These techniques have direct effects on their modes of production, the organization of their territories, their spatial mobility, and the management of their resources. However, confronted with the worsening of the economic and climatic situation, these populations are discovering that their adaptive capacities are called into question. Indeed, their potential for innovation and responses to new socio-economic and environmental challenges are increasingly limited and do not facilitate either the sustainable development of their territories or the guarantee of their food security. In short, even if the strategies of adaptation are sometimes well mastered by the populations in arid zones (acceleration of mobility, development of the informal sector, recourse to the social and solidarity economy, etc.), it is clear that the resilience of socio-economic systems is increasingly compromised.

Indeed, all of this highlights, the vulnerability not only of the population who still depend on subsistence agriculture and pastoral farming but also on tourism and informal trade, which are among the first sources of income for a large population proportion. This is actually indicative of a deep crisis in the development model of territories and societies in arid zones. This context of crisis paves the way for "rethinking the development model" and learning lessons. Currently, the period is favourable to engage in an in-depth analysis of previous public policies and approaches. It is about trying to establish an objective achievement assessment of several decades of territorial development and formulating proposals and lines of thought for a sustainable development alternative in arid spaces. This symposium is an opportunity to discuss all these relevant issues and others directly or indirectly affecting the rural and agricultural world, particularly in arid areas which are confronted with major economic, social and environmental challenges. It will also be an opportunity to discuss the scientific research achievements and its impact on the development of

the rural world both between researchers from different concerned countries, scientific community and development actors. This symposium is organized also as part of a series of events to commemorate late Prof. Houcine KHATTELI who passed away on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 after **more** than 40 years at IRA including 25 years as Director General.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

The objectives assigned to this symposium are:

- Focus on the achievements of social science research on issues related to economic and social development, particularly in arid areas, which are experiencing a new situation characterized by the globalization of economies, the acceleration of technological innovations, climate change, and the degradation of natural resources.
- Formulate orientations and recommendations for decision-makers and development actors to enable those establishing strategies and public policies allowing the implementation of sustainable development in rural and arid territories.
- Promote networking between social science research teams working in different countries on issues related to agricultural and rural development of arid areas from a sustainability perspective.
- Set up a platform for exchange and sharing between scientific research, development actors, and companies concerned by the development in difficult territories.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The conference addresses all aspects of research into agricultural and rural issues and their implications for sustainable development in the world: researchers, teachers, doctoral students, decision-makers, developers, professionals...etc.

## **PARALLEL ACTIVITIES**

Several special events are organized on the sidelines of the conference:

- Panels, meetings of interest groups, sponsored workshops, presentations of good practices and other meetings.
- Exhibition of obtained scientific research results of the IRA since its creation (45 years) and their authors.
- Exhibition of the products of the DVDPD-Incubator whose basic products are agricultural products.
- Exhibitions of scientific productions and editions of the IRA.
- Other exhibitions

## **TOPIC AREAS FOR SUBMISSION**

Within the scope of the conference, the main areas of interest are organized in the following tracks. Submissions can be made to any of the track topics. For detailed descriptions of the topics, please refer to the website: [www.lesor.tn](http://www.lesor.tn)

### **Global changes, impacts and challenges for the agricultural and rural world:**

- Globalization of economies
- Climate change
- Technological innovations

### **Institutional economics and governance**

- Governance and Institutional Reforms in Agriculture
- Liberalization and public Intervention
- Land and agrarian reforms
- Environmental policies

### **Value Chain and resilient agriculture**

- Agricultural production and food security
- Livestock sectors and actors
- Specific value chains for rural development

### **Public policies and development approaches**

- Agricultural and rural development policies
- Financing of agriculture
- Agricultural policies and markets
- Development strategies and approaches
- From agricultural to territorial development: new realities, new ideas
- The institutionalization of territorial development
- The main components of territorial development

### **Territories and societies: the emergence of new enhancements**

- The emergence of “territories”
- Mobility, migrations and pluri-activity of rural actors
- Patrimony, tourism and territory
- Emergence of territorial dynamics and local resources
- Governance modes for sustainable development
- Use of Natural Resources and Management Initiatives

### **Agricultural development theories, methodology and models**

- Economic theories and agricultural development
- Constraints and performance: a systemic approach
- Crisis of economic theories in food security
- Agricultural supply chains and trade promotion
- Agriculture and models of agricultural change
- Thesis on innovation and coordination in agricultural systems

### **Perspectives of agricultural research**

- Challenges of the new context
- New research strategies of the new context
- Role and development of human capital in social sciences
- Multi-actor partnership in research and development
- International cooperation in social sciences in the agricultural and rural world

## **CONFERENCE DATES**

The conference will take place on 23-25 November 2022 (Tunisia). Plenary and parallel sessions will be planned so that researchers, policy makers and stakeholders can present and discuss different themes of the conference.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**April 21, 2022:** Call for abstracts

**August 31, 2022:** Deadline for receipt of communication abstracts (300 characters including spaces)

**September 15, 2022:** Response from the scientific committee

**October 24, 2022:** Return of the scientific committee to the selected contributors for the proceedings and publication of the conference program. Only the papers of effective participants in the symposium will be published in a special issue of the Journal of Arid Regions.

**October 31, 2022:** Development of the conference program

**23-25 November 2022:** Organization of the conference

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Direction of the conference:** Mohamed JAOUAD, Mongi Sghaier and Ali Abaab

Mohamed JAOUAD

Mongi SGHAIER

Zouhaier EL HADHEK

Mondher FETOUI

Taoufik GUAMMOUDI

Nacer MAHDHI

Farah CHOUIKHI

Riadh BECHIR

Houcine JEDER

Hatem KHATTELI

Hanen ABICHOU

Abdelmajid ELMOKH

Mounir ISSAOUI

Nabil AYADI

Afef MAHJOUBI

Nadia CHWIKHI

Houda RJILI

Fatma ARIBI

Mariem SGHAIER

Nesrine ABBASSI

Maysa EL HEDHLI

Nour DAHR

Gouider ATALLAH

Mohamed CHOUIKHI

Ali MELYENE

Abdelmottaleb ATALLAH

Touhami KHORCHANI

Mabrouk ABAAB

Mabrouk LANOUAR

Mourad SMIDA

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Abdellatif AIT HEDA** (Univ. Ibn Zohr, Maroc), **Agnès BONNAUD** (Lyon 2, France), **Ali ABAAB** (IRA/GIZ- Tunisie), **Ali Chebil**, (INRGREF, Tunisie), **Aymen FRIJA** (ICARDA), **Bechir SAI**, (IO, Tunisie), **Bernard FAYE** (CIRAD-France), **Boubaker DHEHIBI** (ICARDA), **Filippe REMY** (FIDA), **Frederic SANDRON** (IRD, France), **Hamed DALI ONAGRI**, (Tunisie), **Maud LOIREAU**, (IRD, France), **Mohamed Ali MAROUANI** (IRD, France), **Mohamed Bechir SAI**, (IO, Tunisie), **Mohamed BENGOUNI** (FAO-SNA-Tunisie), **Mohamed ELLOUMI** (INRAT-Tunisie), **Mohamed HAMADI** (IRA- Tunisie), **Mohamed JAOUAD** (IRA-Tunisie), **Mondher FETOUI** (IRA-Tunisie), **Mongi SGHAIER** (IRA-Tunisie), **Mourad Ben JELLOUL** (FSHS - Tunisie), **Nacer MAHDHI** (IRA-Tunisie), **Raoudha KHALDI** (INRAT, Tunisie), **Riadh BECHIR** (IRA-Tunisie), **Sami AOUADI** (FEGT, Tunis), **Stijn SPEELMAN** (Gand, Belgique), **Zine El abidine GHOUDI** (FIDA), **Zouhaier EL HADHEK** (ISCC, Tunisie)

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Authors are invited to submit their articles in accordance with the template downloadable from the conference website. The article must be sent through the conference website in Word format.

LANGUAGES: **Arabic, French, English**

## SPONSORS

This meeting will be organized with the support and collaboration of several partners whose names will be announced in the second call. The organizers are also planning a series of parallel activities, «**Side-events**», and a "poster presentation" session is planned during the conference.

## WEBSITE AND CONTACTS

All the other details of the symposium (registration form, place, etc.) will be posted shortly on the symposium website, which is under construction. We are at your disposal for any useful information: [colloquiumlesor2022@gmail.com](mailto:colloquiumlesor2022@gmail.com)

## REGISTRATION RULE FOR ALL ACCEPTED PAPERS

It is mandatory that at least one author of each accepted paper attends the session and presents the work. Please note that each paper shall be accompanied by at least one full conference registration at the speaker rate (i.e., two speaker registrations are needed for two accepted papers, e.g. from the main author or a co-author of the paper). An author per paper is expected to attend the session where the paper is discussed; otherwise, the paper will be deleted from the proceedings afterwards (despite full payment at the speaker rate).

## REGISTRATION FEES

### Tunisian participants

- ✓ Researcher/engineer/technician/other: **450 DT** (documents, coffee breaks, hotel accommodation costs)
- ✓ Student/Post-Doc: **250 DT** (documents, coffee breaks, hotel accommodation costs)

### Non-Tunisian participants

- ✓ **250 euros:** (documents, coffee breaks, hotel accommodation costs)