



The first edition of the Masar Al'an Dialogues:
**WOMEN AT THE HEART OF AGRICULTURAL
TRANSFORMATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN:
GOVERNANCE AND ENABLERS FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

14-15 April 2026, Casa Árabe Córdoba (Spain)

The first edition of the Masar Al'an Dialogues: Women at the heart of agricultural transformation in the Mediterranean, is organized by the **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)**, the **European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)**, and **TRAGSA**, within the framework of the Masar Al'an program, in collaboration with **Casa Árabe** and **Casa Mediterráneo**. The event will take place in Casa Árabe Córdoba, on 14-15 April 2016.

This edition will bring together key actors involved in the implementation of the Masar Al'an program, including AECID, representatives of Spain's Cooperation Offices, strategic partners, public officials, farmers, cooperative leaders, the financial sector, researchers and civil society, in order to reflect on how to position women as key economic actors in Mediterranean agriculture.

The dialogues will address, in an integrated manner, the main factors that condition women's autonomy, capacity for innovation and access to opportunities: institutional recognition and governance, access to land and productive resources, financing with a gender approach, and integration into knowledge, innovation and value chain systems.

The dialogues will place particular emphasis on the social and inclusive dimension of agri-food transformation, exploring how agricultural and rural development policies can contribute not only to improving productivity and resilience, but also to reducing inequalities, generating decent employment and strengthening territorial cohesion, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.



In collaboration with



PROGRAM

14 April 2026

14:30-15:00 **Accreditation of participants**

15:00-15:30 **Welcome session and opening remarks**

Cecilia García, Director of Cooperation with Africa and Asia, AECID

Senén Florensa, Executive President, IEMed

Miguel Moro, General Director, Casa Árabe

15:30-16:15 **Context-setting session**

«Recognizing women as economic actors in Mediterranean agriculture»

This session will provide an introductory framework on the central and under-recognized role of women as producers, entrepreneurs and job creators in Mediterranean agriculture and agri-food systems. The gap between its real economic contribution and its institutional, statistical and regulatory recognition will be addressed, as well as the implications that this has for the design of effective public policies.

The session will lay the conceptual foundations of the meeting, underlining the need to move from care approaches to a vision that places women as key economic agents for sustainability, resilience and agricultural innovation.

Alun Jones, Head of Projects, CIHEAM Zaragoza

Dina Najjar, Senior Gender Scientist, ICARDA

16:15-17:45 **Dialogue 1.**

Women's recognition, voice and leadership in agricultural governance

This dialogue will address challenges and opportunities to strengthen women's effective participation in agricultural governance spaces, including cooperatives, producer organizations, sectoral associations, and public policy-making processes.

Despite their central role in agri-food production and value chains, women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making and leadership bodies, limiting their ability to influence policy priorities, resource allocation and rural development models.

The session will bring together government officials, representatives of cooperatives, rural women's networks and experts to discuss mechanisms to

strengthen women's voice, leadership and representation in the governance of the agricultural sector.

The dialogue will invite reflection on important questions: How can agricultural policies promote women's real participation in decision-making? What legal or institutional reforms facilitate women's leadership in cooperatives and producer organizations? What good practices exist to strengthen women's representation in agricultural governance spaces?

Moderator

Julia Choucair, Researcher, Arab Reform Initiative

Speakers

Fathia Saidi, Deputy Secretary-General, The Union of Feminist Action–Tangier. (Morocco)

Manuel Anta, Strategic Planning and Budget Lead, Office of Youth and Women, FAO

Open discussion with all participants

17:45-18:00 **Coffee break**

18:00-19:30 **Dialogue 2. Women in agri-food value chains**

Challenges and opportunities for women in agri-food sector value chains, from subsistence production to employment in the formal market and entrepreneurship.

Moderator

Eva Suárez, Head of a Spanish Cooperation Office in Egypt, AECID

Speakers

Hala Barakat, Director, AUC Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. (Egypt)

Dhouha Mizouni, CEO, Global Bridge Consulting. (Tunisia)

Mariatou Dia, Vice-president, Economic Interest Group (GIE). (Mauritania)

Open discussion with all participants

19:30 **Cocktail Reception at Casa Árabe**

15 April 2026

09:30-11:00 **Dialogue 3.**

Access to land, assets and productive resources

This dialogue will focus on one of the main structural obstacles to women's economic autonomy in agriculture: unequal access to land, productive assets and key resources for investment and production.

The session will analyze legal, institutional, and sociocultural barriers related to land ownership, inheritance, and control, as well as their direct impact on access to finance, technology, and markets.

The dialogue will invite reflection on important questions: What policy reforms can reduce gender gaps in access to land or other assets? What role can cooperatives and collective ownership models play? How can public policies and international cooperation support solutions adapt to local contexts?

Moderator

Zeina Jallad, Director of the Palestine Land Studies Center, American university of Beirut

Speakers

Rimane Aziz, Factory Director, Agrofitt S.A.L. (Lebanon)

Meriem Jerbi, Projects Coordinator, CAWTAR – Center of Arab Women for Training and Research

Manuel Nogales, Managing Director, Acodea (Spain)

Open discussion with all participants

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30-13:00 **Dialogue 4.**

Gender-responsive financing and investment in agriculture

This dialogue will address access to tailored finance and gender-sensitive investment mechanisms as a key condition for scaling women-led initiatives in agriculture and agribusiness.

The session will explore the role of public and private banking, development banks, guarantee instruments and blended finance, as well as the importance of sex-disaggregated data and enabling regulatory frameworks.

The dialogue will invite reflection on important questions: How can financial systems better respond to the needs of women farmers? Which instruments have shown the greatest impact? How can international cooperation reduce the perceived risk of investing in women-led initiatives?

Moderator

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, IEMed

Speakers

Rocío Arias, Project Manager for Women's Programs, Generational Renewal, and Rural Development, AgroBank. (Spain)

Nisreen Ellahham, Climate Change Adaptation and Greening Agriculture Specialist, FAO RNE. (Egypt)

Iyad Mouawad, Program Manager - Innovation Hub, Berytech. (Lebanon)

Octavi Quintana, Director, PRIMA Foundation

Open discussion with all participants

13:00-14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30-16:00 **Dialogue 5.**

Access to knowledge, innovation and agricultural extension systems

This dialogue will focus on the inclusion of women in agricultural knowledge, innovation and advisory systems, which are essential to improve productivity, climate resilience and sustainability in the sector.

It will discuss how to adapt extension services, technical training and digital innovation to better respond to the needs and realities of women farmers. The dialogue will invite reflection on important questions: How can agricultural extension systems become more inclusive? What role do digital innovation and agroecology play? How to connect women with innovation and technology transfer ecosystems?

Moderator

Anna Dorangricchia, Program Manager, UfM

Speakers

Karim Amin, Agri Entrepreneurship and Innovation, FAO Near East and North Africa. (RNE)

Katja Vuori, CEO, Agricord. (Belgium)

Irene Samy, Professor and Director, SESC Research Center - Nile University. (Egypt)

Meriem Jerbi, Projects coordinator, CAWTAR

Open discussion with all participants

16:00-16:20 **Closing Technical Session**

Arnau Gallard, Head of the Sustainable Development and Regional Integration Department, IEMed

16:20-17:00 **Closing session**

Cecilia García, Director of Cooperation with Africa and Asia, AECID

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, IEMed

Javier Rosón, Coordinator, Casa Árabe in Córdoba

*Scan the QR code for programme updates, speaker bios,
and other relevant information*

