

AURORA

New partnership launched: AURORA marks cooperation between Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and University of Kassel

In July, a new partnership has been launched: The project “**Sustainable Agriculture and social-ecological systems approaches in higher education in the MENA region**” (AURORA). It is a cooperation between the following partners: INRGREF, Tunisia; IRESA, Tunisia; ESA Mograne, Tunisia; IAV Hassan-II, Morocco; American University of Beirut, Lebanon; University of Kassel, Germany. The project will run until 2024, is financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) through the program “subject-specific partnerships in higher education”, and is affiliated with the Global Partnership Network. Professor Andreas Thiel, head of the Section of International Agricultural Policy and Environmental Governance, University of Kassel, is leading the project from the German side.

The aim of the AURORA project is to anchor the analysis of social-ecological systems (SES) of agri-environmental systems in the curricula of universities in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa). Agricultural production systems in this region face numerous challenges in terms of the use of natural resources and socio-economic conditions, which can best be analysed through complex explanatory approaches. SES analysis offers an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach to understand these problem areas and thus contribute to the provision of solutions. The AURORA partners have set themselves the goal of further develop approaches to the SES analysis, adapting them regionally and anchoring them in the corresponding academic curricula.

Activities in the scope of the project include (virtual) workshops, curriculum development, and, once the global pandemic allows safe travels, in-person exchange, field trips, and summer schools. As a first outreach activity, the American University of Beirut and University of Kassel present **a webinar series**:

First Event

Introduction of the AURORA project and will take place September 15, 2021 at 5 PM (CEST).

You can register here: <https://uni-kassel.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvC02grz8iEtE5gObVRPeelX4wWH5AyQy9>

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