

## **Note from Representative of Morocco in PRIMA Board of Trustees**

Faced with the COVID 19 pandemic, Moroccan agriculture shows an extraordinary resilience. This situation is the result of structural development programs implemented over the past 10 years in the framework of the Green Morocco plan. This plan has provided the Moroccan agricultural sector with solid foundations. Agricultural activity continues normally at all links in the value chain providing sufficient and diversified food products at stable prices during the month of Ramadan, characterized by a significant increase in demand.

At the moment, Moroccan exports of agricultural products were not impacted. In fact, during this pandemic period, we observe an increase in the volumes exported for early vegetables and red fruits due to the decrease of the production in the southern Mediterranean countries.

However, it should be noted that at short and medium term, the covid 19 pandemic in the Mediterranean region will certainly have a negative impact on food supply: market supply is disrupted by the measures taken to limit the spread of the pandemic. These measures mainly concern the restrictions on mobility cause a shortage of labour also the closing of rural markets.

The Covid 19 pandemic is having also a severe impact on global economic growth including Mediterranean countries. Therefore, a negative impact on the demand and exports of agricultural products are expected.

In the same time, some countries in south Mediterranean region are also facing to a drought period resulting in a significant decrease in cereal production. These countries will therefore have to supply itself on the international markets characterized in this pandemic period by volatile prices due to the decrease in production at international level and the restrictions on the export of cereals from some countries like Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.