



Venue: MCAST, Conference Hall, Engineering and Transport Institute, Block N,  
[\(link to location on map\)](#)

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<b>Agenda</b>	
<b>5 December 2024: Coping with droughts in agriculture in the Mediterranean Region</b>	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome address <i>In honour of the late Emeritus Prof. Dr. Nilgun B. Harmancioglu, Honored Faculty Member of Dokuz Eylul University, Former Founder and Director of Water Resources Research Center SUMER, Honored Member of European Water Resources Association (EWRA)</i>
09:15 - 10:00	30 years of environmental research driven by the aspirations and expectations of local communities <i>Anna Spiteri, Managing Director, IRMCo, Malta</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Achievements of the PRIMA funded Mara-Mediterra project, Safeguarding the livelihood of rural communities and the environment in the Mediterranean through NbSs <i>Eleanna Pana, Mara-Mediterra Project Manager, SWRI, Greece</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 11:15	Research outcomes of the Xjenza Malta-TUBITAK funded UNIMED Project, UNified framework to cope with droughts under MEDiterranean climate change conditions <i>Dr. Filiz Barbaros, DEU DESUM, Türkiye</i>
11:15 - 12:15	Panel discussion: How to sustain EU funded research project legacies Panelists: <i>Dr. Vasileios Takavakoglou, Mara-Mediterra Project Coordinator, SWRI, Greece, Dr. Cem P. Cetinkaya UNIMED Scientific Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator of Technology Transfer Office of DEU, Türkiye, Dr. Ali Gul, Deputy Director DEU DESUM, Türkiye, Dr. Lorna Bonnici West, Director of R&amp;I at the Applied and Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC), MCAST</i> Moderator: <i>Eng. Dirk De Ketelaere, Senior Researcher, IRMCo</i>
12:15 - 12:30	Wrap up and a look ahead at the agenda on second day (6 December 2024)



Safeguarding the livelihood of rural communities  
 and the environment in the Mediterranean  
 through Nature-based Solutions





<h2 style="margin: 0;">Agenda</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">6 December 2024: Coping with droughts and the uptake of Nature-based Solutions in the Maltese agricultural sector</h3>	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:10	Introduction
09:10 - 09:30	Challenges and opportunities in the uptake of Nature-based Solutions: The Mara-Mediterra experience <i>Dr. Vasileios Takavakoglou, Mara-Mediterra Project Coordinator, SWRI, Greece</i>
09:30 - 09:50	Resolving stakeholder conflict: the story of Lake Marmara <i>Dr. Cem Polat Cetinkaya, Teamleader DEU DESUM, Türkiye</i>
09:50 - 10:10	Historical evidence-based analysis of droughts in the Maltese Islands <i>Eng. Dirk De Ketelaere, Senior Researcher, IRMCo, Malta</i>
10:10 - 10:30	Development of a Survivability to Droughts Index <i>Dr. Mert Can Günaçtı, DEU DESUM, Türkiye</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 - 11:20	Research insights on the impact of nature-based solutions on biodiversity and agroecosystem services <i>Dr. Mario V Balzan, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Applied Sciences, MCAST</i>
11:20 - 11:40	Viability of implementing sustainable agricultural practices in the Maltese context towards a healthier lifestyle <i>Dr. Byron Baron, Research Academic Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking, University of Malta</i>
11:40 - 12:30	Panel discussion: Driving the uptake of policy recommendations Panelists: <i>Dr. Annalisa Cartabia, Senior Executive, Multilaterals - Internationalisation, Xjenza Malta, Dr. Lorna Bonnici West, Director of R&amp;I at the Applied and Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC), MCAST, Christopher Ciantar, Project Coordinator - SYNECO</i> Moderator: <i>Anna Spiteri, Managing Director, IRMCo, Malta</i>



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