

STAPLES

Stable food Access and Prices and Lower Exposure to shocks

Building Resilience in the Cereal Supply Chain

Innovative solutions for Mediterranean MENA countries

STAPLES Project

Stable food Access and Prices and Lower Exposure to Shocks

STAPLES Project, part of the **PRIMA Partnership 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, transforming knowledge into practical solutions, to enhance food accessibility and affordability, also contributing to a more resilient and sustainable MENA region.



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STAPLES Objectives

Understanding external stressors

Generate a better understanding, for governments and economic actors involved in the cereal value chain in the MENA region, of the external stressors and shocks that derive from global value chains (GVCs) and threaten local cereal supply chain and food security.

Developing resilience strategies

Develop innovative solutions and evidence-based recommendations for strategies, action plans, and best practices that governments and economic actors of the MENA food systems along the cereal value chain can use to enhance system resilience and ensure food security.

Improving stakeholder preparedness

Improve the preparedness of governments and economic actors along the cereal value chain to anticipate and cope with external stressors by integrating new knowledge and data into a Dashboard and Decision Support System for the adoption of solutions and best practices.

STAPLES Highlights Collaborative Ecosystem



Something exciting is growing!

STAPLES and **SEEDS** PRIMA Partnership project 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

Global agri-food value chains for cereals in the MENA region with mapping of players, trade flows, and products exchanged

Excerpt from Deliverable 1.1 - March 2026



A short excerpt from Deliverable 1.1

The deliverable 1.1, dated July 2025 and coauthored by our partners Collegio Carlo Alberto (**CCA**) together with the Economic Research Forum (**ERF**), is a report that presents a statistical and network-based analysis of cereal value chains in six Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries over the period 1995–2023. The analysis examines exports, imports, the main cereal products traded and trading partners across different levels of cereal processing (unprocessed, semi-processed, and processed cereals).

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11th OEET Workshop

December 2025 - University of Turin



The 11th OEET Workshop, organized by **OEET** and Collegio Carlo Alberto (**CCA**) members, featured the participation of project partners from the Economic Research Forum (**ERF**), **Politecnico di Milano**, and the University of Gastronomic Sciences - Pollenzo (**UNISG**). Discussions on the first day centred on the role of trade in food security, followed by an analysis of how shocks propagate through food trade networks. The second day opened with an overview of the results achieved so far within the project.

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Global food security in a turbulent world: reviewing the impacts, of the pandemic, the war and climate change

Scientific publication – July 2025



The recent open-access article, titled “*Global food security in a turbulent world: reviewing the impacts of the pandemic, the war and climate change*” and co-authored by Donatella Saccone (University of Gastronomic Sciences - Pollenzo **UNISG**) and Elena Vallino, reviews the recent empirical evidence on the channels along which each of the three shocks impacted food security, with a particular focus on its four sub-dimensions: food availability, food access, food utilisation, food stability.

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International food prices, poverty and hunger

Scientific Publication - May 2025



Climate change, conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic have increased pressure on global food markets, raising international food prices and exposing vulnerable populations to higher risks of poverty and deprivation. The recent study “*International Food Prices, Poverty and Hunger*”, co-authored by M. Marson (**Politecnico di Milano**) and D. Saccone (University of Gastronomic Sciences - Pollenzo **UNISG**), is a preliminary output of STAPLES project, which analyses 117 developed and developing countries.

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The effect of food price upsurges on income inequality: the richest win and poorest lose

Scientific Publication - February 2025



Food prices play a crucial role in shaping economic stability and social equality. While price fluctuations are common in global markets, their effects are not evenly distributed across populations. The paper “*The effect of food price upsurges on income inequality: The richest win and the poorest lose*”, co-authored by M. Marson from **Politecnico di Milano** and D. Saccone from the University of Gastronomic Sciences (**UNISG**), analyses data, exploring how international food price shocks influence income inequality.

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