



United Nations



المملكة المغربية
ROYAUME DU MAROC
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

اليوم العالمي لشجرة الأركان
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Journée Internationale de l'Arganier
International Day of Argania
May 10th 10 ماي



International Day of Argania

Celebrated by Morocco on **10 May 2024**

"The Argan Tree facing the challenges of climate change"



Context

The United Nations will celebrate on **10 May 2024**, the **fourth International Day of Argania**, since its proclamation by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/262 in 2021. The resolution, submitted by Morocco, was co-sponsored by a large number of UN member states. This celebration crowns the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco to promote the Argan tree as a pillar of a rich heritage and an ancestral source of resilient and sustainable development.

The Kingdom of Morocco is investing in preserving community practices for the sustainable management of the species and the ecosystem, especially in the context climate change marked by acute drought. We, women and men of the Arganeraie take the opportunity to share with the world our knowledge to build resilience and the emblematic ecosystem of Argania that carries know-how, useful experiences to rebuild biodiversity, contribute to food security and restore a balanced link between humans and nature.

The theme of this year's International Day, "***The Argan Tree facing the challenges of climate change***" aims to highlight the challenges facing the ecosystem and the role of the Argania tree in strengthening sustainable development and environmental conservation efforts. It is also an opportunity to promote efforts that empower communities and rural women through the support and promotion of cooperatives and agricultural organizations.

The multifaceted Argan tree

The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is an endemic species to the arid and semi-arid of central areas of Morocco. It is the pivotal species of the Arganeraie ecosystem, which is home to rich and endemic flora and fauna. The argan trees adapts to harsh environments marked with water scarcity, poor soils and high erosion risk.

This ecosystem of extraordinary beauty is not only important in terms of conservation, but also for research and socio-economic development, due to its agro-sylvo-pastoral uses.

Although communities place great value on all parts of the tree and fruit, the Argan oil is extracted from the kernels is the most famous. It is used in many fields, such as traditional medicine and cooking, as well as the food and cosmetic industries. Thanks to scientific research, this oil revealed its benefits for health and well-being.

The Argan tree as a fundamental pillar for sustainable development

The Argan tree and its products are key resources that contribute to both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and to the sustainable development objectives. The value Argan oil value chain provides incomes capable of contributing to improving the resilience of women and households and improving their ability to adapt to climate change.

The sustainable Argan production sector contributes to the economic empowerment and financial inclusion of local communities, especially women living in rural areas. Cooperatives are key instruments to promote local job opportunities, and to strengthen food security, and to alleviate poverty.

For centuries, the Argan tree was a foundation of rural communities, and their specific culture and identity. Under the shade of the argan tree, traditional knowledge and skills are shared through non-formal education, particularly the unique knowledge associated with the forest management the traditional production of Argan oil by women.

Objectives of the event:

The 4th edition of the international celebration of the Argan tree aims to:

1. Promote greater understanding of the argan ecosystem and species response to climate change and their potential role in mitigation and adaptation.
2. Highlight the importance of its preservation, this serves as a cornerstone for cultivating sustainable practices that enhance the long-term well-being of both the environment and the communities dependent on the argan tree.
3. Promote the adoption of biodiversity preservation and climate change mitigation policies that integrate the protection of the argan tree.
4. Strengthening international partnerships and promoting cooperation to support initiatives for the conservation of the argan forest.