

Abdelhakim Issaoui: *General Engineer in Agronomy and in Ecology*

Mr. Issaoui, is an expert of agroecology, specializing in biodiversity, desertification, and drought. He develops strategies, programs and projects relating to the environment and management of natural resources.

Issaoui began as a young researcher in the National Institute for Research in Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry from 1990 to 1994 in the field of ecology. Following this, he joined the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment in charge of programs to combat desertification, promote biodiversity, address climate change, as well as promote and manage natural and agricultural heritage. Through these focus areas he was National Focal Points (NFP) for several multilateral agreements, including the Cartagena Protocol, the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources / Convention on Biological Diversity, and currently for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS/FAO), and the Man and Biosphere Program (MAB/UNESCO).

In addition to his engineering work for the government, Issaoui also freelances as a teacher of environmentally-related courses at several Tunisian universities: Heritage Institute (2010 – 2014), the National Agronomic Institute (2007 – 2014) and the Sylvopastoral Institute (2020 – 2023).