

# MECHANIZED

## Transforming Africa's Agriculture Value Chains



Morocco is making considerable progress in terms of agricultural mechanization. Between 2005 and 2014, the average agricultural machinery growth rate was 3.67 percent, while the level of agricultural output growth rate reached 4 percent. The 2018 Biennial Review Report by the African Union revealed that Morocco is on track to meet Malabo Commitment area #3.1, "access to agriculture inputs and technologies," with a score of 7.46, far exceeding the minimum score of 5.53. The overall commitment category score is 10. Such progress is largely due to institutional and programmatic commitments to enhance mechanization in the country.

### INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS

Morocco has a Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Machinery situated within the National Institute of Agronomic Research, which is a public service dating back to 1914 with the creation of the first official agricultural research services. One of the main activities of the department is the design and development of machines and tools specific to Moroccan operating systems and the testing of new agricultural machinery.<sup>1</sup> In addition, since 2001 an Agricultural Mechanization Training Center (CFMA) has been created within the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute. It aims to promote agricultural mechanization in Morocco primarily through the training of agricultural advisers.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, fiscal measures have been put in place, such as an exemption from value added taxes with a deduction applicable to much agricultural equipment, including tractors, combine harvesters, and tillers. Furthermore, on the local private-sector side, since 1983 some importers of agricultural equipment have created the Moroccan Association of Importers of Agricultural Equipment (AMIMA), whose objective it is to represent and protect the professional interests of its members. AMIMA is

today the interlocutor of its sector vis-à-vis third parties and a source of reliable information on sales statistics concerning agricultural equipment.<sup>3</sup>

### POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC COMMITMENTS

To stimulate the acquisition of agricultural equipment, several incentives have been put in place by the government and the private sector. The government subsidizes agricultural equipment acquisition by farmers through the Agricultural Development Fund. The objective is to stimulate private investment in the agricultural sector and guide it, through targeted subsidies, toward activities that harness the country's agricultural potential.<sup>4</sup> The subsidy for the acquisition of agricultural equipment ranges from 30 to 70 percent, depending on the type of equipment.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, the private sector plays a key role in the supply of agricultural tools and machinery. Agreements have been signed by *Plan Maroc Vert* partner banks and suppliers of agricultural equipment to provide specific financing opportunities.

As part of the *Plan Maroc Vert*, subsidies to encourage the formation of aggregation systems are put in place. The government finances 10 percent of the aggregation project cost and pays a premium per production unit (such as hectare, head of cattle, or ton). In the region of Doukkala-Abda, a project involving the aggregation of 10,766 dairy farmers, representing 24 percent of the region's producers, was set up in 2013 around the Nestlé Morocco plant. The breeders own 17,700 cows and are organized into 130 milk collection cooperatives. As part of this project, Nestlé Morocco aggregates the collection of total milk production and provides access to financing for milk production equipment, including irrigation and milking tools. It is estimated that the project will achieve milk production of 74 million liters per year, compared with an initial level of 40 million liters in 2013.<sup>6</sup>

There is evidence that innovations in the mechanization of irrigation systems has allowed the Moroccan agricultural sector to become more resilient to climate change. Due to growing water scarcity, Morocco has implemented a National Plan for Irrigation Water Economy. The plan aims to improve the traditional irrigation system by expanding the use of localized irrigation systems, in particular through drip irrigation. The areas equipped with drip irrigation registered a significant increase between 2008 and 2014, reaching around 450,000 hectares, on the way to reaching the 550,000 hectares planned for 2020 by the Green Morocco Plan.<sup>7</sup>



# Morocco

Morocco has shown strong ambitions in accelerating agricultural growth and has positioned itself for large-scale adoption of new agricultural technologies through strong subsidy programs. With institutions dedicated to

mechanization training and research and strong public-private partnerships, Morocco has shown effective strategies to advance the uptake of mechanization along the value chain.

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- 3 AMIMA (Association Marocaine des Importateurs de Matériel Agricole). Présentation. Accessed 5 June 2018. <http://www.amima.ma/presentation.aspx>.
- 4 Agency for Agricultural Development. 2015. Investor's Guide in the Agricultural Sector in Morocco. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco. Rabat, Morocco. [http://www.agriculture.gov.ma/sites/default/files/investors\\_guide\\_in\\_the\\_agricultural\\_sector\\_in\\_morocco.pdf](http://www.agriculture.gov.ma/sites/default/files/investors_guide_in_the_agricultural_sector_in_morocco.pdf).
- 5 ADA (Agence pour le Développement Agricole). Accompagnement dans la mise en œuvre des projets agricoles. Accessed 5 June 2018. <http://www.ada.gov.ma/page/accompagnement-dans-la-mise-en-oeuvre-des-projets-agricoles>.
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