



WaterMellon - Research Project Fact Sheet.

Title of Project	Development of novel farming systems combined with water harvesting techniques to address extreme drought in the Mediterranean region, including saline and drought resilient species.	
Project Acronym	WaterMellon	
Funding Program	RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOUNDATION	
Project Identifier	PRIMA Innovation Actions (IA) 2412	
Total Budget / FRCBudget	5.039.335€ / 208.800€	
Starting – Ending Date	01/03/2025 – 31/5/2028	
Consortium	<div><div><div>1. Centre for Renewable Energy Sources & Saving.</div><div>2. Council for Agricultural Research and the Analysis of Agricultural Economics.</div><div>3. International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas.</div><div>4. Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna</div><div>5. University of Skikda.</div><div>6. Agro-food Cooperatives of Spain.</div><div>7. Iniciativas Innovadoras S.A.L.</div><div>8. University of Catania.</div><div>9. City of Scientific Research & Technological Applications.</div><div>10. National Institute of Agricultural Research of Tunisia.</div><div>11. NOVA University of Lisbon.</div></div><div><div>12. Frederick Research Center.</div><div>13. Irrigation Consortium for the Emilia Romagna Canal.</div><div>14. Irrigation Consortium for the Emilia Romagna Canal.</div><div>15. Institution for University Cooperation.</div><div>16. Development Center of the Tensift Region</div><div>17. Agricultural University of Athens.</div><div>18. Center for Waste Valorization.</div><div>19. Field Crops Central Research Institute</div><div>20. Koinsep Agrima</div></div></div>	
Project Objectives	<p>General: The WaterMellon project aims to enhance Mediterranean dry farming resilience by integrating modern water-harvesting techniques with traditional practices. It focuses on engaging farming communities, stakeholders, and policymakers across six Mediterranean countries (Italy, Greece, Morocco, Algeria, Spain, and Turkey) to establish regional living labs. The project will rehabilitate ancestral structures like khetaras and seguias while incorporating new water harvesting technologies (e.g., rainwater and atmospheric moisture capture). Novel cropping systems tailored to arid, semi-arid, and saline soils will be developed and tested, including the demonstration of underutilized, drought- and saline-resistant crops. Key objectives include creating sustainable, profitable value chains based on the circular economy, with at least one value chain per country by the project's end. A tailored dissemination plan will ensure effective communication of results. WaterMellon involves a multi-actor consortium of 20 partners from 11 countries, leveraging experience from past PRIMA, H2020, and Horizon Europe projects.</p>	
Work Packages	WP1: Farmers' engagement.	



WP2: Water harvesting systems (WHS) and demo sites.
WP3: Novel cropping systems (and demo sites).
WP4: Sustainable novel value chains.
WP5: Dissemination, communication and exploitation.
WP6: Coordination and management of the project.

External References

–
