

# THE RICE SECTOR IN MOROCCO



The rice sector occupies an important place in the Moroccan agricultural landscape, both socio-economically and environmentally. It contributes to national food security, job creation in rural areas and the diversification of agricultural production. Thanks to the initiatives carried out under the Green Morocco Plan, the sector has experienced sustained growth, providing a stable income to nearly 2500 farmers and generating around 1.5 million working days per year, 87% of which are upstream and 13% downstream in the value chain.



On the technical level, national production covers about 72% of the country's needs. The Gharb region is the main rice-growing basin, accounting for nearly 75% of national production, with average yields reaching 8 t/ha in Gharb and 6.8 t/ha in Larache, which can exceed 11 t/ha on some high-performance farms. In 2022, national production amounted to 46800 tons on 5988 hectares cultivated.

However, the sector still faces several challenges: the high cost of inputs, the low varietal diversity (nearly 90% round rice), and a total dependence on imported seeds. In addition, there is limited national consumption (about 2.2 kg per capita per year), which is hampering the overall profitability of the sector.

**NPP-SOL**  
Non-Point Pollution Solutions



**PROMEDRICE**  
PROTECTING MEDITERRANEAN RICE-BASED AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS



**PRIMA**  
PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA



This project is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union



**Role of good agricultural and water management practices for resilient rice cultivation in Gharb-Morocco**

Information Day

**November 13, 2025**

Sidi Allal Tazi Experimental Station,  
Regional Center for Agricultural Research of Kenitra



المملكة المغربية  
Royaume du Maroc



وزارة الفلاحة والصيد البحري  
والتنمية القروية والمياه والغابات  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime,  
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Royaume du Maroc  
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As part of the "Generation Green" strategy, the national rice programme aims to:

- **Preserve the environment** by promoting innovative farming practices and sustainable use of natural wetlands, to reduce pollution of drainage water.
- **Saving irrigation water** and improving water efficiency through localized or alternating irrigation techniques.
- **Encourage direct seeding**, to improve soil structure and fertility, while limiting soil erosion.

Faced with the increasing scarcity of water resources and the effects of climate change, the sustainability of Moroccan rice farming now depends on its ability to adopt water-saving practices that respect natural ecosystems.

With this in mind, the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA), in partnership with Mohammed V University of Rabat, Ibn Tofaïl University of Kenitra, and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) of Benguerir, is implementing within the framework of the PRIMA, NPP-SOL and PROMEDRICE projects, a program aimed at developing good cultural practices and enhancing the natural wetlands adjacent to rice fields, within the Experimental Estate of Sidi Allal Tazi.

## PRIMA FLAGSHIP PROJECTS



**NPP-SOL:** Modelling and technological tools to prevent surface and ground-water bodies from agricultural non-point source pollution under Mediterranean conditions. This project develops nature-based solutions to prevent diffuse pollution from agriculture and protect water resources.

**PROMEDRICE:** Effective farming practices to protect water resources in Mediterranean rice-based agroecosystems. This project promotes innovative agricultural practices adapted to Mediterranean conditions, including no-till and drip irrigation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE INFORMATION DAY



- Present the results of the program for the development of new national rice varieties.
- Promote good irrigation and tillage practices adapted to water management in a context of scarcity.
- Raise awareness of the importance of natural wetlands in the sustainable management of drainage water.
- Promote dialogue between farmers, researchers and decision-makers to co-construct sustainable and resilient strategies.



## SCHEDULE OF THE DAY



The day will be held in the form of:

**An opening plenary session**, dedicated to the national challenges of the rice sector.

**A presentation of the PRIMA projects**, their approaches and the main results obtained.

**A field visit**, to illustrate the innovative practices and experiments carried out on the Sidi Allal Tazi site.

This information day is intended to be a platform for exchange and knowledge transfer between research, institutions and producers. By promoting nature-based solutions and technical innovations, it aims to strengthen the environmental sustainability and socio-economic resilience of Moroccan rice farming, in a context marked by climate change and the scarcity of water resources.