

# STAPLES

Stable food Access and Prices and Lower Exposure to shocks

Building Resilience in the Cereal Supply Chain

Innovative solutions for Mediterranean and MENA countries

## STAPLES Project

### Stable food Access and Prices and Lower Exposure to Shocks

STAPLES Project, part of the PRIMA Programme, addresses critical food security challenges in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), where strong dependence on cereal imports leaves food systems highly vulnerable to market fluctuations and external shocks.

Through an interdisciplinary approach, STAPLES combines results-oriented and user-centred methods with digital tools and a Decision Support System to collect and analyse data, transforming knowledge into practical solutions.

By mapping the cereal value chain and actively engaging diverse stakeholder groups, the project seeks to enhance food stability, accessibility, and affordability, contributing to a more resilient and sustainable MENA region.

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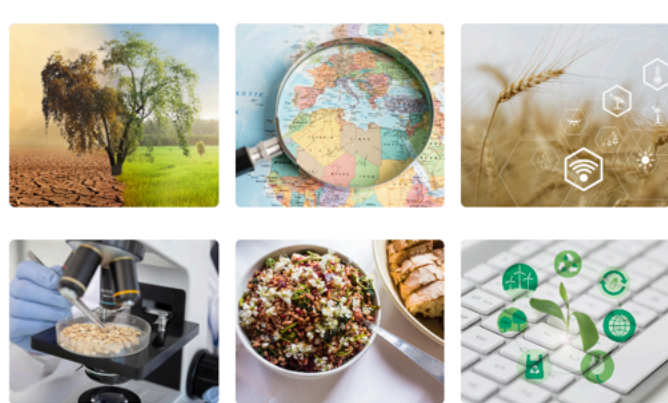
## STAPLES Objectives

STAPLES, aiming to increase the resilience of cereal food systems in MENA countries, places a particular focus on Egypt and Morocco, addressing the vulnerability of these systems to global market fluctuations and economic shocks, which can lead to instability in food availability, accessibility, and affordability.

Through the active engagement of local stakeholders, the project seeks to:

- Gain insight into the vulnerabilities of local systems related to trade dynamics and global value chain shocks.
- Develop innovative solutions and evidence-based recommendations to strengthen domestic production and mitigate the effects of external stressors.
- Design IT tools for a comprehensive monitoring, analysis and management of cereal production and trade in MENA countries.

## STAPLES Highlights New Collaborative Ecosystem



### Something exciting is growing!

We are opening up to new synergy actions among **PRIMA Partnership** projects. **STAPLES** and **SEEDS** are joining forces for the design and test of innovative solutions to strengthen food security and resilience in the MENA region.

SEEDS, our partner in this **collaborative ecosystem**, works on turning ancient grains into tomorrow's solutions for food security and resilience. By combining agronomic field trials, living labs, and community working groups, the project fosters local co-creation, integrating science, community knowledge, and digital tools to develop resilient agrifood solutions in Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco.

[SEEDS PROJECT](#)

## News

### Second field study in Morocco

17-21 November 2025

Fès and Meknès, Morocco



The STAPLES Project team went on the ground in Fès and Meknès, Morocco, to explore the challenges and opportunities of local cereal value chains. Hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Agriculture, in collaboration with ASCAME, the fieldwork brought together UNISG researchers, smallholder farmers, and key stakeholders. Through semi-structured interviews, the team gathered insights on agricultural practices, market dynamics, and food security challenges.

This hands-on experience not only deepened understanding of local needs but also reinforced the project mission to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of Mediterranean agri-food systems. Every discussion and observation will inform strategies for stronger, more secure cereal supply chains across the region.

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### Multipurpose machine workshop in Egypt

22 November 2025

Fayoum - Egypt



The **Fayoum Chamber of Commerce** of the city of Fayoum, hosted a two-day workshop meeting for the STAPLES Project, supporting its overall aim of improving sustainability and efficiency in the cereal supply chain across the MENA region. The event brought together over 30 local farmers, alongside representatives from universities and institutions, to discuss the main challenges and opportunities in the local agricultural sector.

Farmers actively participated in the co-development of a multipurpose modular agricultural machine designed for smallholders, sharing their insights, helping prioritize modules, and ensuring the prototype meets local needs, with the ultimate goal of shaping smarter and more sustainable farming solutions.

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### ALEX Food Exhibition

21–24 October 2025

Alexandria - Egypt



The STAPLES Project was present at the ALEX Food Exhibition, held from 21–24 October 2025 in Alexandria. During the event, CEEBA showcased the project's activities and outcomes, demonstrating how the project equips governments and economic actors with evidence-based strategies and decision-support tools to enhance the resilience of cereal value chains to external shocks.

The STAPLES consortium reaffirms its strong commitment to equip governments and economic actors in the MENA region with evidence-based strategies and decision-support tools for more resilient cereal value chains, fostering sustainable, innovative, and resilient agri-food systems across the Mediterranean.

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### Navigating recent crises in the MENA region

September 2025

Research article



The STAPLES Project has released a new deliverable by Collegio Carlo Alberto together with the Economic Research Forum. It provides an overview of cereal agri-food value chains in six MENA countries, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia, over the last two decades (1995–2023), mapping key players, trade flows, and product exchanges. It highlights vulnerabilities, dependencies, and supply chain responses to global shocks.

The study provides a comprehensive view of how supply chains respond to global shocks, import concentration, and evolving trade networks, offering valuable insights for food security and regional resilience. It contributes to the STAPLES' mission to strengthen MENA cereal value chains, and promotes trade integration, local production, and informed policy-making.

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### Analytical study of the global agri-food value chains

July 2025

Research article



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