

# Sarra KEKLI

PhD student, French Institute for Research in Agriculture, Food and  
Environment (INRAE)

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## Professional experience

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**INRAE UMR 1302 SMART**, Rennes, France

Since October 2024

PhD student

- Thesis objective: Assess whether trade measures at borders can contribute to sustainable water management in agriculture in Tunisia.
- Methodology: Use of a general equilibrium model to analyze the impact of international markets on irrigation practices.

**Agro Institute of Rennes & UMR SMART**,

March 2024 - September 2024

Rennes, France

Research Intern

- Studied the relationship between agricultural product trade and irrigation water use in Tunisia.
- Developed a database linking production, water footprint, and trade information for agricultural products, enabling the assessment of the blue water footprint of key exports.
- Estimated irrigation by region and compared the valuation of virtual blue water across different markets.

**CIRAD & INRGREF**, Tunis, Tunisia

March 2023 - September 2023

Research Intern

- Theoretical and field study of collective groundwater resource management models.
- Contributed in developing a typology of groundwater management instruments tailored to various socio-professional groups.
- Contributed to the design of an interactive serious game, Ground-WAG-er, simulating local groundwater management challenges to raise awareness and test management policies.
- Led 6 game sessions in Tunisia (Gabès, Haouaria, and Zaghouan), allowing local stakeholders to play different management scenarios and experiment with options such as water pricing or manage collective borehole use.

## Education

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**Institut Agro Montpellier**, Montpellier, France September 2024  
Master of science in Economics of agricultural development, environment and food (ECODEVA)

**University of Carthage**, Zaghouan, Tunisia September 2023  
Engineer in Rural Economics and Agricultural Project Management

**UCLouvain**, Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium February 2020 - January 2023  
Erasmus+ mobility (Master 2 level in bioengineering)

## Research interests

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International trade and trade policies

Governance and sustainable water resource management

## Research and publications

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1. Hassenforder, E., Boulay, M., Kekli, S., Albouchi, L., Mekki, I., Faysse, N. and Shili-Touzi, I. (2026). Ground-Wag-Er: A Serious Game for Co-Designing Groundwater Management Instruments in Tunisia. *Journal of Innovation Economics & Management*, Prépublication(o), I202-XXXVIII. <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-journal-of-innovation-economics-2025-0-page-I202?lang=en>.
2. Kekli, S., Cheptea, A. et Laroche-Dupraz, C. (2024). Commerce international et utilisation de l'eau en agriculture : le cas de la Tunisie. *Maghreb - Machrek*, 49-68. <https://doi.org/10.54695/machr.260.0049>.