



ssnup

Smallholder Safety Net
Upscaling Programme

MODERNISATION OF THE DATE PROCESSING



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services



Non-financial services



Market building



Internal management

CONTEXT

In Tunisia, the agricultural sector used to be the main economic driver however this has changed substantially with the diversification of the economy to other sectors. Nevertheless, the agricultural sector still plays a significant role and still employs 16% of the workforce and contributes to 14% of the GDP.

In terms of available land for agriculture, over a quarter (5 million ha) of the country is cultivated even though, around 40% of Tunisia is composed of the Sahara desert. About a third of the cultivated land is sown for cereals, of which half is wheat. Another third supports olive production, and the rest include tomatoes, peppers, melons, potatoes, onions and dates. Crops have to be resistant to a wide range of environments as there is extensive dryland agriculture where drought and heat are often severe and numerous climatic stresses affect the wide range of crops grown.¹

CURRENT STATUS OF THE INVESTEE

Beni Ghreb S.A.R.L. is a company that specialises in the packaging and exporting of dates of the Deglet Nour organic Tunisia variety. This variety originates from the biodynamic and organic oasis of the region of Hazoua, which is located about 500 kms southwest from Tunis. Beni Ghreb was created in 2002 by a group of date producers (GDABD - Development Group of Biodynamic Agriculture) who have been committed to promoting organic agriculture and socio-economic development in parallel to protecting the environment.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project, which is part of a restructuring and recapitalisation plan of the company following issues encountered due to the pandemic, specifically aims to improve the processing and production of dates, via the acquisition of an Enterprise resource planning (ERP) software to replace the current paper-based system of monitoring and considerably improve efficiencies.

The expected outcomes are:

- 130 families of the region find a commercial outlet and bring a decent income for more than 1,650 inhabitants of the region.
- Potentially € 1.2 million worth of dates is bought from the producers and therefore redistributed to the community each year.

IMPACT INVESTOR



AGGREGATOR / INVESTEE

Beni Ghreb SARL (SME) – Tunisia, serving a total of 130 smallholder households

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Dates

STARTING DATE

May 2022

DURATION

6 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€ 19,937

Including € 14,953 (75%) contribution from SSNUP

¹ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/plant-breeding/nuestrosasociados/afica/tunisia/es/>

