



SWIM-SM Regional Workshop on the M&E system to monitor and evaluate the Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) and Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Process in the SWIM-SM Countries Athens - Greece (17-18 November 2014)

Introduction

SWIM is a Regional Technical Support Program that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine territory, Syria¹ and Tunisia. The Program is funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) South/Environment. The project complements and adds value to the Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by addressing in particular water issues, in synergy with three relevant EC funded Programs, namely the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Program - Project Preparation and Implementation Facility (MeHSIPPIIF), the Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Program (CB/MEP) and the ENPI Shared Environmental Information System (ENPI/SEIS).

SWIM overall objective is to promote actively the extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices in the region given the context of increasing water scarcity, combined pressure on water resources from a wide range of users and desertification processes, in connection with climate change.

The specific objectives of the SWIM-SM are to: (1) Raise the awareness of decision-makers and stakeholders in the Partner Countries on existing and upcoming threats on water resources, on the necessity to switch to more viable water consumption models as well as on possible solutions to face the challenges; (2) to support the Partner Countries in designing and implementing sustainable water management policies at the national and local levels, in liaison with on-going relevant international initiatives; and (3) Contribute to institutional strengthening, to the development of the necessary planning and management skills and to the transfer of know-how.

Background

Within the scope of Work Package 1 (WP1), the EU-funded "Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism" (SWIM-SM) Project performed several tasks to promote best practices in support of priority areas for the successful establishment and operationalization of Water Users Associations (WUAs) in the PCs.

Based on the request of the project countries during the first year of the project implementation, SWIM-SM engaged in the development of a proposal for a regional M&E system to monitor and evaluate the Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) and the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) process throughout its different phases. **The system was first vetted with the project countries during a three-day experts group meeting held in Athens between 2 and 4 September 2013**, and subsequently refined to reflect the results and recommendations of the invited experts in the said meeting.

The objective of the M&E system is to assess the following:

- the degree of political commitment towards the PIM/IMT process and the adequacy of the existing institutional arrangements in support of the establishment of the WUAs
- the performance of the responsible irrigation agencies in the implementation of the PIM/IMT program
- the institutional, financial and technical performance of Water Users Associations
- the impact of WUAs' establishment

¹The situation is that cooperation with Syria is temporarily suspended until further notice from the EU



In view of the above, SWIM-SM carried out the following:

- 1) Designed and implemented a user-friendly regional M&E system for the monitoring and evaluation of the PIM/IMT and customized it to suit the national and local conditions in two pilot countries.
- 2) Enabled national and regional authorities in addition to WUAs in the two pilot countries to examine and explore the applicability of the M&E system with due consideration to the country's particular context / local specificities,
- 3) Documented the approach and the lessons learnt during implementation for potential replication within the same and/or in other countries.

As of August 2014, SWIM-SM has converted the regional M&E system into an application to enable monitoring and evaluation of the PIM/IMT process. The system was tested in Jordan and Tunisia where it has been installed in two selected pilot areas (WUAs) in Jordan and three in Tunisia, in addition to the concerned government offices; dealing with the WUAs at the regional and central levels.

Structured training and on-job training of the concerned users has been carried out and data entered at national, regional and local levels.

Two workshops were organised in the two countries to analyse the monitoring and evaluation results of the PIM/IMT process as a result of applying the system at three levels (national, regional and local).

Based on the M&E results, actions needed to improve the PIM/IMT planning and implementation in each country were recommended.

Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of the workshop are:

- Introduce the system to the project countries, donors, and regional and international organisations, involved in the implementation of PIM/IMT, and disseminate it as a system of reference for the monitoring and evaluation of the PIM/IMT process throughout its phases, that embeds best practices in PIM/IMT planning and implementation and WUAs operationalisation.
- Promote the application of the system in the PCs. Present the experience of the two countries who participated in the pilot implementation and disseminate the results of the M&E system application in the pilot countries/areas and lessons learnt
- Promote north-south and south-south exchange of information and sharing of experience
- Identify recommendations for future actions including those needed to sustain the system and its application in the region, and replicate the efforts in other countries. Identify the role of donors and international and regional organisations in this regard.

Target Group

- Representatives from national authorities dealing with or distributing irrigation water to water users or their associations **that were not part of the pilot implementation** (Example: The National office of Irrigation and Draining of Algeria, The Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage in Israel, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt, The Litani River Authority in Lebanon, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime of Morocco, the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture). (**Up to two from each country**).
- Representatives from the national water users or their associations; as applicable (Ex: water boards responsible for irrigation and drainage in Egypt, water users in South Bekaa of Lebanon, and WUAs in Algeria, Morocco, and Palestine) (**One from each country**).



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- Donors involved in water users associations establishment and empowerment (USAID, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Egypt (also active in rural development projects in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and supporting participation, GIZ in Jordan, French Agency for Development in Tunisia and Palestine) **(One representative per donor)**.
- Regional and International Organisations working in the field in the region. (Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Euro Mediterranean Irrigators Community (EIC) **(One representative per Organisation)**
- Regional and local nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs): **One representative per Organisation**
- Representatives of the pilot areas implicated in testing the M&E system:
 - The representative of the Water Users Association Support Unit in Tunisia and Jordan **(one from each country)**
 - The representatives of the Regional WUA Support Units in Tunisia and Jordan (two from Jordan and **three from Tunisia**)
 - The leaders/water officials of the WUAs that were selected to participate in the pilot implementation of the M&E system in Tunisia and Jordan **(two from Jordan and three from Tunisia)**



Proposed Agenda

Day 1

08:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:20	Workshop Opening - Opening remarks - Introduction and background	EU Representative² & SWIM-SM project or technical director² Suzan Taha (SWIM-SM Water Expert)
PART 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL M&E SYSTEM		
09:20-10:15	Overview of the M&E system - Summary of the main characteristics of the M&E system (40 minutes) - Q&A (15 minutes)	Juan Antonio Sagardoy; Senior Water Management Consultant, SWIM-SM non-key expert
10:15-10:30-	Coffee Break	
10:30-11:25	Overview of the M&E system (Continued) - Tour of the system (40 minutes) - Q&A (15 minutes)	Roula Khadra (M&E specialist – CIHEAM/Bari) & Marco Dauru (IT specialist)
11:25-12:30	- Approach and Methodology - Q&A (15 minutes)	Suzan Taha
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
PART 2. PRESENTATION OF SELECTED RESULTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PILOT AREAS		
13:30-15:30	Overview of Jordan's results : Module A & B Modules C and D Lessons Learnt	Representatives² of the pilot area National & Regional level Local Level Representative² of JVA
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45-17:45	Overview of Tunisia's results : Module A & B Modules C and D Lessons Learnt Discussion of results	Representatives² of the pilot area National & Regional level Local Level Representative² of DGGREE
20:00 Dinner in a restaurant in Athens. To be announced later.		

Day 2

PART 3: THE WAY FORWARD – sustainability and potential replication		
09:00-09:15	Overview of the lessons Learnt with a view for replication (15 minutes)	Suzan Taha
9:15-10:30	Preparation of recommendations by Working Groups	Three working groups
10:30-10:45-	Coffee Break	
10:45-11:45	Presentation of the Recommendations and discussion	Workgroups Selected Rapporteurs
11:45-12:00	Closing remarks	
12:00-13:00	Lunch	

Proposed Location and Date

The workshop is planned to be held in Athens for **1.5 days** on **17 and 18 November 2014**.