

STRATEGIC PROJECT

Promoting innovative technologies for water use efficiency, wastewater treatment and re-use



ACCBAT

Adaptation to climate change through improved water demand management in irrigated agriculture by introduction of new technologies and best agricultural practices



Project
funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

The project in brief

Most of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Basin are in a state of physical water scarcity, in particular in the Southern and Eastern shore. This situation is getting alarming since water demand is growing rapidly due to intensified agriculture, industrial development, population growth and climatic change. In Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon, water use efficiency and the use of treated wastewater in agriculture have already been incorporated in national strategies and priorities. Unfortunately, the stakeholders responsible to put these strategies into practice have not enough means and experience to target these goals and consequently need more support.

ACCBAT is conceived to respond to this specific expectation. In this framework, the project aims at improving water demand management and ensuring water needs of the agricultural sector through the increase of water-use efficiency and of use of treated waste water. Pilot actions, reinforcement of capacity building and training will be the key activities to achieve this objective.

Beneficiary

ICU - Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria - ONLUS (Italy, Lazio)

Partnership

1. National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension (Jordan, Al Baqa)
2. Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (Lebanon)
3. Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture (Tunisia, Tunis)
4. ADBPO - River Po Basin Authority (Italy, Emilia-Romagna)

Specific objective

To improve water demand management and ensure water needs of the agricultural sector on a regional scale through increase of water-use efficiency, increased use of treated waste water for irrigated agriculture, and reduced negative environmental impact, based on technology transfer and training in Best Agricultural Practices, that allow for adaption to climate change

Expected results

- Innovative water-use efficient and sustainable drip-irrigation systems, water storage facilities, and best practice production techniques in agriculture implemented
- Use of wastewater introduced as main irrigation water source with up to 100 % of freshwater substituted by treated wastewater in 90 pilot farms of Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia
- 30% increase of irrigation water use-efficiency achieved in 90 pilot farms of Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia
- Fertilizer and pesticide use decreased by 30% in 90 pilot farms of Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia
- 15% income increased for 90 farmers through increased agricultural production with reduced inputs
- Institutional capacities improved with regard to the use of an integrated approach in irrigated agriculture
- Farmers technical know-how improved with regard to integrated agricultural resources management and production methods
- Public awareness reinforced on water saving and on the reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture

Main activities

- Establishment of demonstration plots and implementation of drip-irrigation systems and water storage facilities
- 90 cooperation agreements with farmers associations signed
- Training of 180 managerial staff, extension agents, and laboratory technicians on best agricultural practices and use of treated wastewater
- Training of 1.500 farmers related to best agricultural practices, with special focus on irrigation management and use of treated wastewater

Target groups

- Farmers households
- Staff of the local partner institutions
- Management and extension agents

Final beneficiaries

- Rural population in the targeted areas (300.000 people)
- Institutions involved in sustainable management of natural resources

Duration

36 months (December 2012 - December 2015)

Budget

- Total budget: € 4.998.952
- Programme contribution: € 4.498.152 (90%)
- Project co-financing: € 500.800 (10%)

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