



# MONITORING THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MSSD)

## AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT Specifications for National Studies

In partnership with:



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**Plan Bleu**

Regional Activity Centre

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# I. PREAMBLE

## 1. SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

After setting up in 1996 a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (the 21 riparian countries and the European Community) adopted in November 2005, upon proposal by the said Commission, the “Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development” (MSSD), announced at the Johannesburg Summit. The latter Strategy was also endorsed by the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Summit (November 2005).

One of the seven priority fields of action of the Strategy is promoting a sustainable agricultural and rural development<sup>1</sup>, with the following main objectives:

- ?? Take into account the opportunities and risks associated with the process of trade liberalization at the Euro-Mediterranean level on the populations, quality products and the environment,
- ?? Promote technical and commercial adaptation of Mediterranean agriculture with a view to increasing its added value,
- ?? Reduce poverty by providing rural infrastructure and basic services, diversifying the rural economy and improving the local governance,
- ?? Prevent the degradation of natural resources and anticipate the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

The MSSD is a “framework strategy”. It may guide the elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development (NSSD) and sector-based strategies or help the up-date of existing ones. It must be properly understood that each country has to set its own objectives. The MSSD calls for strengthening the regional cooperation around targeted sustainable development actions, as well monitoring progress and regional sharing of experiences. In particular, the signatory countries have pledged to provide data for a list of 34 priority indicators, of which 4 relate to rural development. 22 complementary indicators have been identified on this same topic.

It was requested from Plan Bleu to assist the Contracting Parties in building up a body of information which would facilitate the implementation and the follow-up of the MSSD and the NSSD. Plan Bleu is especially mandated, for the period 2007-2008, to identify, in partnership with CIHEAM (Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes / International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies), a set of key-indicators for the MSSD follow-up and supply these indicators with data, to deepen the analysis and to elicit alternative practices with volunteer countries, the EU authorities, the partners and relevant regional initiatives in the field of rural development.

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<sup>1</sup> Forestry and derivative activities and products are included under the generic term “agriculture”.

As part of its mission, Plan Bleu is entrusted with the task of asking the countries to draft national reports and organising, in the spring of 2008, the First Regional Workshop of the MCSD on « Agriculture and Rural Development ». Based on the results of these works, the issuing recommendations will be addressed to the decision makers of the rim Mediterranean countries.

## **2. OBJECTIVES AND USE OF NATIONAL REPORTS**

The national reports need to be useful documents not only for the countries but also on regional level. They have three objectives:

- ?? Provide information on the situation of national policies and strategies in matter of rural development, current trends and their possible impacts;
- ?? Demonstrate that progress is possible and necessary, and help build awareness about the need for and possible benefits of actual national policies of sustainable agricultural and rural development;
- ?? Contribute in the Mediterranean reflection and assist the Mediterranean riparian countries in improving their systems of progress follow-up and evaluation.

The national reports will be used in particular to:

- ?? Prepare the First Regional Workshop of the MCSD on « Agriculture and Rural Development », due to be held in March/ April 2008;
- ?? Draft the Regional Executive Report which will be submitted to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), due for May 2008;
- ?? Contribute in the joint Plan Bleu/CIHEAM publication *Mediterra 2009*, due to be issued in the spring of 2009;
- ?? Prepare the regional seminar on *Mediterra 2009* enhancement, which will be organised concurrently,
- ?? Feed in the side-event due to be organised in New-York, in April 2009, alongside with the United Nations Sustainable Development Commission;
- ?? Help the countries decide on the way ahead on national level, in view of the results of the regional workshop and the proposals of the MCSD.

The national reports or, extracts from these reports, may—if necessary—be published and disseminated in the countries (for instance, as a chapter in the national reports on the environment and sustainable development).

## **3. METHOD OF DRAFTING THE NATIONAL REPORTS AND SCHEDULE**

The national expert mandated by Plan Bleu, in agreement with CIHEAM, to draft the report, will be invited to speak at the workshop due to be held in 2008, at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (Italy).

The expert has all latitude, within the limits of the contract, in the delivery of his/her mission, of which the possibility of taking on a steering team (administrations in charge of policies, professional organisations, researchers, local communities, civil society...) with a view to enriching, facilitating and backing the final product.

Plan Bleu and CIHEAM will support the drafting of the national reports by monitoring and, if need be, directing the works, as well as by financing them. The final report must be submitted to Plan Bleu by end of January 2008 at the latest.

## II. CONTENTS OF NATIONAL REPORTS

The national reports, in their final version, must be concise synthesis documents (30 pages, that is about 3000 typographic signs per page + annexes) such as may be read by decision-makers. The major tables and illustrations (i.e., those that may appear in the final publication) must be incorporated in the 30 pages, while the others may be attached in annex.

The report is best related to the whole country. A contrary option must be justified.

The analyses will rely on the available statistics and indicators, case studies, results of policy studies and reviews likely to have been conducted, existing planning documents and statements by experts.

The study will seek to:

- ?? quantify, analyse and comment the basic data and indicators in view of the objectives of the MSSD;
- ?? outline the existing agricultural and rural development strategies and policies, with particular emphasis on their sustainable character;
- ?? evaluate, whenever possible, the cost of these policies;
- ?? highlight the benefits induced by integrating the environment in these policies in economic and social terms;
- ?? develop a case study of particular interest to the country;
- ?? list and refer, as much as possible, to examples of good practices, or alternative practices;
- ?? include a prospective consideration of the risks related to the trends and draw recommendations therefrom for decision-makers.

### Data and indicators

The statistical data used in the report will be the most recent available in national sources and, inasmuch as possible, of a definition compatible with those used in international data bases (FAO, WB, WDI...).

The priority and complementary indicators of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (in grey box in this document, with the priority indicators typed in bold) are described in Annex 3. They will be calculated and used as of priority order in the report for analysis. They will also be accompanied with qualitative comments. Should the whole set of figures be non available, only certain components will be provided and/or base indicators used in the country, while specifying the definitions used.

The analysis of the trends will cover the period 1995-2007 in terms of observed data and the time frame 2015/2025 in terms of projections.

The framework and the content proposed and presented hereunder are for the sake of information only. The author of each national report will, in fact, have a certain discretion to take into consideration country specificities and availability of documentation, the main point being to produce a report that is relevant and that is conducive to debate and decision. It may be drafted either in French or in English.

#### Examples of practices

Good practices and alternative practices may be local or national instances, partnership projects, policy instruments or traditional or emerging practices that is worth being highlighted.

The documentation of such practices helps to demonstrate that responses may be harnessed, on various levels, to improving a given situation or reshuffling the balances involved. Local and national examples often show that success depends on the capacity to mobilise tool mixes and enhance the decision-making and implementation processes.

To document such practices, it may be useful, whenever possible, to quantify the response made and the results obtained. Illustrations (based on graphs, for instance) often allow a grasp over the relevance and scope of the response.

These examples of practices will be proposed in concise boxes and incorporated in the sections where they belong.

## 1. PART 1: CONTEXT AND TRENDS (5 P)

**Objective:** This part is dedicated to taking stock of the situation in rural environment, describing the various trends of the national rural context over the past decade (1995-2007), re-positioning agriculture (and forestry) in the rural environment and in public policy, and highlighting the main risks and opportunities for rural areas as related to economic liberalisation.

### 1.1. Endogenous potentials and impediments:

Based on the existing works and analyses, the study will **provide a succinct characterisation of the rural environment**.

On the level of the national territory, present the main natural zones—plains, forests, oases, steppes—and agro-climatic zones (climate, soil), the state of the resources and their sector distribution (domestic, agriculture and industry). There will be identified both agricultural land and pasturelands.

The author of the report will bring out, based on this paragraph, the natural assets (in particular, the resources) and the cultural and identity-related assets (landscape, historical heritage, facilities<sup>2</sup>...), as well as the determinant factors. He/She will highlight the way in

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<sup>2</sup> He/She may refer to works related to economic evaluation of the functions ensured by the rural areas and forestry, when available.

which society has exploited these resources and dealt with the deficiencies of the rural environment and its limitations.

## 1.2. Socio-economic roles of rural areas

Then, there will be described, still over the past decades, the demographic and economic dynamics: evolution of the total rural population, active population, employment, economic activities and their **respective economic weight**, while specifying still the proportion represented by the agricultural, pastoral, forestry and agri-food activities.

Share of agriculture in GDP; share of all rural activities in GDP;

Portion of rural population, and active rural population/ total active population ratio;

Share of agriculture in exports and imports for the main productions (in value and in %);

Portion of tax revenue due to agriculture;

**AGR\_P01 Indicators: ratio of agricultural population vs rural population**

Describe the recent and emerging phenomena observed in connection with the functions assigned to rural areas (productive, leisure, residential and services functions...). What are the driving forces of these dynamics, the players in action, and the « added values » generated by these innovations?

The author of the report will present, in a few lines, the main risks and benefits for rural areas of a progressive **economic liberalisation**: he/she may mention the consequences in terms of production, investment and exportation capacity, of supply of local markets and food dependence, of poverty, of degradation of the ecosystems, of gradual change of endangered rural areas, and exacerbation of economic and social disparities between sectors (modern, traditional, etc...).

The author will highlight the current or future sectors presenting a wealth-creation potential and the impediments to their development, as well as those requiring State intervention or help towards subsistence.

## 1.3. Institutional and political specificities

The recent (or emerging) trends of the **strategic orientations** and the rural development programmes will be analysed thoroughly. Follow-up and assessment of policies and national rural development strategies are, in fact, the missing link in all countries.

The measures taken to mainstream the components of the MSSD related to rural development (Cf Annex 2) and the **country's commitment to a sustainable rural development** will also be briefly reviewed. They will be developed in a dedicated part further down.

The author of the report will conclude by highlighting the main problems which do constitute, or are likely to constitute, an obstacle to a sustainable rural development.

## 2. PART 2: RISKS OF THE TRENDS OBSERVED (18 P)

Objective: This part will be dedicated to an analysis of the trends since 1995 and to a study of the pressures and consequences of the agricultural and rural development policies in view of the various components of sustainable development.

### Case study: A key Component of the National Study

The author will develop in this part (in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 or 2.5) a case study at his/her discretion whose topic is of particular interest to the country. This case study should allow a concrete demonstration as to how an action has been implemented and what its results are. It addresses such aspects as costs and benefits, training of stakeholders, the tools deployed, the difficulties encountered and the way they have been overcome.

The action may be collective, conducted by a community, or of an inter-institutional partnership type bringing together several socio-professional categories around a local development project, set up of a quality sector (*filière*) that valorises Mediterranean specificities, an example of integrated management plan...

The case study will be presented in a box. It must be illustrated, as much as possible, by figures and graphs.

### 2.1. Preserving natural resources

The MSSD recommends a **sustainable management of Mediterranean rural areas and the rural environment** (p. 21). The study will focus, as a matter of priority, on reduction of desertification and of the irreversible losses of farmland and biodiversity. The MSSD proposes a reduction by a third in minimum, for the time frame 2015, of agricultural land losses due to erosion, salination, desertification and urbanisation or other forms of abandonment.

This paragraph will inventory the situation and will be backed, in particular, by the following indicators to describe the trends observed.

#### AGR\_P02 : Loss of arable land

AGR\_C03 : Pastureland load rate;

AGR\_C04 : Evolution of pastureland foliar index;

AGR\_C19 : Proportion of land area covered by forest (forestry and wooded land).

The author will strive to characterize the extensive pastoral activity and specify the differentiated impact of the herds according to their size and type. He/She will ensure consistency of C04 and C19 indicators. As a complement to the C03 indicator, the author will seek to quantify the rate of « rest » of marginal land: content, type and average duration of the relevant programmes.

The author will list the **alternative practices**, whether good or bad, in matter of pastoralism, management of collective areas, management of soils and their fertility, as well as of peri-urban areas, which he/she may have observed. These practices may have an innovative character in matter of collective action, adoption of new technologies, replicability on local scale, or—on the contrary—an endangering character to the environment, the populations, etc., attendant upon their generalisation, their perverse impacts, etc. The author will also raise any emerging questions whose consideration he/she deems relevant. Failing an in-depth analysis, a brief description in annex would suffice.

As regards **biodiversity**, the objective to be reached by 2010, still according to the MSSD, is putting an end to all biodiversity losses in the EU member States and their substantial reduction in the other countries. The MSSD sets an objective of 10% of all Mediterranean land ecosystems to be under the status of a protected area. The analysis will be backed, *inter alia*, by the following indicators:

AGR\_C17 : Percentage of protected areas,

AGR\_C18 : Existence of an inventory of endogenous plant and animal genetic resources.

There may also be provided, where available, the results of inventories, and a characterisation by level of threat of emblematic (including endemic) plant and animal species. Attention will be granted to the connection with the management of hydro-agricultural developments (gravity canals, basins...) and land restoration and protection developments (terraces...).

The study will finally address the **management, conservation and protection practices** applied to the environment in relation to rural development, in particular development schemes and contractually based local land use schemes to encourage local communities to manage farmlands, hill areas and woodlands sustainably.

The study will report on **research & development and education** in this regard: programmes underway, priorities and orientations, fields of application, conclusions of main works . . .

## 2.2. Population needs and social considerations

A local and participatory development is considered by the MSSD as a prerequisite for mitigating the land and social imbalances and improving the living conditions of the rural population. The study will grant particular attention to the upgrading of **basic infrastructures and services** and to the reduction of the social disparities between rural and urban population. It will rely on a certain number of indicators available at international sources (World Bank, MDGs, etc. Cf Annex 4) to analyse recent trends:

Adult literacy rates (24+ years), gender -disaggregated;

First and second level literacy rates, gender -disaggregated;

% of population below the poverty line;

Child mortality;

Rate of rural electrification, level of penetration of drinking water and gas into rural areas;

Housing in rural areas (permanent housing and temporary housing).

The study will consider the efforts of the State and communities to connect isolated zones or those difficult of access, in particular the infrastructures and investments related to ICTs (Information and communication Technologies) i.e. distance learning, wireless telephony, access to the Internet... The study will examine the dynamics of **rural poverty** per territorial unit and socio-professional category. It will provide explanatory factors for the trends observed. It will explain the extent to which these factors hamper sustainable rural development and the main risks related to an increase in social disparities between rural and urban population.

AGR\_C14: Proportion of family income spent on food consumption, rural vs. urban.

For this indicator, the author will take into consideration the self-consumption portion of the **households**. The saving capacity of the households will be quantified and related to the role of migrants in rural areas and, more generally, the role of North/South associations in capital transfers. The author will analyse in a summary manner the contribution of **migrants** to the rural dynamics (included in financial terms), as sources of technical and social innovation, in particular in agriculture, agri-food and activities related to rural tourism. He/She will describe the **emerging phenomena** observed and seek to explain the drivers of these dynamics. Finally, he/she will explain how the public policies help facilitate migratory “spin-off” effects.

In the agricultural field, the study will rely on the following indicators to analyse the trends of the last decade and relate the agricultural population to the rural population in terms of purchasing power, autonomy, access to land and services, and this based, among others, on the following indicators:

AGR\_C15: Percentage of farms less than 10 hectares and proportion of those irrigated;

AGR\_C16: Agricultural labourers/ farmers ratio.

The study will interpret these trends, their causes and their consequences in terms of sustainability. It will relate these indicators to those quantified in the following chapter. The author will point out the situations where irrigation water is in competition with drinking water supply.

The study will report on **research & development** and education in this regard: programmes underway, priorities set, fields of application, conclusions of main works.

The study will bring out, in view of these analyses, the **financing and investment needs** for the programmes underway or those in the pipeline for the time frame 2015-2025 in rural areas.

### 2.3. Implementation of policies

The report will focus in this part on the **role and action of the central and local authorities** in matter of support to the populations and facilitating activities in rural areas.

What are the rural development programmes underway? What are their priority axes? How do they deal with sustainability? In the absence of a national plan or strategy, how is rural development addressed?

AGR\_P03: Share of the public budget allocated to sustainable rural development programmes.

What are the **budgets** made available to these programmes? By whom are these budgets replenished? What part of private credit, if any? Do they belong to bilateral, international cooperation? What portion of the budget is managed locally? How are expenditure allocation and control conducted?

The author will analyse the **methods of development** and management of plans/strategies and the indicators related thereto. What inter-departmental **decision-making and consultation** entities? Are there any ad hoc management entities (rural development agency, trends observatory...). How do sectoral policies (mainly agriculture, industry, transport,

energy, tourism, education) or national or regional policies for land use planning integrate rural development and the notion of sustainability?

What **tools and instruments** (orientation laws, compliance with standards, regulations, calls for projects and support of initiatives, awareness-raising), including those of a financial character (market support, direct aid, conditionality of aid, taxes, fiscal system, financing of decentralised programmes)? And, above all, how efficient?

In particular, the author will examine the respective role of **Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations** in support to the populations in difficulty and for compensating State deficiencies, especially in matter of initial and continuous training, access to credits and minimum services.

The author will conclude by describing the methods of **monitoring and evaluation** of the policies implemented: the dedicated tools and methods (including the selected indicators, if any), their relevance and their analytical strength; the programmes and means dedicated to them, the results expected and the result of the evaluations when available.

## 2.4. What economic alternatives?

### 2.4.1. A productive and rational agriculture

The MSSD grants particular attention to the implementation of agricultural policies aimed at **improving the productive agriculture framework**, especially land tenure and water policies, access to credit and to the market, strengthening farmers' associations and professional organisations.

The author will begin by a brief overview of **farm structure** over the past decade. It is recommended to adopt a typology of the farms and a breakdown of the farms as per class. He/She will analyse the trends (while distinguishing, as much as possible, between intensive farming and traditional family farming) over the past decade, in terms of rationalisation and modernisation of the practices, of triple capacity of adaptation to the markets (and, especially, for contract-based agriculture with down stream sector), to the demand and to the natural environment. In this regard, issues related to climate change may be addressed. The cases of re-conversion of farms must be examined. The analysis will be backed by the following indicators:

AGR\_C10: Fertilisers (NPK) sold / GDPA  
 AGR\_C11: Pesticides sold (in T) / GDPA  
 AGR\_C12: Number of traction horsepower / GDPA  
 AGR\_C13: Volume of water consumed / GDPA

The study will relate the trends confirmed by the previous indicators to changes in land use (in particular the competition between energy crops and food crops), the adoption of water saving technologies, innovative management and production patterns (producers' associations set up to address specific issues) and any other **emerging issue**.

The author will conclude by addressing the legal and institutional framework and its adequacy for the current situation and, above all, for anticipating the situation for the time frame 2015-

2025. He/She will bring out based on these analyses **the financing and investment needs** of the programmes underway or in the pipeline for the time frame 2015-2025 in rural areas.

#### ***2.4.2. Towards a greater added value of Mediterranean products***

The MSSD underscores the recognition and valorisation of the **diversity and quality of agricultural products** that are emblematic of the Mediterranean. The implementation of adequate policies to facilitate efficient procedures for labelling and quality certification of Mediterranean food products is a major challenge. Based on the following indicators, the author will analyse the trends over the past decade and their determinant factors.

The author will not confine the analysis, and by far, to organic farming as the only quality criterion, but will, on the contrary, seek to inventory the local, territory-based, and even sub-regional approaches, whether underway or projected, and—more generally—any interesting alternative practice (vintage products, aromatic, condiment and medicinal plants, typical products). The study may comprise in annex the criteria on which such approaches are based.

AGR\_P041 : Proportion of quality agricultural products

AGR\_P042: Proportion of farmland used for organic farming

AGR\_C05: Number of labeled/certified products

AGR\_C06: Existence of a legal framework for quality products

AGR\_C07: Share of processed products in agricultural exports

AGR\_C08: Number of organic farms or organic farming producers and areas allotted to « organic » products

AGR\_C09: Number of application files submitted for quality product certification

The study will relate the trends confirmed by the previous indicators to the consumption patterns. The author will analyse the trends observed in urban demand on quality products (and also on “traditional” or “authentic” products) and on proximity products, and the opportunity this offers for peri-urban farming. The study will appraise the actual importance of **proximity markets and short commercialisation channels** in the rural dynamics and how this entails in consumer prices.

A sector-based approach, in particular with regard to “contract-based agriculture with downstream sector” (food processors or distributors), may be useful to estimate the distribution of **added value** and the real portion that remains in the country and, more particularly, to the producer.

The author will conclude by addressing the legal and institutional framework and its adequacy for the current situation and, above all, for anticipating the situation for the time frame 2015-2025. He/She will bring out, based on these analyses, the **financing and investment needs** of the programmes underway or in the pipeline for the time frame 2015-2025 in rural environment.

#### ***2.4.3. Diversification in rural environment and in farms***

The characterisation of the small and medium-sized enterprises (**SMEs**), especially in the food processing and agribusiness sector, as well as in the rural tourism sector, is a prerequisite for

the analysis of the added value brought in rural environment by these SMEs over the past decade.

The distinct role of **local tourism and international tourism** in the valorisation not only of the products but also of local knowledge and know-how must be granted particular attention. The impacts and potential of the recent residential and leisure functions of the rural areas must be analysed thoroughly, both in terms of their positive aspects and their negative aspects in relation to rural development. For so doing, the author will draw, inter alia, upon the following indicators:

AGR\_C01: Share of agricultural employment in rural areas

AGR\_C02: Number of non farming enterprises in rural areas

The analyses of the former indicator above should mention **the multi-activity** outside the farms, particularly in the vicinity of urban centres or medium-sized townships. The latter indicator above will be broken down as per enterprise class size.

It will be especially interesting to highlight, on the one hand, the indirect employment related to agriculture and, on the other hand, the **cross-sector connections** which often give rise to local projects as a source of territory collective appropriation, growth and employment. The author will show the way in which such connections allow a strengthening of the economic fabric.

The author will list the **alternatives practices**, whether good or bad, which he/she has come across. These practices may have an innovative character in matter of collective action, adoption of new technologies, replicability on local scale, or—on the opposite—an endangering character to the environment, the populations, etc., attendant upon their generalisation, their perverse impacts, etc. The author will also raise any emerging questions whose consideration he/she deems relevant. Failing an in-depth analysis, a brief description in annex would suffice.

The study will report on **research & development and education** for each of the preceding sub-parts: programmes underway, priorities set, fields of application, conclusions of main works...

The study will analyse, in the national policies and strategies, the place granted, over the past decade, to multi-functionality of agriculture and rural tourism as factors of development and valorisation of rural areas. The author will conclude by addressing the legal and institutional framework and its adequacy for anticipating the situation for the time frame 2015-2025. He/She will bring out, based on these analyses, the **financing and investment needs** of the programmes underway or in the pipeline for the time frame 2015-2025 in rural areas.

## 2.5. Rural governance

Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and stakeholders is one of the priorities of the MSSD for the rural areas. Based in particular on the following indicators, the author will analyse the **place granted to women and youth** in the local decision making processes and the extent of their involvement in rural development over the past decade, as well as the participation of the populations in community political life. The **role of networks** must not be underestimated.

AGR\_C20: Number of women interest groups (associations, cooperatives...);

AGR\_C21: Local levies and transfers not allocated from the State budget to local communities;

AGR\_C22: Existence, and election, of local government.

The author will grant particular attention to **State services deconcentration** (and decentralisation) **mechanisms** in rural areas, to the taxation system in rural areas and to local public finance: How much autonomy is granted to local communities? What place is granted to farmers in decision-making bodies and, more generally, what is the extent of **co-management of the agricultural sector** by an elected profession and by the State (elected professional entities, autonomous budget, source, training...).

The study will grant a place to the role of regional and international cooperation in building the capacity of such entities. It must evaluate to which extent the public policies related to rural governance take into account territory-based approaches.

### 3. PART 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MSSD (6 P)

The objective of this part is to allow a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the orientations and actions of the MSSD in the national strategy for rural development and to propose pathways of reflection for a sustainable alternative scenario.

The author will comment, whenever possible, on each of the components of the MSSD of which a complete list is given in annex 2:

- ?? its completion status;
- ?? the difficulties encountered and obstacles identified in relation to its implementation;
- ?? the means necessary to achieve the objectives set by the country (public/ private investments, economic tools, bilateral/ regional cooperation...);
- ?? the direct and indirect benefits and costs of such measures on the economic, social and environmental levels;
- ?? the possible alternatives.

If need be, the author may refer to passages of this report to illustrate his/her argument or avoid repetition, as well as to any annexed document he/she may deem necessary.

### 4. PART 4: RECOMMENDATIONS (1 P)

This last part is intended for the decision-makers of Mediterranean countries. It must be short, succinct and of an applied nature. It addresses the following aspects:

- ?? Replicable elements to take into consideration in the policies for sustainable rural development;

- ?? Necessary orientations and actions to be implemented on the medium term;
- ?? Relevant indicators on which the national policy needs to be based (not more than ten);
- ?? Pitfalls to be avoided.

## **5. ANNEXES TO BE ATTACHED TO THE REPORT**

- ?? A one page executive summary in the language used in the report
- ?? Statistical annex (main data series);
- ?? List of major references used;
- ?? A note on the conditions of conducting the study and calculation of the indicators, including the difficulties encountered (access to information, quality of the data—consistency and reliability—, absence of zone coverage, unfavourable political context), sources of information consulted, etc. This note will, if need be, put forward proposals of topics calling for a more in-depth consideration on local, national or regional level.

### **III. ANNEXES**

**1. Annex 1: Summary of the chapter entitled “rural areas” of the report “a sustainable future for the mediterranean - THE blue plan’s environment and development outlook”.**

This annex and the full report may be downloaded from the Plan Bleu site at:  
<http://www.planbleu.org/red/>

## 2. Annex 2: Abstract of “the mediterranean strategy for sustainable development” (MSSD)

*The full text of the MSSD may be downloaded from the Plan Bleu site at:*

<http://www.planbleu.org/actualite/fr/StrategieMediterraneenneDeveloppementDurable.htm>

### Chapter: “Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development” (Abstract)

Trade liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products

- ✂ Promote greater awareness in the forthcoming Euro-Mediterranean negotiations by drawing attention to the risks of a over rapid liberalization and emphasize the need for a gradual and asymmetrical approach, in particular to protect vulnerable rural populations in developing countries.
- ✂ Coordinate regional and national initiatives for the integration of sustainable agricultural and rural development issues into future Euro-Mediterranean neighbourhood agreements and programmes.
- ✂ Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of local agricultural products, the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products, such as wine, olive oil, vegetables, fruit, flowers, durum wheat and animal products. Create a conducive regional environment to help countries develop policies and efficient procedures for the labelling and quality certification of Mediterranean food products and to promote the Mediterranean diet.

Promote productive and rational agriculture

- ✂ Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures, including land and water policies, education and training, access to credit and markets, strengthening of farmers’ associations and professional organizations.
- ✂ Promote and/or reinforce the establishment of networks between Mediterranean countries to disseminate and apply sound and innovative agricultural practices, in particular the reduced consumption of water, fertilizers and pesticides, and to promote organic agriculture, local agricultural varieties, traditional techniques, the use of alternative sources of energy and the restoration of soil fertility.
- ✂ Promote regional consultations with Mediterranean countries with a view to adapting to their specific needs the existing legal framework that ensures the sovereignty of countries in matters of gene pools, biodiversity and the right to control the use of GMOs and regulate their movement in conformity with the Cartagena Protocol.

Rural development and local governance

- ✂ Encourage national efforts to promote sustainable agricultural and rural development schemes and programmes based on local development and a participatory process with the aim of improving the living conditions of the rural population and mitigating regional and social inequalities. Special attention should be paid to improving infrastructure and services and promotion of economic diversification, especially through rural tourism, cleaner production, the agro industry and services.
- ✂ Promote regional policies and encourage national programmes to enhance the multifunctionality of agriculture and, in particular its potential to contribute to enhancing the ecological and economic value of landscapes, traditional knowledge and skills and cultural heritage, through tourism and other economic activities.
- ✂ Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors, especially by encouraging local rural development initiatives, and programmes to enhance the involvement of women in the decision-making process.

Sustainable management of rural areas and of the Mediterranean natural environment

- ✍ Identify and implement relevant regional actions to support the implementation of International Conventions on desertification and biodiversity.
- ✍ Reduce the impacts of desertification and the irreversible loss of agricultural land and biodiversity. A desirable target would be to decrease by at least one-third by 2015 the current rates of the loss of agricultural land through erosion, salinization, desertification, urban and other forms of development and abandonment. A desirable goal for biodiversity is to put an end by 2010 to the loss of continental biodiversity in the EU Member States and to reduce it substantially in other Mediterranean countries.
- ✍ Promote, especially in poorer areas of developing countries, the establishment of sustainable agricultural and rural development programmes, biosphere reserves, regional natural parks and contractually based local land use schemes to encourage local communities to manage farmlands, hill areas and woodlands sustainably.
- ✍ Promote forest landscape restoration initiatives to restore forest ecological functions and their capacity to contribute to a sustainable rural economy and provide key ecological services.
- ✍ Expand protected areas through the allocation of sufficient resources to obtain the commitment of local communities. A desirable target by 2010 would be for 10% of all Mediterranean land ecosystems to be under the status of a protected area.
- ✍ Promote political decisions to protect agricultural areas from being built up, particularly through legally binding national and local land use planning schemes.
- ✍ Promote adaptation to climate change by increasing scientific monitoring through appropriate observatories, the enhancement of research on dry farming techniques and the planning of alternative uses for agricultural areas that are under the greatest threat.

### 3. Annex 3: MSSD Indicators for the topic “sustainable agricultural and rural development”

1	AGR_P01	ratio of agricultural population vs rural population
2	AGR_P02	Loss of arable land
3	AGR_P03	Share of the public budget allocated to sustainable rural development programmes
4	AGR_P041	Proportion of quality agricultural products
5	AGR_P042	Proportion of farmland used for organic farming
6	AGR_C01	Share of agricultural employment in rural areas
7	AGR_C02	Number of non farming enterprises in rural areas
8	AGR_C03	Pastureland load rate
9	AGR_C04	Evolution of pastureland foliar index
10	AGR_C05	Number of labelled/certified products
11	AGR_C06	Existence of a legal framework for quality products
12	AGR_C07	Share of processed products in agricultural exports
13	AGR_C08	Number of organic farms or organic farming producers and areas allotted to « organic » products
14	AGR_C09	Number of application files submitted for quality product certification
15	AGR_C10	Fertilisers (NPK) sold / GDPA
16	AGR_C11	Pesticides sold (in T) / GDPA
17	AGR_C12	Number of traction horsepower/ GDPA
18	AGR_C13	Volume of water consumed / GDPA
19	AGR_C14	Proportion of family income spent on food consumption, rural vs. urban
20	AGR_C15	Percentage of farms less than 10 hectares and proportion of those irrigated
21	AGR_C16	Agricultural labourers/ farmers ratio
22	AGR_C17	Percentage of protected areas
23	AGR_C18	Existence of an inventory of endogenous plant and animal genetic resources
24	AGR_C19	Proportion of land area covered by forest (forestry and wooded land)
25	AGR_C20	Number of women interest groups (associations, cooperatives...)
26	AGR_C21	Local levies and transfers not allocated from the State budget to local communities
27	AGR_C22	Existence and election of local government

AGR\_PXX : priority indicator

AGR\_CXX : complementary indicator

### **3.1. Priority indicators**

### **3.2. Complementary indicators**

#### **4. Annex 4 : information list of indicators developed by various international sources**