P R E S S R E L E A S E

**NPP-SOL**

***Modelling and Technological Tools to Prevent Surface and Ground-Water Bodies from Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) Under Mediterranean Conditions***

**NPP-SOL** (Non-Point Pollution Solutions), funded by the PRIMA programme, aims at protecting surface and groundwater bodies in the Mediterranean threatened by agricultural non-point source pollution (NPS). The project’s objective is to design solutions tailored to the specific needs of the Mediterranean countries.

With a budget of €2,171,257 and a duration of 36 months, NPP-SOL intends to develop innovative technologies and sustainable management models to prevent soil and water salinisation and reduce pollution from agricultural and more specifically agrifood activities.

NPP-SOL combines best practices in soil, water, fertiliser and crop management with low-cost, sustainable technologies. All technologies used are consistent with the principles of the circular economy, thereby ensuring both environmental sustainability and economic efficiency.

To intercept and remove agricultural pollutants before they reach water bodies, NPP-SOL uses **bioreactors** and **constructed wetlands** to remove nutrients and pesticides from runoff and drainage water coming from agricultural land; and **anaerobic digesters** to treat livestock slurries before their use in agriculture, reducing their impact on soil and water. These technologies will be applied in four case studies in **Israel**, **Italy**, **Morocco** and **Spain**.

Specifically, the project will be implemented in Israel in the Newe Ya'ar area in the Jezre'el Valley, where over-fertilisation and mismanagement of livestock slurries (CAFO) are polluting the Nahalal River and threatening agricultural sustainability. In Italy, at Arborea in Sardinia, where despite the efforts made since 2006 to reduce nitrates in the water, concentrations remain high and exceed the limits set by current regulations. In Morocco, at Mnasra in the Gharb region, where the misuse of water and agrochemicals has led to widespread nitrate pollution and increased soil salinity. In Spain, in the Lerma Basin, where intensive use of fertilisers since the 2000s has led to a threefold increase in nitrogen concentrations in the Arba River, causing nitrate pollution. NPP-SOL involves eight partners from five Mediterranean countries: the **University of Basilicata** (coordinator) and the **University of Cagliari** for Italy, the **University of Barcelona** (Spain), **CIHEAM Montpellier** (France), the Agricultural Research Centre - **Volcani Institute** - and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** for Israel, the **National Agricultural Research Institute** and the **Mohammed V University of Rabat** for Morocco. Together, the partners aim to develop concrete solutions to reduce agricultural pollution and improve the sustainability of water resources in the Mediterranean area.