



## STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

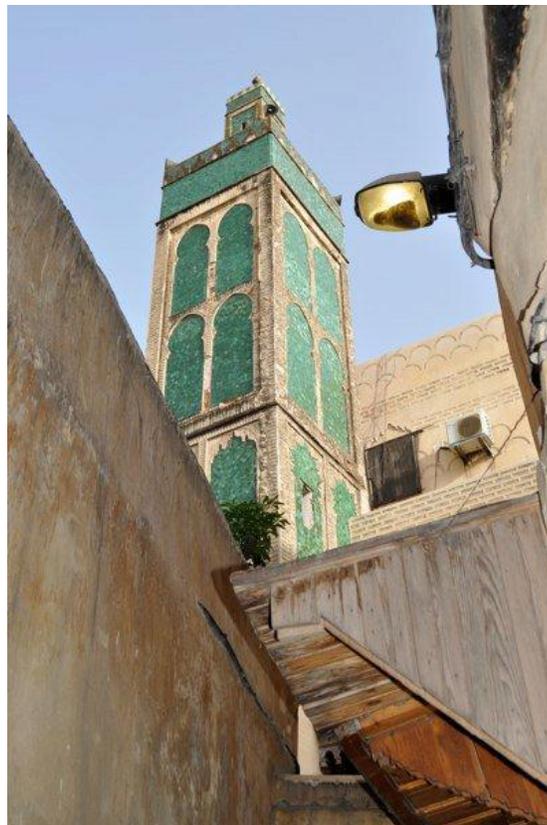
# Morocco and Minnesota Together (again)

### PURPOSE

To implement a framework for an enhanced collaborative partnership for the University of Minnesota Extension and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences with the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, Hassan II and the National School of Agriculture, and the Rural Tourism Network in Morocco to enrich rural communities in Minnesota and Morocco through sustainable agriculture systems.

### GOALS

1. Implement faculty and graduate student collaborations to foster research and education that address critical needs in agriculture.
2. Develop an International Leader Engagement program by bringing together agricultural, academic and rural leaders across Minnesota with counterparts in Morocco for exchanges to learn together and jointly work on shared problems in sustainable agriculture.
3. Develop a model of an enhanced and modern Extension system integrating applied research and education that tackles the societal issues facing Minnesotans and Moroccans today (e.g., climate change, energy, water resources, invasive species, food safety and security) by incorporating relevant global dynamics and cultural knowledge into Extension's education, research and value.



### SPONSORS

The Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA), through its endowed chair in agriculture, and the U of MN Extension are providing organizational and financial support for this collaboration. The purpose of MISA is to bring together the diverse interests of the agricultural community with interests from across the University community in a cooperative effort to develop and promote sustainable agriculture in Minnesota and beyond.

## SHARED PROBLEMS, KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Morocco is currently feeling the effects of climate change on an individual, local, regional and national scale. Morocco has created a *Green Morocco Plan* that seeks to develop the nation's agricultural and territorial potential while preserving precious natural resources through sustainable agriculture. Likewise, Minnesota needs to develop sustainable communities, landscapes and food systems in the context of a changing climate. We have a unique opportunity to learn from Morocco and partner with them to address these challenges.

The Moroccan government has recently developed a new plan for Extension to provide optimal support to the *Green Morocco Plan*. This new system has two approaches, one that is free for the public and administered through the Ministry of Agriculture, while the other will be a privatized service requiring payment for Extension work to be performed by Extension consultants, who are otherwise employed (e.g., veterinarians, other agricultural producers, etc.). Working together we believe Extension in Morocco and in Minnesota can be enhanced to meet the needs of our community members.



## OUR HISTORY

The University of Minnesota has a long and successful history with Morocco specifically with the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, Hassan II and the National School of Agriculture. From 1987 to 1994 the University of Minnesota coordinated the participation of over 25 land-grant universities in the United States to train a generation of Moroccan scientists and researchers. In total, over 240 master's degrees and 127 doctoral degrees were awarded as a result of this project. Many of these graduates hold positions of leadership in Morocco and in the past 10 years have expressed interest in re-building this relationship on a peer basis to collaborate on research projects that affect both Minnesota and Morocco.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Please contact Renee Pardello, Assistant Dean, U of MN Extension, [pard0017@umn.edu](mailto:pard0017@umn.edu) or 612-624-6479.

