

## **Conflicts between urbanization and agricultural activity in the outlying districts of Beni Mellal**

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On 13 May 2016, the IRD and the AviTem - Villa Méditerranée organized an international meeting in Marseilles, within the framework of "villes en question". This innovative pedagogical project has mobilized high school students from both sides of the Mediterranean (France, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). Accompanied by researchers, mediators and their teachers, they were introduced throughout the school year to the scientific approach. Their objective: to carry out surveys to decipher social links in the neighborhoods of their city. Highlight of the project, the international meeting, labeled by the Grand Tour, is held at the Villa Méditerranée. It enabled the 180 participants (high school students, teachers, researchers, partners) to discuss the question of how urban residents live together, a key issue for our urban societies in the 21st century.

This international meeting on social ties in neighborhoods in the Mediterranean was an opportunity for high school students to present their surveys and share their experiences. They also exchanged views with a jury made up of representatives from the world of research and education, who awarded the "Villes en question" prize, which was again in favor of the health and environment club of Al Amria high school for the second consecutive year. The topic we discussed is: "Conflicts between urbanization and agricultural activity in the outlying districts of Beni Mellal". Six scrupulously selected science students traveled to Marseilles with 2 life sciences and earth teachers. Indeed, Béni Mellal, a city in central Morocco, has experienced in recent years the phenomenon of urbanization which has resulted in an expansion of the territory of the city to the peripheral zones in which there remain agricultural areas. How is this coexistence and this evolution experienced by the inhabitants? Students conducted on-site investigations. They were particularly interested in the representations, perceptions and practices of the inhabitants. They also interviewed a number of administrative and political leaders. They presented their research work in the form of an illustrated 180-second slideshow.