



SIRAM: Sustainable Innovations for Regenerative Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area

Press release: November 2022

SIRAM is a new PRIMA project, supported by Horizon 2020, the European Union's framework programme for research and innovation. It aims to provide a comprehensive integration and implementation of sustainable solutions for regenerative agriculture across different Mediterranean areas.

It is projected that by 2050, population and economic growth will result in a doubling of demand for food globally. The main challenges this century is facing are to secure food production, to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and to act for climate change, to decrease residue concentrations in vegetables and to contribute to a balanced development of rural areas. It is therefore vital to develop and implement solutions for regenerative agriculture.

The three-year SIRAM project brings together 10 partners from 8 Mediterranean countries: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and OpenTEA (Italy), Agricultural Research Centre (Egypt), IRTA (Spain), Evotropa (Greece), Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture de Meknès and University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah (Morocco), Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal), Regional Centre of Agriculture Research of Sidi Bouzdi (Tunisia), and Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté (France). A multidisciplinary team will tackle issues related to soil degradation, over-use of chemical inputs, climate change, desertification, environmental risks and low-incomes at smallholder farms level.

The approach is based on four regenerative agriculture pillars: (i) beneficial microorganisms for plant growth and pest control; (ii) crop varieties with resistance towards abiotic and biotic stresses; (iii) agronomical practices to safeguard soil quality and fertility; and (iv) bioeconomy approaches to recycle and valorize waste biomasses that restore soil organic matter and have biostimulant properties. These pillars are tested in 8 case studies, covering different pedo-climatic, ecological, and social areas around the Mediterranean.

The expected results include: the definition and testing of new methodologies that will improve the sustainability and resilience of farming systems as a support to plant growth and resilience/tolerance to pests; the development of high quality and efficient pilot products that can be available for a scale production and delivery on the market by spin offs and SMEs; and filling knowledge gaps on regenerative agriculture, soil quality, biocontrol of pests and plant immune system. These results will bring benefits to NGOs, producer associations and farmers networks from the various Mediterranean countries.

The SIRAM website will be coming soon at www.siram-prima.org. If you would like to know more about the SIRAM project or to receive regular updates on its progress, please follow us on Facebook (SIRAM) or LinkedIn .

Notes for editors

The SIRAM project is part of the PRIMA Programme, supported by the European Union. The project will run for three years from 2022 to 2025. The consortium of 10 partners represents leading organisations in their respective fields of work from across 8 countries around the Mediterranean. The project is coordinated by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Italy. OpenTEA is the project dissemination partner.



SIRAM Project is part of
the PRIMA Programme,
supported by the European
Union

