



SUSTAIN COST Action



International Workshop Series



SUSTAIN

Sustainable use of salt-affected lands



SUSTAIN WORKSHOP

Regenerative Soil and Water Solutions
for Salt-Affected Agroecosystems
in Arid Regions



September 29–30, 2026

Cairo—Alexandria Desert Road
Green Desert Resort, Egypt

Event Details & Registration
sustaincostaction.eu/SUSTAIN-IW



National
Research
Centre



INNOVATIVE
RESEARCH



SUSTAINABLE
SOLUTIONS



GLOBAL
COLLABORATION



RESILIENT
FUTURE

SUSTAIN International Workshop

Title : Regenerative Soil and Water Solutions for Salt-Affected Agroecosystems in Arid Regions

Local organizers : Organized jointly by the National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, and ADGA Agriculture, under the framework of COST Action SUSTAIN (CA22144).

Venue: Cairo–Alexandria Desert Road & Greater Cairo Region, Egypt

Date : 29–30 September 2026

Workshop Overview

SUSTAIN Workshop will bring together **science, policy, and practice** to address one of the most pressing challenges in arid regions: **soil salinity and water scarcity**. Through high-level keynote lectures, focused technical sessions, expert panels, and immersive field visits to **salt-affected commercial farms**, participants will explore **regenerative soil and water solutions** that are scientifically sound, practically feasible, and scalable.

DAY 1 – Tuesday , 29 September 2026

Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Policy Dialogue & Field Insight

Venue: Green Desert Resort , Cairo–Alexandria Desert Road

08:00 – 09:30 | Opening Session

- Registration , Welcome and opening remarks (Icebreaker)
 - Introduction to the **SUSTAIN COST Action: Kate Negacz, Action chair**
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09:30 – 10:15 | Opening Keynote – Policy & Transition

How to Transition Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture

Tycho Vermeulen

Agricultural Counselor to Egypt & Jordan

Dutch Embassy in Cairo | Wageningen University & Research

10:15 – 10:30 | Host Country Perspective

Implementing Regenerative Agriculture in Salt-Affected Lands:

The Role of Egypt's National Research Centre

Dr. Islam Farhat Zaky Hassan

Local Organizer – National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 | Scientific Keynote – Water & Drylands

Water Scarcity, Salinity, and Irrigation Pathways in Dryland Agroecosystems

Vinay Nangia, Ph.D.

Principal Water Scientist, ICARDA (CGIAR)

11.45 – 12:30 | Senior Visionary Keynote – Biosaline Systems

Degradation to Regeneration: Sustainable Pathways for Saline and Sodic Soils

Maria Konyushkova,

Global Soil Partnership secretariat,

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch Break: Lunch, patricians have to pay by themselves for a reduced prices offered from Green Desert resort only for Sustain attendees .

13:30 – 14:15 | National & Institutional Perspective

Advancing Regenerative Irrigation and Soil–Water Management in Egypt

Prof. Mohie El Din Omar

Professor of Irrigation & Water Management

ICARDA (CGIAR) – Acting Representative in Egypt

14:15 - 14:45 | Implementation & Delivery

Lessons from the Egyptian Private Sector Expertise Dealing with Salinity

Mr.Mounir Haddad

Local organizer and CEO of ADGA Company for Agricultural Investments

14.45 – 15:30 | Bio-saline Applied Innovation

Turning saline lands into productive landscapes: Halophytes potential and their value chains

Dr. Dionysia – Angeliki Lyra,

Halophyte Chief Agronomist, Former Principal Agronomist scientist For FAO.

15:30 – 16:30 | Flash talks

- **Five minutes short presentations by 10 selected trainees to showcase their research which already postered .**
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16:30 – 16.45 | Short break

16.45 – 18:00 | On-Site Field Visit – El Madaway Farm

Introductory Demonstration in a Salt-Affected Agroecosystem

Focus:

- Field-scale salinity indicators
 - Irrigation–salinity interactions
 - Practical entry points for regenerative soil and water management
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20:00 | Joint Networking Dinner (*Green desert Resort*)

DAY 2 – 30 September 2026

Field Validation & Applied Learning in Commercial Agroecosystems

07:00 – 07:30 | Early Departure

- Breakfast
 - Safety and logistics briefing
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07:45 – 09:00 | Field Visit 1 – Eva farm Farm

High-efficiency irrigation & soil management under salinity

09:15 – 10:30 | Field Visit 2 – Dina Farms

Integrated large-scale agribusiness under arid conditions

10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break (On the Move at Dina farms Canteen)

11:00 – 12:15 | Field Visit 3 – Blue Nile Farm

Adaptive management under salinity stress

12:15 – 13:00 | Lunch Break

13:15 – 14:30 | Field Visit 4 – GM Farm

Regenerative entry points in commercial systems

14:45 – 16:00 | Field Visit 5 – Fresh Energy Farm

Energy–water–agriculture nexus

16:15 – 17:30 | Field Visit 6 – Belco Farm

Farmer-led innovation and adaptive decision-making

17:30 – 18:00 | Field Reflection & Synthesis (Green desert resort) Official Closure

- Key observations across farms
 - Common challenges and solutions under salinity
 - Priority research, policy, and innovation gaps
 - Best poster and flashtalk award
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19:30 – 21:30 | Nile Cruise Dinner & (Optional)