



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

Integrating land tenure security to achieve land degradation
neutrality

February, 22, 2021

Insights from country case studies of bridging the
gap between VGGT and LDN

Tunisian experience

**Land consolidation and conservation
actions an instrument to combat land
degradation**

Gharbi, Wissal / *Agricultural Land Agency
Republic of Tunisia*



Mecanismos de land consolidation operation

- **Legal mecanismos :**

4 laws (1958, 1963, 1977 and 2000) plus other laws concerning the protection of Agricultural land and the registration of land rights

- **Institutional mecanismos :**

Plurality of institutions involved

- **Financial mecanismos :**

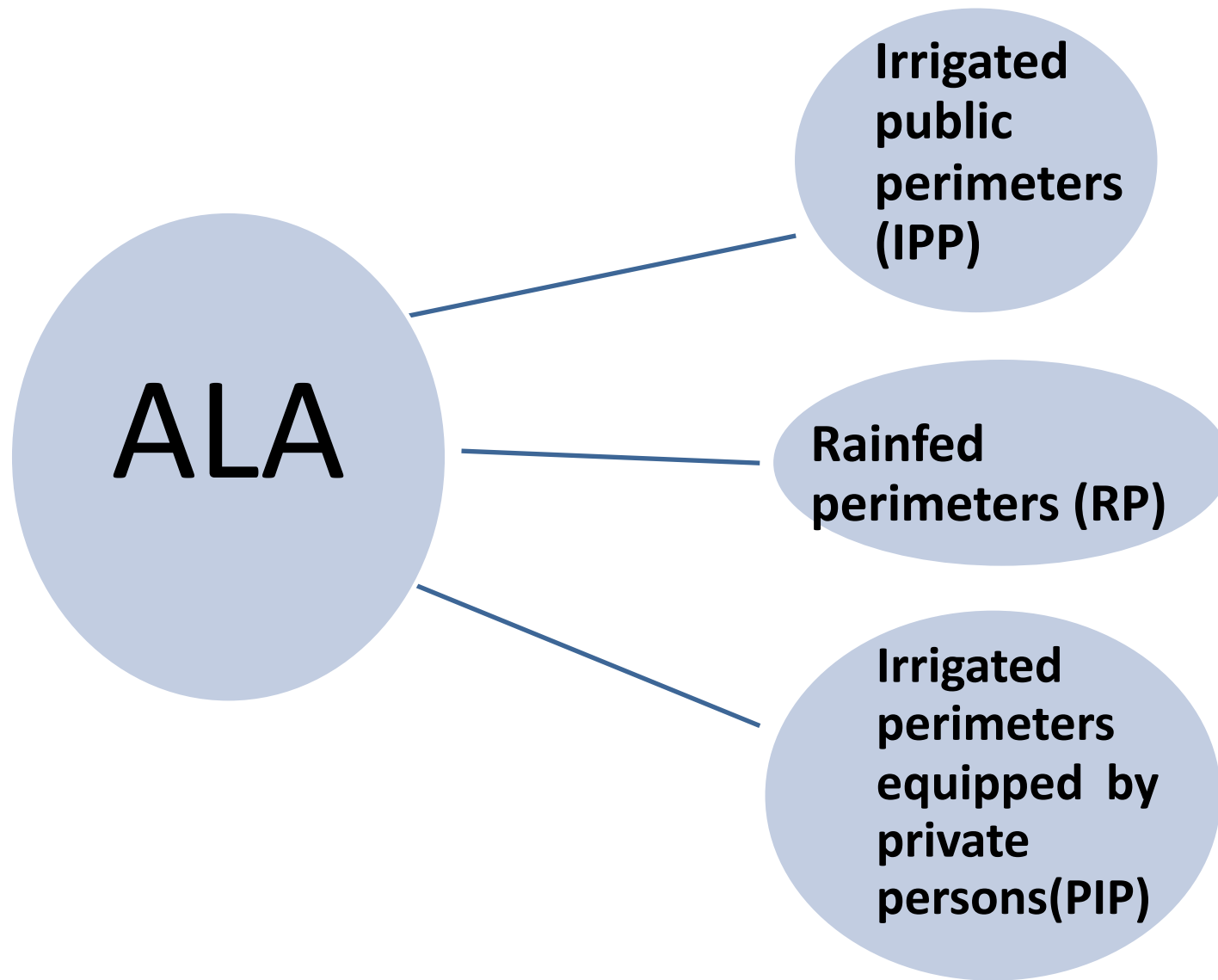
- * Public funding
- * Financing based on the conclusion of conventions
- * Funding from foreign or international organizations

- **Technical mecanismos :**

- * Reorganization of dispersed and small parcels and allocation of a new plot with a suitable agricultural path
- * the requirement of a minimum area for each farmer not to go below
- * Control of land transactions



Perimeters object of land consolidation



Contribution of Land consolidation and conservation in combating land fragmentation and soil degradation

Dispersing, small areas and irregular shape of plots belonging to one owner or co-owners
+ excessive spending without good result
+ Conflicts between co-owners

abandonment of some of these plots and difficulties of carrying out soil protection actions

Soil degradation of the abandoned plots + erosion + misuse of land + desertification ...

Land consolidation and reorganization combined with soil and water conservation actions as a solution for a better use of land and irrigation water



Example of a land consolidation project combined with soil conservation actions in the North-east of Tunisia

المنطقة السقوية العمومية بالساحلين

Public irrigated perimeter



Equal participation of women and men in land consolidation and conservation operations

As owners (by inheritance or by purchase)

By giving their
opinions on the
project design

+

By helping to clarify
their land rights (when
deep inquiries are
realised)



**Garantee of their rights on land
by registration**



The plot N° 559 is registered (judgment N° 37836) in favor of Mrs Yagouta graoui (11ha) in the rainfed perimeter of « Majel Chamalia » in Kasserine (Center of Tunisia)



Lessons learned from land consolidation and conservation

Upgrading farms by creating plots with regular form, accessible and economically viable and profitable and favoring crops in contour lines (against the slope) in order to combat soil degradation due to erosion, misuse of land and desertification

Clearance of the land property which secures the land, engender a healthy social environment and promote and facilitate access to credits and grants in order to invest on the new plot

Significant role of women in the exploitation of the new plots allocated after the execution of land consolidation and conservation and in the preservation of ecosystems



Importance of the participatory approach between ALA and farmers and between it and other stakeholders for the short, medium and long term success of land consolidation and conservation projects

Participation of land consolidation projects in the establishment of a more balanced, sustainable and inclusive territorial development, in a sustainable and concerted management of natural resources and in the reorganization of rural areas in order to make them prosperous

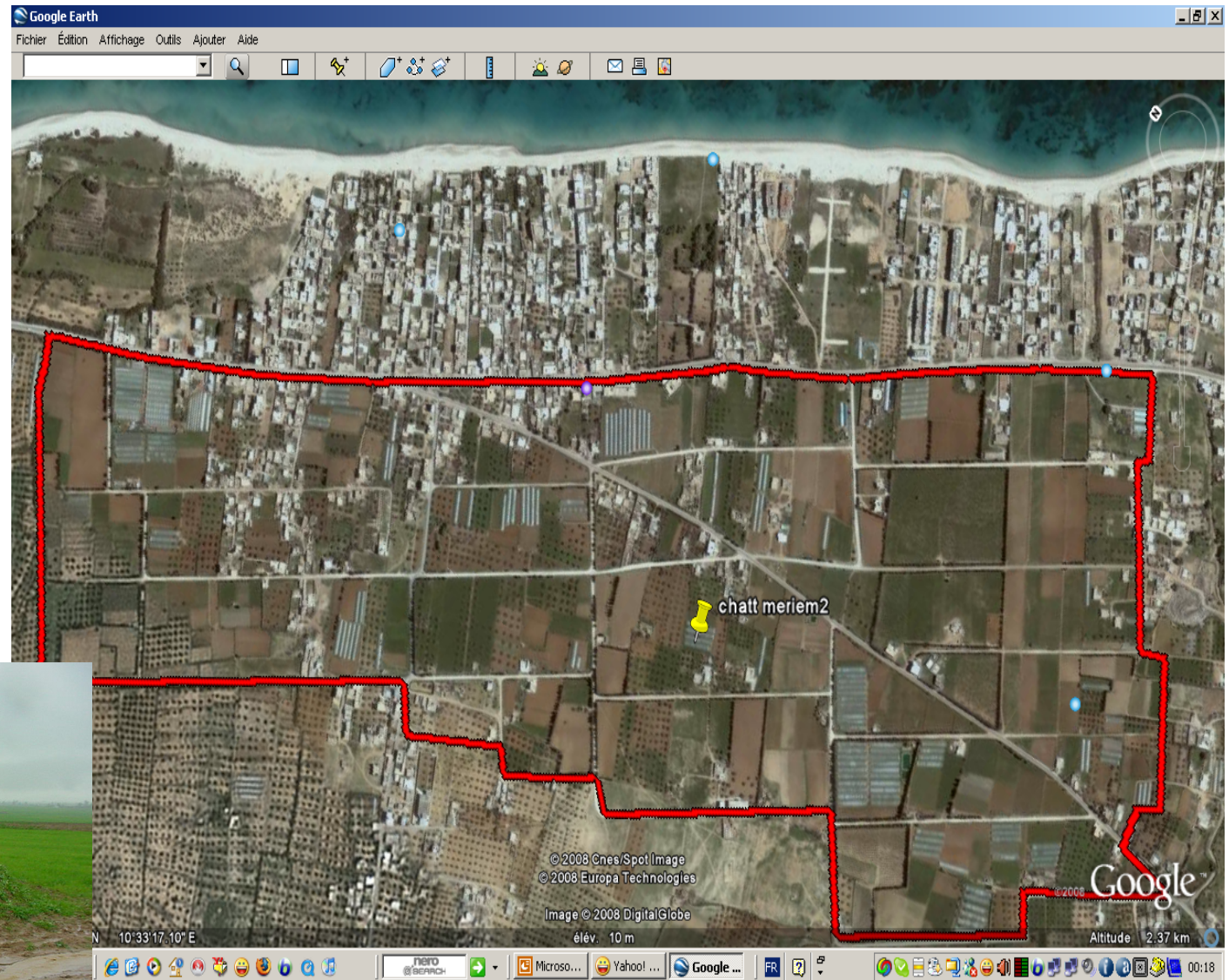


Challenges

- **Unexpected climatic changes (successive drought, decrease of precipitations...) which may worsen the current situation of drought, desertification and degradation of agricultural land,**
- **Weak Control of excessive agricultural land use by farmers**
- **Aggravation of the salinization phenomenon that degrades land because of the excessive use of groundwater (South Tunisia) and of surface water (North Tunisia),**
- **Urban expansion and the implementation of industrial projects on agricultural land even the most fertile.**
- **lack of material and human resources in public institutions involved to monitor land consolidation perimeters.**
- **Plurality of parties involved in the registration of rights (great delay in the registration procedures).**



Example of urban invasion on the PIP of « Chatt Meriem » (Sahel of Tunisia) after execution of land consolidation and conservation actions





الوكالة العقارية الفلاحية

Agricultural Land Agency

Agence Foncière Agricole



Thank you for your attention

