



COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

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July 2019 [No. 18]

The High Council of Moroccan—American Scholars and Academics Elected Its New Board of Directors

The Council elected its new Board of Directors on February 7, 2019. The new Board of Directors Composition is below and the members will serve for a three-years term (2019-2021).



President:

Abdelmajid Kassem, PhD, Professor and Dept. Chair, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Fayetteville State University, USA
E-mail: abdelmajidk@gmail.com



VP-USA:

Khalid Meksem, PhD, Professor, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Agricultural Systems, Southern Illinois University, USA.
Email: meksem@siu.edu



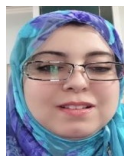
VP-Europe:

Abdelhafid Bendahmane, PhD, Research Director, INRA, Paris, France
Email: bendahm@evry.inra.fr



VP-MEA & Africa (Middle East & Africa):

El Hassan Achbani, PhD, INRA, Morocco
Email: achbanieh@gmail.com



Secretary:

Sanaa Rajaallah, BS, Fayetteville, NC, USA
Email: rajsanaa76@yahoo.com

Members at Large-USA:



Mohammed Boutjdjir,
PhD, Professor, State
University of New
York, NY, USA



Naoufal Lakhssassi,
PhD, Research Asso-
ciate, Southern Illi-
nois University, USA



Abdeslem El Idrissi,
PhD, Professor, City
University of New
York, NY, USA

The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics—HC-MASA will organize the Fifth International American Moroccan Agricultural Sciences Conference—AMAS Conference V Sometime in Oct. 2020 in Tangier—Tetouane Region, Morocco!

In This Issue

- Council's New Board
- AMAS Conference IV
- Articles Published By Council Members
- Fulbright Scholar
- Prof. My Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship
- Council's New Members, and
- Much more!

Council Members Published Articles (January – July, 2019)

- Gunvant B. Patil, **Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Jinrong Wan, Li Song, Zhou Zhou, Mariola Klepadlo, Tri D. Vuong, Adrian O. Stec, Sondus S. Kahil, Vincent Colantonio, Babu Valliyodan, J. Hollis Rice, Sarbottam Piya, Tarek Hewezi, Robert M. Stupar, **Khalid Meksem**, and Henry T. Nguyen (2019) Whole-genome re-sequencing reveals the impact of the interaction of copy number variants of the *rhg1* and *Rhg4* genes on broad-based resistance to soybean cyst nematode. *Plant Biotechnology Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.13086>.
- Kahama I, K. Kohaich, **M. Baaziz** & M. Labhilili (2019) Quantitative and Qualitative Aspects of Soluble and Ionically Wall-Bound Peroxidases of EMS-Mutagenized Durum Wheat Lines (*Triticum durum*), as Tested for Yield at Drought Conditions. *Agricultural Research* 8 (2): 148-157. DOI: 10.1007/s40003-018-0361-3.
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Congratulations to Our Members!
Keep Up The Good Work!





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Congratulations to Our Members!
Keep Up The Good Work!

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SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

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Genome reorganization of the *GmSHMT* gene family in soybean showed a lack of functional redundancy in resistance to soybean cyst nematode

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Naoufal Lakhssassi¹, Gunvant Patil^{2,3}, Sarbottam Piya⁴, Zhou Zhou⁵, Azam Baharlouei¹, My Abdelmajid Kassem¹, David A. Lightfoot⁶, Tarek Hewezi⁴, Abdelali Barakat⁴, Henry T. Nguyen⁷ & Khalid Meksem¹



Ms. Meriam Bousselham Is Granted a Fulbright Scholarship to Join Plant Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology Lab (Kassem's Lab) at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC

Ms. Meriam Bousselham is a PhD student at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Sultan My Slimane University, Beni Mellal, Morocco. She was selected and granted a Fulbright scholarship to join the Plant Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology Lab (Kassem's Lab) at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC in the joint supervision program. She will work under Dr. Kassem's supervision from September 1st, 2019 to August 30th, 2020.

She will work on genetic and quantitative trait loci (QTL) mapping of lunasin content in soybean using the recombinant inbred line population of Williams 82 by Forest (W8XF, n=250).

Short Biography: Meriam Bousselham, born in 09/11/1993, is a Ph.D. student, working in the agriculture field, wishing to get a higher knowledge to contribute to the food security for the present and future generations. In 2011, she got her Baccalaureate degree in Earth and Life Sciences and joined the Faculty of Science and Technics of Sultan Moulay Slimane University in Beni Mellal, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Food Control and Quality. She then moved to the University of Hassan I in Settat, where she prepared her Master's degree on "Improvement of Agricultural Production".

In 2017, she moved back to Beni Mellal, where she is actually preparing her Ph.D. degree in Plant Nutrition and Biocontrol. She is interested in (i) the isolation of new bacterial species and their use as biofertilizers, biopesticides, (ii) plant breeding and improvement of food production in general. The past two years of her studies allowed her to produce 1 oral communication and 1 poster communication winning the best poster award in UM6P. She is also a co-author in 3 communications. In addition to her research experiences, she has part-time teaching experience.

Meriam's principle as a student is: "Love what you are doing to perform it, believe in your success, struggle for it and never give up".

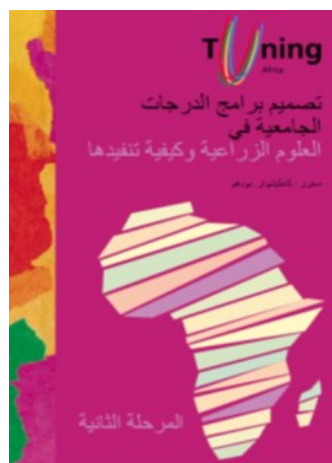
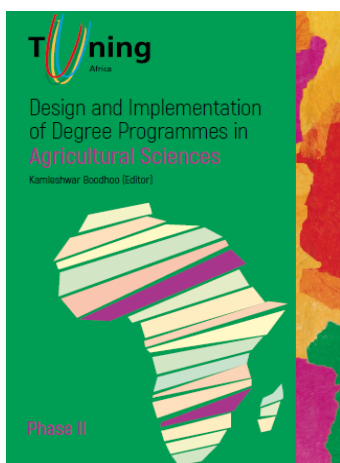


Meriam Bousselham

Prof. Ahmed Elamrani Published a Book on Agricultural Sciences Curricula in Africa

Professor Ahmed Elamrani contributed to the book "Design and Implementation of Degree Programmes in Agricultural Sciences. He acted as the Translator and Supervisor of the Arabic version of the book. The book is an asset to African and other countries interested in implementing Agricultural Sciences degree programs in their institutions of higher education. The book can be accessed from the link below.

Congratulations Prof. Elamrani!



Design and Implementation of Degree Programmes in Agricultural Sciences

Publisher: Deusto university press, P.O. box 1 - 48080 Bilbao, Spain ,

e-mail: publicaciones@deusto.es

Editor: Kamleshwar Boodhoo, ISBN: 978-84-1325-007-6

تصميم برامج الدرجات الجامعية في العلوم الزراعية وكيفية تنفيذها
محرر: كامليشوار. بودهو

المؤلفون :

كامليشوار. بودهو، يمي أكيجيجو سامسونز، اولوبونمي أبايومي اوموطيشو، أحمد العمراني
تاكي هورطانس اطا ديالو، مارياما سيني، كريستوفر موبيتويه تانكو، هنري ملوزا باندا، راشد
الحسين، هنري ملوزا باندا، استرساكيي-داوسون، بوناقتور مينان، راندريني جان بابتيست
راماروسون

مراجعة النسخة العربية: أحمد العمراني

Translation Supervisor : ELAMRANI A

مشروع تونينغ مدعوم من قبل المفوضية الأوروبية.

The Tuning project is subsidised by the European Commission

<http://tuningafrica.org/upload/evento/editor/doc/33/agricultural-sciences-tuning-africa-2018.pdf>

The Council's Prof. My Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship (2019—2020)

The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA) to Grant Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship to an Outstanding Student in Agdz, Morocco

"Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem's STEM Scholarship" is worth \$1,200 (12,000 MAD) and is granted to an outstanding student who receives his or her high school diploma with the highest distinction in one of the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in Agdz, Morocco. The scholarship is funded by Prof. Kassem and is managed by the Council (HC-MASA). It is granted to students in high need in the region of Agdz, the native town of Prof. Kassem, in southeastern Morocco. Students from two high schools will compete every year for the scholarship. These high schools are "Idriss I High School, Agdz" and "Ibn Sinaa High School, Tamnougalt".

There are two committees that manage the scholarship:

Morocco Committee:

Dr. Hssain Zgou, Faculty of Ouarzazate, University Ibn Zohr, Morocco
Mr. Abdenacer Kasem, Educational Inspector, Essaouira, Morocco
Mr. Abdelkarim Kasem, Middle School Teacher, Agdz, Morocco
Mr. Lahcen Elmaanaoui, Educational Inspector, Agdz, Morocco
Mr. Zrour Karim, High School Teacher, Agdz, Morocco
Mr. Abdelmajid Mouzoun, High School Teacher, Agdz, Morocco

USA Committee:

Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem, Fayetteville State University, USA
Prof. Khalid Meksem, Southern Illinois University, USA
Dr. Karima Hanah, Valdosta State University, USA
Ms. Sanaa Rajaallah, Fayetteville, NC, USA

The students below are the top candidates who competed for "Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem's STEM Scholarship".



Echibi Hanane
Chemistry & Pysics
GPA: 17.23/20
حسن جدا—Very Good



Arrouch Fatima
Natural Sciences
GPA: 16.77/20
حسن جدا—Very Good



Ait Si Arabi Abdelkarim
Natural Sciences
GPA: 16.36/20
حسن جدا—Very Good

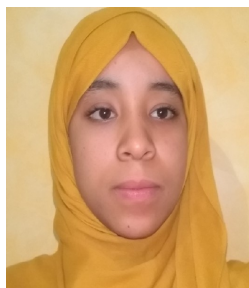


The Council's Prof. My Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship (2019—2020)

Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship Top Candidates—Continued



Ait Ellassri Omaira
Math Sciences
GPA: 14.93/20
Good—حسن
Idriss I HS



Abhaoui Meryem
Chemistry & Physics
GPA: 14.85/20
Good—حسن
Idriss I HS



Ait Abdelaali Fayrouz
Math Sciences
GPA: 14.35/20
Good—حسن
Idriss I HS

The 2019-2020 Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship Winner

After a deep analysis of the "Academic" and "Social Needs" application packages, the US Committee decided to offer "Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem's STEM Scholarship" for the academic years 2019—2022 to **Ms. Echibi Hanane**.

Hanane demonstrated excellency in her studies of Chemistry and Physics and earned a GPA of 3.45/4 (17.23/20) which is an outstanding performance in a STEM discipline deemed very difficult in Morocco. Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem, the members of both committees, and the Council's Board members and general members congratulate Hanane and wish her all the best in her future career! We hope that the scholarship will help her achieve some of her goals among which is to help in the region's development.



Winner!

Echibi Hanane
Chemistry & Physics
GPA: 17.23
Very Good—جدا حسن
Idriss I HS

Congratulations Hanane!
Keep Up The Good Work



The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA) New Members



Ms. Manal Zakini

Ms. Manal Zakini was born in 1994 in Rabat, earned her High School diploma in Natural Sciences Bachelor's degree in Economics—Management of Enterprises from University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco in 2017. Manal immigrated to the USA in July 2019 to continue her graduate studies.



Ms. Meriam Bouselham

Ms. Meriam Bouselham is a PhD student at Sultan My Slimane University, Beni Mellal, Morocco. She was granted a Fulbright scholarship to join Dr. Kassem's Lab at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC in the joint supervision program (Sept. 1st, 1919—August 31, 2020).



Dr. Hsaine Zgou

Dr. Hsaine Zgou is a professor of Chemistry at the Faculty Polydisciplinaire of Ouarzazate, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir, Morocco. Dr. Zgou is a well established scientist who published over 70 scientific items among 32 peer-reviewed articles, 6688 reads, and 66 citations according to Research Gate.



Mr. Lahassan Elkhatabi

Mr. Lahassan Elkhatabi earned his BA in Arabic Literature from University Mohamed V, started his career as a High School Teacher in 1985. Currently, he is an Educator at the Regional Center for Education and Training in Ouarzazate. His interests are in Education & Learning Strategies and strengthening values.

**Membership is Free for Moroccan Scientists and Students
Residing in Morocco!
Join Us Today!**

The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA) New Members



Mr. Abdalkrim Kassem

Mr. abdalkrim Kassem earned his Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Literature from University Qadi Ayyad in Marrakech in 1996. He was a teacher since 1999 and joined Annakhil Middle School in Agdz as an Arabic Teacher in 2004. He is active in several non-profit organizations in Agdz region.



Mr. Karim Zrour

Mr. Karim Zrour earned his Master's degree in Cement and Ceramics from University Ibn Toufail in 2007, his BS degree in Chemistry & Physics from Ibn Zohr University in 2005, and is a Physics & Chemistry High School Teacher at Idriss I High School in Agdz since 2013. He holds certificates in Computer Science and Microsoft.



Mr. Lahcen El Manaoui

Mr. Lahcen El Manaoui earned his Bachelors of Science in Chemistry & Physics from University of Qadi Ayyad in Marrakech in 1996 and is a Physics High School Teacher at Ibn Sinaa High School in Agdz since 1998. He is active in several non-profit organizations in Agdz region.



Mr. Hassan Ammari

Mr. Hassan Ammari earned his BA in Marketing from Intitut Superieur de Gestion et de Commerce, Casablanca in 1995; a level 3 Diploma from Chartered Management Institute in UK in 2012, and MBA in Marketing from Anglia Ruskin University, UK in 2017. He works as a Director of Development at the International University of Rabat since January 2018.

مرحبا بأعضائنا الجدد
العضوية مجانية بالنسبة للمغاربة القاطنين بالمغرب
انضموا إلينا اليوم

Fulbright Scholarships Are Available to Moroccan Students & Scientists



Fulbright Scholarships Are Available to Moroccan Students and Scientists to Study or to be Trained in the USA

The Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE; www.macece.org) promotes educational exchanges between citizens of Morocco and the United States of America since 1982!

MACECE manages and grants the US Fulbright Scholarship program. Under this program, there are several scholarships such as:

1. Graduate students holding a Bachelors degree and seeking to pursue a Master's degree in the US;
2. Graduate students holding a Bachelors degree and seeking to pursue a PhD degree in the US;
3. Teachers in Public or Private Schools to teach Arabic in the USA;
4. Professor or Scientist to be trained in the US for 3 to 6 months;
5. A Doctoral students in Morocco for a Joint Supervision program;
6. Professional Development Program (Humphrey Fellowship Program); and
7. The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP)

Our members and other Moroccan citizens are highly encouraged to take advantage of these programs. For more information, please visit: www.macece.org.

The Council has a Very Good Relationship with MACECE and we are happy to Strengthen it!



The Council To Organize the “Fifth International American Moroccan Agricultural Sciences Conference—AMAS Conference V Sometime in October 2020 in Tangier—Tetouane Region, Morocco

The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics—HC-MASA (www.hc-masa.org) is still looking for a venue to organize the fifth edition of the American Moroccan Agricultural Sciences Conference—AMAS Conference V.

AMAS Conference organizers, Dr. Meksem and Dr. Kassem, made several attempts and contacted the university of New England—Tangier campus officials and Hilton Garden Inn officials; however, nothing is concrete yet. Therefore, this is a call for the Moroccan government entities, institutions of higher education, or private institutions who may be interested to partner with AMAS Conference organizers to contact us so that we can begin planning for the conference.

Please contact:

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E-mail: abdelmajidk@gmail.com

Or

Dr. Khalid Meksem

Tel: +1(618) 453-3103

E-mail: meksem@siu.edu

Long Live AMAS Conference!



International Scholarships Available to Moroccan Students & Scientists

The Following Scholarships are Available to Moroccan Students and All Students Around the Globe

Australian Scholarships (<http://australiaawardsindo.or.id>)
LPDP Scholarship (<http://www.beasiswaalpdp.org/index.html>)
Bourse DIKTI a. Dalam Negeri (<http://www.beasiswa.dikti.go.id/dn/>) b. Luar Negeri (<http://beasiswa.dikti.go.id/ln/>)
Turkish Government Scholarships (<http://www.turkiyeburslari.gov.tr/index.php/en>)
India Scholarships (<http://www.iccrindia.net/generalscheme.html>)
USA Government Scholarships (<http://www.aminef.or.id/index.php>); (<http://www.iief.or.id>)
Netherlands Scholarships (<http://www.nesoindonesia.or.id/beasiswa>)
Korean Government Scholarships (<http://www.niied.go.kr/eng/contents.do...>)
Belgium Government Scholarships (<http://www.vliuws.be/4273.aspx>)
French Government Scholarships (<http://formation.sciences-po.fr/.../the-emile-boutmy-scholars...>)
Utrecht University, Netherland (<http://www.uu.nl/.../grantsandscholarships/Pages/utrechtexcel...>)
Prasetya Mulya Business School Indonesia (<http://www.pmbs.ac.id/s2/scholarship.php?lang=ENG>)
Brunéi Darussalam Government Scholarships (<http://www.mofat.gov.bn/index.php/announcement>)
Japan Government Scholarships (<http://www.id.emb-japan.go.jp/sch.html>)
Indonesia Scholarships (<https://gradschool.paramadina.ac.id/.../paramadina-medco-fell...>)
University of Twente, Netherlands (http://www.utwente.nl/international.../scholarshipsandgrants/...)
Swedish Government Scholarships (<http://www.studyinsweden.se/Scholarships/>)
Chinese Government Scholarships (<http://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua/scholarshipdetailen.aspx>)
Taiwan Government Scholarships (http://www.studyintaiwan.org/taiwan_scholarships.html)
United Kingdom Government Scholarships (<http://www.chevening.org/indonesia/>)
Scholarship AUN / SEED-Net (<http://www.seed-net.org/index.php>)
National University of Seoul (<http://en.snu.ac.kr/.../gradu.../scholarships/before-application>)
Scholarship DIKTIS Overseas (<http://www.pendis.kemenag.go.id/beasiswa/n/>)
Fondation Honjo International Scholarship Japan (<http://hisf.or.jp/english/sch-f/>)
High Tech Scholarship (<http://www.isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous...>)
International HIV & Drug Use Fellowship USA (<http://www.iasociety.org/fellowship.aspx>).

Thank You Mr. Hassan Ammar!



The Council's Newsletter

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