

Highlights from key events

Green/Circular Economy and Artificial Intelligence: Levers for Women's Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean? September 18-19, 2025, Tunis



The two-day workshop “Green / Circular Economy and Artificial Intelligence: Levers for Women's Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean?” took place in Tunis on 19–18 September 2025, organized by FFEM, in collaboration with CAWTAR and IEMed. The event brought together experts and entrepreneurs to explore how green and circular economies, AI applications, and improved access to finance and markets can empower women in the Mediterranean. It featured inspiring success stories, interactive panels, and strategic discussions on sustainability and inclusive growth. Keynote speakers included Prof. Soukeina Bouraoui (FFEM & CAWTAR), Gemma Aubarell (IEMed), and Prof. Ali Rhouma (PRIMA), who presented “PRIMA WEFE Nexus: A new concept, a new approach?” Dr. Charles Kleinermann (ICARDA) spoke in the session “Networks, Partnerships and AI Tools: Opportunities and Limits for Sustainability”, emphasizing the value of R&D collaborations in advancing women's entrepreneurship through technology. Hedi Bchir (CAWTAR) participated in “Access to Finance and Markets at the Heart of Sustainable Development”, underscoring financial education as a cornerstone for women's access to financial services.

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WES-BCA Consultation Meeting on “Advancing WEFE Nexus policies, strategies and their implementation: a collaborative review of key findings and recommendations”



The online Consultation Meeting, held on September 2025_03, is part of the WES-BCA horizontal activity to assist in the advancement of policy and institutional settings for the WEFE Nexus at country level and contributes to the implementation of the draft WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum.

The draft Strategy represents the response to the challenges towards sustainable resource management in the Mediterranean, where water scarcity, rising energy demand, food insecurity, and environmental degradation create complex interdependencies that require coherent, integrated and cross-sectoral solutions. Its development is led by the Union for the Mediterranean, the Barcelona Convention and the European Commission, with technical support provided by the projects EU WES-BCA, GWP-Med, PRIMA WEFE4Med.

In this context, this first event was a focused consultation with the WES-BCA Focal Points for Water and Environment from Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco in order to assess the state of WEFE Nexus integration in these countries, as significant steps on WEFE Nexus have been observed, and support cross-country learning on applied and anticipated solutions for advancing WEFE Nexus integration. Later in the year, a regional webinar will be organised by involving a wider group of stakeholders from across the Southern Mediterranean.

The Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) synergizes in this activity through the GEF UNEP/MAP Med Programme Child Project 2.2. on 'Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the WEFE Nexus' and the PRIMA WEFE4Med Project. For the WEFE4MED in particular, this synergy with WES BCA concerns the work on WEFE Nexus Governance that is one of WEFE4MED's four thematic focus areas.

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Spotlight on Demos

SOIL NAVIGATOR

Challenge: The challenge addressed by SoilNavigator was the degradation of soil quality and productivity due to unsustainable agricultural practices, which threatened food security and environmental health.

Aims and Actions: The project aimed to develop a decision-support tool to promote sustainable soil management. Actions included integrating scientific research with practical applications to assess soil functions and provide tailored recommendations for optimizing soil use.

Outcomes and Results: The SoilNavigator tool successfully enhanced soil health and agricultural productivity by offering actionable insights and recommendations. It facilitated informed decision-making for farmers and land managers, contributing to improved sustainability and environmental conservation.

City	Start year	Focal Point
More than 90 sites	2018	Marko Debeljak marko.debeljak@ijs.si
Country	End year	Jožef Stefan Institute
Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2026	
Acknowledgement of funding source		
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/635201		
Nexus Dimensions		
 Food	 Water	 Ecosystems
SDGs		
 2	 15	
Scores		
Environmental ●●●●●	Social ●○○○○	Technological ●●●○○
	Financial ●●○○○	Institutional ●●●○○
www.soilnavigator.eu		



SCAN ME

New Feature of the Knowledge Hub

Blog Section

We are excited to launch a new blog feature on our Knowledge Hub, offering reflections and insights from project partners and experts on WEFE Nexus practices and experiences.


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Learn about WEFE4MED and Join the NCoP

The PRIMA-supported WEFE4MED project (2026–2022) aims to foster the adoption of a WEFE (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems) Nexus approach to confront the climatic and environmental challenges facing societies and agro-ecological systems, through a Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP).

Committed to co-creating an inclusive, diverse and participatory platform for collaborative work, the Med NCoP connects scientists, policymakers, practitioners, entrepreneurs and innovators to exchange knowledge and drive innovation in WEFE solutions, with emphasis on tangibles for the benefit of all people and countries across the Mediterranean.

Its Knowledge Hub provides a space for sharing demonstration cases, events, resources and opportunities to strengthen Nexus collaboration.



scan to join and access resources

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/Wefe4med

www.wefe4med.eu

This edition of WEFE4MED Monthly Highlights features our participation in the workshop on “Green / Circular Economy and Artificial Intelligence: Levers for Women's Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean?”, alongside upcoming events such as the PRIMA Project Day, the Online UfM-GCF Training, Cairo Water Week, and the EWA Award. It also introduces our new blog section on the WEFE4MED Knowledge Hub, including a spotlight on the latest post, “WEFE Nexus Demonstrators: What Makes a ‘Best Management Practice’?”.

Upcoming events and opportunities

For full access on the events and opportunities, please check the knowledge Hub link: www.wefe4med.eu/wefe/events


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Online – Mediterranean Training to Mobilize GCF Support for WEFE Projects

Organized by the Arab Water Council (AWC) and funded by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and SIDA, this fully online training will start from 1 October to 5 November 2025. The modular program includes live webinars, group assignments, and peer-to-peer exchanges, and final proposal submission for certification.

Course Dates: 16 October – 27 November 2025 (5 weeks)

Format: Fully online, modular learning with live webinars, group assignments, and peer-to-peer exchange, final proposal submission for certification.

Organizer: Arab Water Council (AWC)

Funded by: Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



WEFE4MED Blog Post Highlight

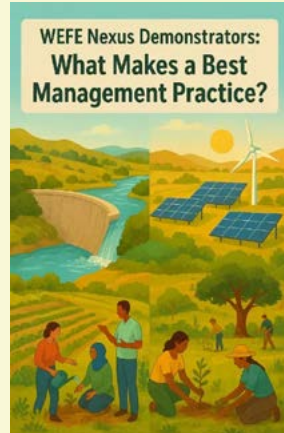


Roos Donkers
Intern, ICARDA

WEFE Nexus Demonstrators: What Makes a “Best Management Practice”

All twenty-nine demos the WEFE4MED CoP collected offer concrete insights on the various ways in which WEFE Nexus gets translated on the ground. However, there is no clear definition around what aspects of a WEFE demonstrator can be considered a so-called “Best Management Practice” (BMP). As a first attempt to consider some aspects for the definition of a BMP, I read carefully every WEFE demonstrator what was currently available on the WEFE Knowledge Hub and aimed to identify a few that for me stood out from the others. You can read my outcomes in [this blog!](#)

I would like to know your thoughts on this topic through [this short survey](#), however, feel free to reach out to me for further explanation!



Partners



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