SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL FINANCE IN MOROCCO

In September 2020, the European Investment Bank and Crédit Agricole du Maroc signed a financing agreement of 200 million euros to support agricultural ecosystems, with a particular focus on sustainable development.



This line of credit, whose primary objective is to support the implementation of Morocco's new agricultural strategy *Generation Green 2020-2030*, covers the financing of agricultural value chains, including the entire ecosystem: production, storage, logistics, conditioning, packaging, processing, marketing. The line of credit is directed to all segments of food production: farms, agricultural cooperatives, Economic Interest Groups, Small and Medium Enterprises, Very Small Enterprises.

The news diffused by the European Investment Bank highlights that the *Crédit Agricole du Maroc* is the main financing bank for the agricultural sector in Morocco and represents a model in Africa for its commitment in the development of agriculture and the rural world. Since 1961, the bank has been working with farmers to find the best possible answers to all their needs and provide rural communities with innovative and effective solutions.

One of the innovative tools of *Crédit Agricole* is the <u>Tamwill El Fellah</u> system, implemented in 2010 as a subsidiary branch of the bank, to improve access to financial services for small farmers with no collateral. In Morocco, nearly 70% of the agricultural sector is made up of small and medium-sized farms, the majority of which are excluded from current bank financing because of their economic fragility and their traditional land tenure.

The Tamwil El Fellah operational structure offers an integrated system of services adapted to meet the needs of small farmers. This TEF System includes, for example, a Credit Guarantee Fund exclusively used for small and medium farms with difficult access to traditional bank credits; alternative solutions for attesting land tenure or usufruct rights for small farmers requesting loans; a risk categorization mechanism adapted to the longer business cycles in agriculture compared with those operating in the sectors of services or manufacturing. TEF also provides small farmers with technical assistance, production training, commercial and financial management. The study Innovations for inclusive agricultural finance and risk mitigation mechanisms published in 2016 by FAO and ADA recognizes Tamwil El Fellah as an innovative model for providing financial services and mechanisms adapted to farmers with small and medium-scale agribusinesses. The study illustrates the innovative mechanisms that have been adopted in the specific context of Morocco, underlining its wider relevance worldwide.



The results achieved by the *Tamwil El Fellah* system have been recognized in Morocco and in countless international contexts. In 2019, *Tamwil El Fellah* received a prestigious international award for its financing model applied to date palm projects in the oases of Morocco.

In December 2019, at its annual meeting held in Durban, South Africa, the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AIAFD) elected the Crédit Agricole du Maroc Group and its subsidiary Tamwil El Fellah as the best development finance institution in Africa.

To know more

News in EIB.com website

Article in euneighbours.eu

Article in eeas.europa.eu

News in afrimag.net

Article in yabiladi.com

Crédit Agricole du Maroc website

Tamwil El Fellah website

Tamwil El Fellah-Centre Ouest in Facebook

Innovations for inclusive agricultural finance and risk mitigation mechanisms- 2016 FAO

Brochure in aaainitiative.org

Brochure in foundation-farm.org

Morocco Generation Green 2020-2030 in wsimag.com

