

## EFI Mediterranean Network Forum 2026

### Day one: Monday, 23 March 2026

*Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia*

**14.30 – 15.30** **Registration**

**15.30 – 17.00** **Opening session**

15.30 – 15.40 **Michele Bozzano**, Head of European Forest Institute Engagement Unit

15.40 – 15.50 Representative from the Spanish Minister for Science, Innovation, and Universities is

15.50 – 16.00 Representative from the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and  
Demographic Challenge

16.00 – 16.10 **Santiago Morán Medina**, Head of Area of the Regional Programme with the Arab  
World Masar al'an, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation  
(AECID)

16.10 – 16.20 Representative from the Generalitat Valenciana

16.20 – 16.30 Representative from the Polytechnical University of Valencia

16.30 – 16.40 Representative from the Botanical Garden / University of Valencia

**16.40 – 17.00** **Science guiding Mediterranean forest futures: Launching a week of dialogue and  
action**

**Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat**, Lead of the Mediterranean Facility of the European  
Forest Institute.

**17.00 – 17.30** **Group photo**

**17.30 – 18.30** *Guided visits in the Botanical Garden (optional)*

**18.30 – 20.30** **Social cocktail**

## Day two: Tuesday, 24 March 2026

Valencia Polytechnic University

### 9.00 – 10.45 Session 1: Forests and Diplomacy

9.00 – 9.10 Introduction by the session chair

**Constanza Parra Novoa**, KU Leuven

9.10 – 9.40 Keynote presentation: *Title TBD*

**Alicia Perez-Porro**, CREAF

9.40 – 10.20 Panel discussion

**Eduardo Rojas**, Valencia Polytechnic University (UPV)

**Valentina Garavaglia**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**Giuseppe Provenzano**, Union for the Mediterranean

**Laurent Alfonso**, Embassy of France in Jordan (Amman)

**Santiago Morán Medina**, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

**Margarida Barceló Fontanals**, Diputació de Barcelona (DIBA)

**Roland Andary**, Metrit municipality, Lebanon

10.20 – 10.35 Q&A with panellists

10.35 – 10.45 Poster flash talks

### 10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

### 11.15 – 13.00 Session 2: Ecosystem Services and Bioeconomy

11.15 – 11.20 Introduction by the session chair

**Toni Ventre**, Mediterranean Model Forest Network

11.20 – 11.40 Keynote presentation: *Title TBD*

**Bart Muys**, KU Leuven

11.40 – 11.50 Featured talk 1: Fire avoidance

11.50 – 12.00 Featured talk 2: Market based instruments

12.00 – 12.10 Featured talk 3: Carbon Credits

**Bianca Sipala**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) *online*

12.10 – 12.40 Panel discussion

**José-Vicente Oliver-Villanueva**, Valencia Polytechnic University (UPV)

**Samiha Khelifa**, Tunisian National Engineering School of Manouba **TBC**

**Matilda van den Bosch**, European Forest Institute (EFI)

12.40 – 12.50 Q&A with panellists

12.50 – 13.00 Poster flash talks

**13.00 – 14.30** *Lunch*

**14.30 – 16.15** **Session 3: Biodiversity and Resilience**

14.30 – 14.35 Introduction by the session chair

**Daniel Arizpe Ochoa**, Forest Research and Experimentation Center (CIEF)

14.35 – 14.55 Keynote presentation:

**Xavier Morin**, CEFE, CNRS Montpellier **TBC**

14.55 – 15.05 Featured talk 1: Forest Resilience

15.05 – 15.15 Featured talk 2: Forest vulnerability to drought

15.15 – 15.25 Featured talk 3: Pests and diseases

15.25 – 15.55 Panel discussion

Representative from Valencian Municipalities Forest Owners Association (AMUFOR)

**Monica Hernandez**, IUCN Med

Shouf Biosphere reserve

15.55 – 16.05 Q&A with panellists

16.05 – 16.15 Poster flash talks

**16.15 – 16.30** *Coffee break*

**16.30 – 17.30** **MEDFORGEN launch**

16.30 – 16.35 Introduction

**Michele Bozzano**, Head of European Forest Institute Engagement Unit

16.35 – 16.50 Presentation of the MEDFORGEN project

**Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat**, European Forest Institute (EFI)

16.50 – 17.05 Presentation of the Mediterranean trees' checklist

**Bruno Fady**, INRAE

17.05 – 17.20 Changes in potential habitat suitability of key Mediterranean forest trees

**Dania Abdul Malak**, University of Malaga

17.20 – 17.30 Q&A

## Day three: Wednesday, 25 March 2026

*Valencia Polytechnic University*

**9.00 – 10.45** **Hackaton part one**

*Participants will be divided in groups to work together and discuss innovations connected to some focus topics:*

- **Watershed management**
- **Carbon credits**
- **Forest genetic resources**
- **Carob value chain**

**10.45 – 11.15** *Coffee break*

**11.15 – 13.00** **Hackaton part 2**

*Hackaton Continuation*

**13.00 – 14.30** *Lunch*

**14.30 – 15.45** **Hackaton wrap up**

*Hackaton plenary and wrap up*

**15.45 – 16.00** *Coffee break*

**16.00 – 18.00** **Innovative Youth Engagement Strategies for Forests**

16.00 – 16.10 *Introduction*

**Maria Gonzales**, European Forest Institute (EFI)

16.10 – 17.00 *Presentations of innovative initiatives*

17.00 – 18.00 *Roundtable with presenters and Q&A*

## Day four: Thursday, 26 March 2026

### *Field visits*

*The timings are approximate, the detailed programmes will be available soon.*

**8.30**

**Departure point TBC**

#### **Field visit A - Watershed management**

The visit will show the impact and importance of natural spaces and vegetation in regulating runoff after an extreme event. The visit will include stops at natural areas along the basin affected by the torrential rains of the 2024 DANA.

#### **Field visit B - Carob value chain**

The visit includes a tour of a modern carob production field and an explanation on key cultivation methods and varieties. Participants will also visit a monumental carob tree in Chiva to learn about its ecological, cultural, and historical significance.

**19.00**

**Return to Valencia**

## Day five: Friday, 27 March 2026

*Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia*

### Carob workshop

<b>9.00 – 10.15</b>		<b>Session 1 Getting to Know Our Carob Trees: Carob as a Resource</b>
9.00 – 9.05		Introduction by the session chair
		Stefano La Malfa, University of Catania
9.05 – 9.20		Presentation title TBC
		<b>Joan Viruel</b> , University of Zaragoza
9.20 – 9.35		Presentation title TBC
		Agusti Romero <b>TBC</b>
9.35 – 9.50		Presentation title TBC
		INRA Morocco <b>TBC</b>
9.50 – 10.05		From Centennial Carob Trees to Future Cultivars: Diversity, Drought Resilience, and Conservation Strategies. <b>Mohamad Ali E Chami</b> , University of Córdoba
10.05 – 10.15		Q&A
<b>10.15 – 11.30</b>		<b>Session 2 Sustainable Cultivation Practices for Climate-Resilient Carob Systems in the Mediterranean</b>
10.15 – 10.20		Introduction by the session chair
		Mokhtar Baraket, INGREF
10.20 – 10.35		Development of Carob Cultivation in Tunisia and Value Addition of Its Products
		<b>AbdelHamid Khaldi</b> , INGREF
10.35 – 10.50		Adaptation of Mediterranean Tree Crop Systems to Climate Change Scenarios: The Carob Tree as a Case Study
		<b>Mehdi ben Mimoun</b> , INAT
10.50 – 11.05		Local Practices and National Governance: Developing an Agroecological Carob Value Chain in Tunisia
		<b>Eduard Jan</b> , CAPTE TUNISIA
11.05 – 11.20		Presentation title TBC
		<b>Hicham Bel Mir</b> , ARBOVERT Nursery
11.20 – 11.30		Q&A
<b>11.30 – 12.00</b>		<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>12.00 – 13.15</b>		<b>Session 3 Processing, Industrial Applications, and Value Addition</b>
12.00 – 12.05		Introduction by the session chair
		Edgar Esteve, UPV
12.05 – 12.20		Presentation title TBC
		<b>Harris PRATSINIS</b> , Institute of Biosciences and Application, NCSR
12.20 – 12.35		Presentation title TBC

12.35 – 12.50	Mondial Caroub / NEXIRA / LBG/ EIG/INEC <b>TBC</b> Presentation title TBC
12.50 – 13.05	<b>Imen Ismaili</b> , GDA women cooperative Presentation title TBC
13.05 – 13.15	<b>Hala Daoud</b> , Saint Joseph University Q&A
<b>13.15 – 14.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.30 – 15.45</b>	<b>Session 4 Market development and trade</b>
14.30 – 14.35	Introduction by the session chair Nabil Assaf, FAO
14.35 – 14.50	Presentation title TBC
14.50 – 15.05	<b>Hamed Daly</b> , INGREF Presentation title TBC
15.05 – 15.20	<b>TBC</b> Presentation title TBC
15.20 – 15.35	<b>Ikram Boublenza</b> , BOUBLenza industry Presentation title TBC
15.35 – 15.45	<b>Ayman Moghaniyeh</b> , NAKED INNOVATION Q&A
<b>15.45 – 16.00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16.00 – 18.00</b>	<b>Session 5 Carob Natural and Cultural Heritage</b>
16.00 – 16.15	Introduction by session chair and Presentation title TBC
16.15 – 16.30	<b>Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat</b> , European Forest Institute (EFI) Presentation title TBC
16.30 – 16.45	<b>Vicente Serena</b> Presentation title TBC
16.45 – 17.00	<b>Epimenides Museum representative</b> Presentation title TBC
17.00 – 17.30	<b>Luca Iozzia</b> Presentation title TBC
17.30 – 17.45	<b>Rachel Thomas</b> Presentation title TBC
17.45 – 18.00	<b>Nuria Ferriol</b> Presentation title TBC
18.00 – 20.00	<b>Dulçaina Musica</b> <b>Carob Food exhibition</b>