



Number 2
June 2004

ISIIMM news

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL PROGRAMME for Local Water Management
ME8/AIDCO/2001/0515/59763-P 016

ISIIMM completes phase one

May 2004 heralds the completion of the first year and the first phase of the ISIIMM project. It has cast new light on local situations, built the basis for strong future cooperation amongst partners, brought together water actors from various horizons, whilst at the same time highlighting the necessity to develop appropriate communication tools.

Key operational highlights of the first phase achievements include the set up of national teams in Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Italy and France with wide local expert involvement. These countries have already started to output valuable data with national seminars revealing the complexities and realities of water use and management in each case study area.

This valuable information could fall by the wayside without an effective communication and information storage and dissemination mechanism.

The *Organisation of a System of Information and Research on Irrigation and Societies* (OSIRIS) is designed to help overcome such issues. During the first year of the ISIIM Project a basic version has already been developed. Operating alongside the project website, it is easily accessible to all participating partners—evidence that the building up of the



knowledge base and the sharing of information is starting to progress.

The established project infrastructure continues central coordination activities from Montpellier, whilst the diverse network of partnerships built during this first year will ensure continued future cooperation and project successes at local, national and international levels.

Recent negotiations in Palestine with the Palestinian Hydrology Group will likely include a 12th case study, the Albadan Valley to the already comprehensive list. Project communication continues to improve with availability and accessibility to information being the key drivers. Moreover, a solid year's progress in partnership building and knowledge gathering has provided a firm foundation for the delivery of ISIIMM Phase 2.



ISIIMM invited to MEDA Meeting in Brussels

ISIIMM will be participating in a meeting of all MEDA-Water Projects and Partners in Brussels between 15-18 June 2004. The 3.5 day meeting aims to globally present all field projects and create opportunities to exchange ideas and information between participants. ISIIMM will be represented by Michel SOULIÉ (Project Head), Jean-Louis COUTURE (General Coordinator), and Country Facilitators Mohammed NAWAR, Saïd GEDEON and Roberta CAMERA.

Briefly, in this release

- MEDA Meeting in Brussels 15-18 June 2004
- Progress Reports by country
- The Mediterranean partner CCIAZ
- Steering and Scientific Committee Meetings 28-29 June 2004
- Good reads

Progress Reports by country

Egypt

Egypt has completed all activities related to Phase One including data collection for understanding local irrigation water management at all four sites in Egypt. This also includes the establishment of permanent project offices in each area and the building of balanced partnerships with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation at national, regional and local levels. Preliminary awareness campaigns for local water users and local seminars have been held. Findings from Phase One reveal:

- Close relationships between irrigation canals and the environmental and health conditions of village communities;
- Urgent needs to reshape relationships among stakeholders and to build networks and capacities of local water organisations;
- Most organisational issues faced by WUAs are due to absence of vision or time constraints



Tahnasha Mantout Canal - Menia

© Michel SOULIÉ - ISIIMM

that undermine social and economic aspects of change during implementation of improvement projects. Initial findings have also revealed significant numbers of Water User Associations (WUA's) in the case study areas. In order to focus project

activities for effective outcomes in Phase Two, specific locations and organisations within the study boundaries will be selected using criteria specified by the project Scientific Committee.

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Morocco

Key achievements of the Moroccan team include the recruitment of local facilitators, identification of experts, participation in workshops, commencement of data gathering and cartography of the case studies in the Office of Haouz and the Ait Bouguemez valley.

In the first year, the Haouz case study has focussed primarily on the Nfis area. The significance of the long history of irrigation in the Nfis Valley presents a variety of institutional, social and agro-economical issues. This is an area where we encounter various irrigation systems often operating along side each other (from ancient seguias to modern pressurised networks). The area is managed by a set of local, regional and national organisations ranging from NGOs to GOs such as l'Office du Haouz (ORMVAH) to local groups like the Associations des Usagers de l'Eau Agricole (AUEA). The Moroccan efforts depend heavily on working closely with these partners to ensure a reliable database of local information.

First year achievements on the Ait Bouguemez case study focusses on the whole of the valley. This area is a part of the *Développement Rural Intégré Centré sur la Petite et Moyenne Hydraulique Programme* (DRI-PMH) of the Ministry of Agriculture. Concentrated works will be carried out in selected local areas of the Ait Bouguemez valley in the second phase.

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In short

New facilitator in the Ait Bouguemez for the ISIIMM project, **Abdelaziz EL GUEROUA**, recently joined the project.

A. EL GUEROUA



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Local seminar of stakeholders - Ait Bouguemez



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Spain

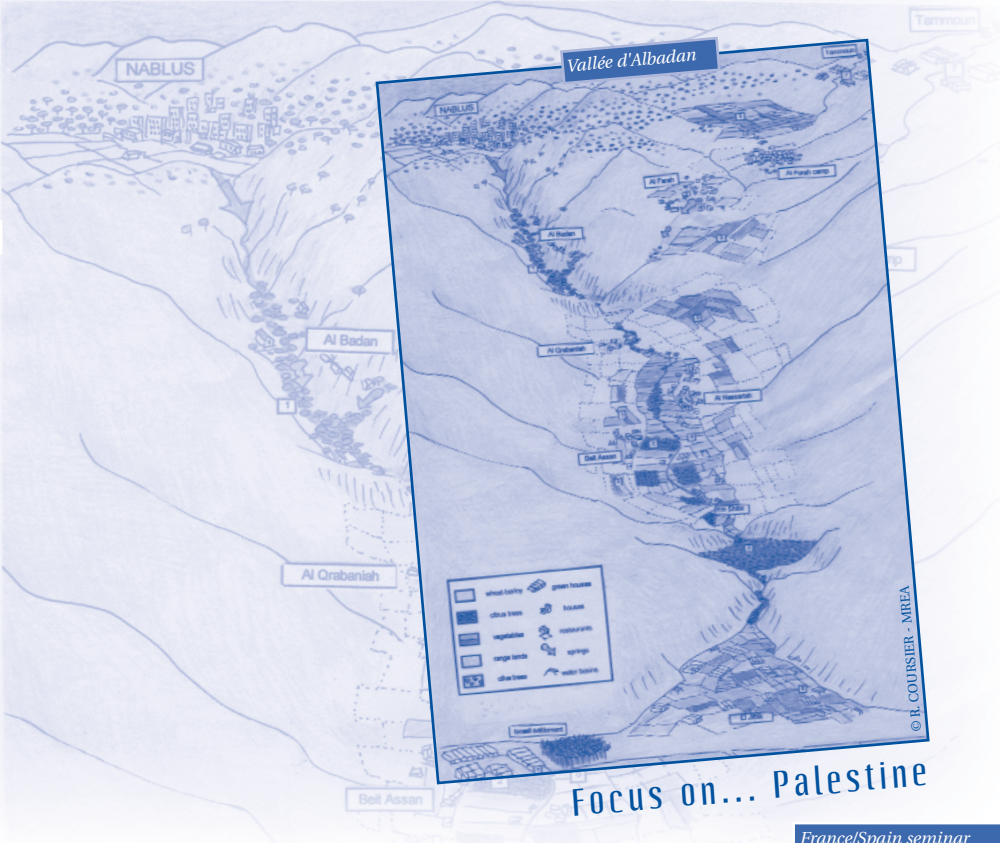
During the course of the first year of the ISIIMM Project, members of the Spanish team have attended a series of meetings and workshops with Water User Associations and local representatives. This has culminated in the collation of a large amount of information concerning the Jucar and Genil case study areas. This information includes Historical, Infrastructural, Agricultural, Hydrological, Economical, Market and Institutional data. Local seminars were held from February to April to disseminate some of this information. The spanish team has developed a detailed methodology for shifting from a supply focussed approach towards eco-social sustainable water management. The next few months will also see reports on institutional concepts, structures and practices in water management in the case study areas. Further research topics identified for phase 2 of the project includes economic and institutional issues and water use efficiencies.

Al Hama interbasin transfer canal - Al Hama, Genil



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Focus on... Palestine

France

The work in France for the first year centres on the current water resources management situation in the Têt and Durance basins. Preliminary data has been collected about each site and a common framework established to focus on the allocation and organisation of water resources and the management of water networks.

On 13-14 May 2004, the French team met with the Spanish Team in Perpignan to share information and findings. The seminar revealed the different states of progress regarding the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) between the two countries.

It also identified the following themes to be pursued during phase 2 of the project:

- Water management structures;
- Implementation of the WFD;
- Issues concerning urbanisation and placement of communities;
- Water pricing structures;
- Resolution of water resource conflicts.



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France/Spain seminar in May 2004 - Perpignan

In short

Marie-Thérèse ARNAUD left the ISIIMM project. Noël PITON becomes the new Durance Facilitator and was involved in local seminar and basin state evaluation of the 1st phase of the ISIIMM project.



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Italy



Local seminar in Treviso

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In the course of the first year of project implementation, the Italian

team has started the analyses of the territorial, institutional, social and historical aspects of water management in the Piave River Basin. The identification of a pilot area connected with the Piave River has been performed. In this area the reorganisation of the current water management system is a prominent need, because the City Councils have to face increasing demands for potable water and the current irrigation network based on superficial flow is no longer adequate for agricultural needs.

The involvement of local stakeholders has been carried out by means of individual meetings, interviews and small seminars. In particular, in April 2004 three seminars with selected local actors were organised in order to raise stakeholders' views concerning the current irrigation system. The main stakeholders' groups involved were medium-large scale farmers, municipalities and environmental associations. The preliminary conclusion is that there is a general agreement between those actors on the need for reorganising the irrigation system in order to save water and labour force. A draft version of the Italian case study report will be published towards the end of June 2004 and will be available on the ISIIMM Project intranet.

In short

Anita FASSIO becomes the new Piave Facilitator and is actively involved with Roberta CAMERA, National Coordinator, in the implementation of the ISIIMM project in Italy.



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Lebanon

The Lebanese team have undertaken a number of activities in Year 1 driving towards the goals of the first Project Phase. Activities concerning the coordination with partners and stakeholders, hiring of local staff, data and photo collection, expert missions culminating in a local seminar have all been achieved.

Moving forward, one of the key goals of the South Beqaa Scheme will be to establish a spirit of cooperation by strengthening Water User Associations (WUA). This will better enable the WUA to:

- Negotiate with the basin agency
- Reduce water cost for irrigation;
- Create social equity in irrigation water usage;
- Make improvements in water use efficiency.

Qaraoum and Canal 900 - Litani Watershed



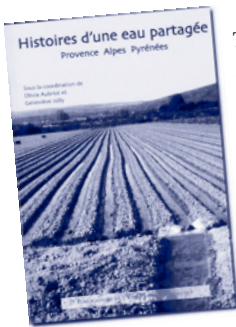
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Good reads

Histoires d'une eau partagée

Sous la coordination de O. Aubriot et G. Jolly



Through theoretical articles and case studies, this work casts light on the historical and social construction of the sharing of water, around the concept of "water rights".

The examples relate to the agricultural uses of water in the areas of

Provence, the Alps and the Pyrenees. A particular focus is placed on the crises of water management and resolutions.

Publications de l'Université de Provence - in French
ISBN: 2-85399-500-3 - 23 euros

L'eau, miroir d'une société

Irrigation paysanne au Népal central

O. Aubriot



Taking a historical approach, Aubriot places irrigation techniques in their socio-economic, political and environmental contexts. Above all, she highlights the predominance of a logic of relationships based on the territorial subscription of social characteristics:

access to water and its entire management is thus mirrored by issues that dominate the villages such as the division of lineage; and the sharing of Brahman land heritage. A reflection between society and hydraulic space.

CNRS Éditions - in French
ISBN: 2-271-06204-7 - 32 euros

ISIIMM news

(also available in PDF see ISIIMM website)

"Promoting an integrated and balanced management of water resources by reconciling respect for the environment with economically viable irrigated agriculture"

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Design & layout: Olivier PIAU (A. Productions)
Printed in France by Les Petites Affiches (Montpellier)

Printed on recycled and chlorine-free paper

ISSN: 1765-3207 - Legal deposit: June 2004

The Mediterranean Partners

This month's edition signals the beginning of a series of short presentations on our Mediterranean Partners. We will be presenting one Partner in each of the following newsletters. Providing an overview of the works and the strategic and geographic placement of each Partner, we begin this edition in Lebanon with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Zahle and the Beqaa (CCIAZ).



CCI AZ: Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Zahle and the Beqaa

The CCI AZ was established in March 3, 1939 in Zahle, for the purpose of organizing, along the lines of developed countries, the economic affairs of the Muhafaza of Beqaa. Agricultural activities were added to its portfolio in 1967.

The Chamber represents the interests of Lebanese commerce, industry and agriculture. It provides its members and government departments with information, suggestions and projects aiming at developing Lebanese economy. Key services include:

1. Facilitate the communication of its members with all local authorities and foreign embassies.
2. Offer recommendations on their behalf so they can get permits and visas more easily.
3. Work out litigation's occurring amongst members by means of conciliation or arbitration.
4. Issue certificates of origin for exports.
5. Approve bills and issue necessary certificates of the authenticity of export prices.
6. Issue certificates that prove the commercial or industrial or agricultural nature and its level.
7. Approve the authenticity of signatures of traders, industrialists and agriculture producers registered in the Chamber.
8. Study problems and hindrances impeding commerce, industry and agriculture, and work on solving them as well as helping within its capacity.
9. Provide information on dates and locations of international fairs for those who are interested in having commercial relations with foreign countries.

website
www.cci az.org.lb

Upcoming events

Steering Committee
and Scientific Committee Meetings
28-29 June 2004 (Montpellier, France)

The second steering committee and scientific committee meetings for the ISIIMM project are to take place in Montpellier over the 28-29 June 2004. The meeting aims to review first year results and actions and present the programs and activities for the 2nd year, whilst providing clear guidance and direction from project and scientific perspectives.

To be held in Montpellier, France, this will provide an excellent opportunity for the project teams to review and ensure coordination and common focus moving into Phase 2 of the project.

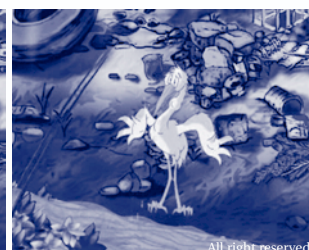
Media

Egypt breaks down communication barriers



The **Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation** has recently released a series of animated films promoting and explaining sustainable water concepts. Effective use of cartoons or short films such as these provides a powerful tool for communication with water users.

For more informations: http://www.mwri.gov.eg/mwr_en/index.htm



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