



# THE VOICES OF OUR STUDENTS

Academic year 2023-2024

Master Programme

SUSTAINABLE AGROECOSYSTEMS  
AND RESILIENCE (SAR<sub>e</sub>)



# WELCOME MESSAGE

Are you planning to become an actor who will contribute to the sustainable development of farming and agri-food systems?  
Are you interested in agricultural development processes at territorial level?

The SARE Master's course is a 2-year programme that will enable you to build knowledge and competences to facilitate agroecological transition and the resilience of agroecosystems. Throughout your training, you will attend lectures and develop projects, interacting with scientists, practitioners and market players. You will develop your skills to interpret the complexity of agroecosystems and to facilitate development processes aiming to protect the environment and promote participation and networks development. In the 1st year, you will stay on CIHEAM campus in Bari, taking courses and living in an international environment, with students from many countries. The second year, on the other hand, you will carry out practical research in an agro-ecosystem in your own country, under the supervision of technical experts.

This booklet features the experience of our students from A.Y. 2023/24. We hope it will provide useful insights to lead interested students wishing to apply for the SARE Master's course.

Lamberto Lamberti  
Course coordinator



# FATIMA OMRAN – EGYPT



## My research in Beni Suef, Egypt

My research on the socioeconomic impact of carbon credits on farmers' lives holds significant value on multiple levels. First and foremost, it addresses a critical gap in understanding how climate mitigation initiatives, like carbon credit schemes, directly affect the livelihoods of farmers, particularly in developing countries like Egypt. By analyzing the financial, social, and environmental benefits and challenges of these programs, my work aims to provide insights into how they can be optimized to better serve farmers' needs.



## About the Master course

I would honestly suggest the SARE course to everyone who is enthusiastic about resilience and sustainable agriculture because it has been a life-changing experience for me. Its perfect integration of theory and practice is what makes it unique. Learning principles in a classroom is not enough; you also need to interact with real-world issues and work with individuals from different backgrounds to develop solutions.

Personally, the course gave me a more comprehensive understanding of agriculture, not only as a means of producing food but also as a means of tackling climate change and fostering resilience. Additionally, the program's range of course offerings helped me better understand what I want to work on and learn more about in my future.

---

## The Campus experience

The campus's distinctive blend of academic excellence and cultural variety was my favorite aspect of my time at CIHEAM Bari. This setting is more than simply a place to learn; it's a place to meet people from around the globe who are passionate about agriculture and sustainable development whom you will soon feel that they are a part of your family. I learned just as much from these exchanges as I did from the lectures; they widened my horizons and made me recognize the diversity of cultures and beliefs.

# YOUMNA KHALEL – EGYPT



## My research in Fayoum & Beni Suef, Egypt

My research activity aims to understand the perceptions of smallholder farmers regarding intercropping practices. By exploring their perspectives, I gain insights into the acceptance, challenges, and potential benefits of intercropping in these specific regions.

The findings from the research can inform policies and interventions that support sustainable farming practices tailored to the local context. Understanding the attitudes of smallholder farmers towards intercropping can help in promoting more efficient and environmentally friendly agricultural methods.



## About the Master course

The Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience (SARe) course offers a holistic education by integrating diverse disciplines such as agroecology, sustainability assessment, climate change mitigation, and social equity in agriculture. This comprehensive approach equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the multifaceted challenges facing modern agriculture. Through practical field experiences and collaborative learning environments, the course fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and networking opportunities with industry professionals and researchers. By emphasizing global sustainability, resilience-building, and policy engagement, the SARe program prepares graduates to contribute effectively to a more sustainable and equitable food system on a global scale.

---

## The Campus experience

The diverse cultural environment at CIHEAM Bari, with students from various backgrounds, provides a rich learning experience. This cultural diversity allows for exposure to different perspectives, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of global agriculture and sustainable practices. The collaborative and supportive atmosphere at the campus, along with the opportunity to form lasting friendships and exchange experiences, creates a welcoming and enriching environment for personal and academic growth.

# WIAM MOUMEN – MOROCCO



## My research in Sidi Kasem, Morocco

The value of my research activity lies in its significant potential to enhance sustainable agriculture, and promote environmental conservation, particularly by addressing the unique challenges faced by farmers in Sidi Kacem. By examining the various olive production systems in the region, my research aims to identify which practices align most closely with agroecological principles and to assess the feasibility of farmers adopting these sustainable methods. The insights garnered from this research can play a crucial role in informing policies and interventions that facilitate the transition to more sustainable farming practices, ultimately contributing to the development of resilient agricultural systems and improving the livelihoods of local farmers.



## About the Master course

I would recommend the SARE course to new candidates because it is designed to provide both theoretical and practical training, equipping students with a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development. During the Master course, I gained insights into the role of social sciences in promoting sustainability, and I explored every aspect of sustainability and agroecology.

The program features professors from all corners of the world, which allows students to view sustainability, agriculture, and resilience through diverse lenses. Additionally, the course emphasizes the development of soft skills, which are essential for working effectively in any field. Overall, the SARE course offers a well-rounded educational experience that prepares students to make meaningful contributions to sustainable development.

---

## The Campus experience

What I liked the most about my experience at the CIHEAM Bari campus is that, after two years, it truly felt less like a traditional campus and more like a home. The sense of community was remarkable, as everyone was willing to help one another. I had the opportunity to learn about various countries' traditions, and this diversity enriched our experience and made it all the more enjoyable. We shared meals, laughter, and worked collaboratively, fostering an atmosphere of camaraderie. I formed lifelong friendships during my time there, and I am incredibly grateful for the CIHEAM family.



# WAFABOUHJAR – TUNISIA



## About the Master course

The SARE (Sustainable Agro-ecosystems and Resilience) course is highly recommended for new candidates due to its comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to sustainable agriculture. It covers a wide range of topics, including agroecology, sustainability assessment, climate change, and the social aspects of agriculture, which are crucial for understanding the complexities of agroecosystems. The course emphasizes practical experiences, such as field visits, which provide valuable insights into real-world challenges and solutions, enhancing theoretical knowledge with tangible examples.

## My research in Ghar El Melh region, Tunisia

The value of my research activity lies in its focus on the agroecological transition of the Ramli system in Tunisia, a unique agricultural practice recognized by RAMSAR and GIAHS. This system, developed in the 17th century by the Andalusian diaspora, is essential for addressing the challenges posed by limited arable land and freshwater resources in the Ghar El Melh region. By utilizing sandy substrates and a passive irrigation method that relies on rainwater stored above seawater, my research explores how this delicate balance sustained by tidal movements and careful application of sand and organic matter. Applying what I have learned from the SARE course, I was able to develop a research project that not only contributes to sustainable farming practices but also aims to provide insights into the complexities and prospects of agroecological practices reintroduction to this ancient system, ultimately supporting local farmers in adapting to environmental changes while maintaining productivity.



---

## The Campus experience

The experience at CIHEAM Bari campus is enriching and multifaceted. Students appreciate the collaborative environment, which includes interaction with over 50 international peers from diverse backgrounds. This multicultural setting fosters deep cultural exchanges and enhances interpersonal skills. The campus also offers exceptional support services, creating an inclusive atmosphere conducive to learning.

Moreover, students highlight the insightful field trips as a key aspect of their experience. These excursions allow them to learn directly from various lecturers and practitioners in the field, bridging the gap between theory and practice. Engaging in social activities and collaborative projects further enriches their educational journey, making their time at CIHEAM Bari memorable and impactful.

# MOHAMED ELARBI BRICK – TUNISIA



## About the Master course

The SARE Master program has been an amazing opportunity for me to learn about sustainable agriculture and how to tackle real-world challenges. The combination of theory and practice helped me gain valuable knowledge, especially during field visits where I could see how the concepts work in reality. It's a program that really prepares you to make a difference in agriculture and the environment.

---

## My research in Medenine, Tunisia

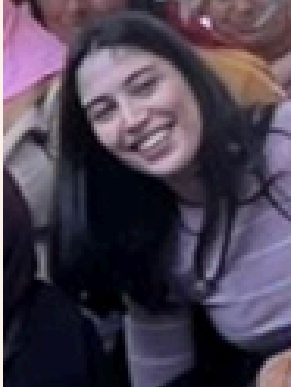
My research is about studying water harvesting techniques like Jessour and recharge wells in Medenine. I work with stakeholders to find ways to improve water retention and reduce soil erosion. I also use tools like GIS to see how these techniques affect soil under different scenarios. This research is important for creating solutions that fit the needs of dry regions and help communities manage and protect their resources better.

## The Campus experience

Living at CIHEAM Bari has been a special experience. I've made friends from all over the world and learned so much from their cultures and ideas. The workshops and group activities made learning fun and practical. The staff and professors are very supportive, and the campus feels like a home away from home. It's been a journey full of growth, both personally and academically.



# OUMAIMA SRIH – TUNISIA



## About the Master course

This course combines advanced technical knowledge with practical fieldwork, fostering skills in innovation, natural resource management, and policy analysis. Graduates are well-equipped to contribute to sustainable agricultural development and enhance the resilience of rural communities globally, making it an excellent choice for those passionate about creating impactful solutions in the agricultural sector.

## My research in Jendouba and Beja, Northwest of Tunisia

My research focuses on assessing the social and economic impact of agricultural cooperatives on rural women while identifying the challenges they face in their daily activities and within these cooperatives. It aims to explore pathways to empower these women and enhance their livelihoods, contributing to more resilient and sustainable rural communities.



## The Campus experience

Living in the CIHEAM Bari campus was truly a unique and enriching experience. It was my first time living far away from my family, but I never felt alone. I had the chance to meet amazing people and make friends from different countries, which made the journey even more special. Although our schedule was often packed, the courses were incredibly engaging, and the field trips provided a valuable opportunity to apply what we learned in a practical context. The environment in campus was welcoming and supportive, with a friendly atmosphere among students, teachers, and staff. I particularly appreciated the guidance and encouragement from our tutor, Dr. Philip, and our Master program director, Dr. Lamberto, who created a truly inspiring learning experience.



# CONTACT US



<https://www.iamb.it/>

Via Ceglie, 9 - Valenzano - Bari - Italy