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# ISIIMM news

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL PROGRAMME for Local Water Management  
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## Editorial

### International seminar

on "Institutional aspects of IWRM in arid, semi-arid and irrigated rural areas: stakeholders involvement in decision-making"

The seminar was held from 26 to 30 April in Zahle (in the Bekaa region) in Lebanon in the framework of the MEDA Water activities organised by ISIIMM and with the support of the unit responsible for monitoring the MEDA Water projects (the RMSU). Three other MEDA Water projects - IRWA, EMPOWERS and MEDWA projects - took part in the seminar.

The objectives of the regional seminar covered a wide spectrum of issues, first of all, concerning the progress on institutional issues and ways forward for existing or anticipated work in order to identify,

through debates and discussions, new ideas/ orientations at the local level. This involved a triple edged approach - by country, by project and by institutional level.

This is the first thematic seminar involving several MEDA Water projects. More than 60 persons participated in the activity. During three days participants exchanged opinions on the sustainability of actions undertaken on the institutional level within the framework of the MEDA Water projects (see pictures p.4).



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### An Italian Perspective:

The role of Land Reclamation Boards in Irrigation and Water Resource Management  
(by Marco TAMARO, Technical Director of the Destra Piave Land Reclamation Board)

The Land Reclamation Boards (LRBs: *Consorzio di Bonifica*) in Italy and, in particular, in the Veneto Region represent a system of self-government of the territory established at the end of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, consolidated the last century thanks to a series of legislative provisions that have adapted tasks and functions to the modern requirements of the territory. They were initially established to improve life conditions in rural areas, where malaria was still widespread and agricultural yields did not satisfy the needs of the population. The task of land reclamation consisted also in the construction of new settlements, roads and infrastructure necessary to the farmers. After this first phase, the main function resides now in the construction and maintenance of irrigation and drainage infrastructure in order to protect the territory from hydro-geological hazards.

LRBs are associations established on the initiative of users or of the local government and are of a mixed nature: public for some aspects (status of legal entities under public law, financial assistance of regional governments, activities are in general subject to the control of such governments and depend on them for the approval of the main provisions - statute, balance sheet, apportionment plan of the costs shared by all associates), private for the opportunity given of self-governance and managerial autonomy, for employment and the running of the governing bodies.

Every five years the Council is elected. It then nominates the President and the executive board. The governing bodies are elected by the members (or associates) of the LRB that represent all property owners (land, immovable estates, industrial areas, roads) in the area under the jurisdiction of the LRB. A peculiarity of this system

is that membership is automatic and compulsory for all property owners whose property benefits from the activities of the LRB. All members are required to pay.

Today LRBs are well integrated in the management of the water cycle. They carry out activities aimed at achieving soil protection, at preventing floods and at fostering the rational management and use of water resources in agriculture promoting efficient irrigation systems and good quality agricultural products.

The Destra Piave Land Reclamation Board Board (*Consorzio di Bonifica Destra Piave*) is involved in the ISIIMM Project, together with the *Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei*, to share its own experience in water management with that of other countries. The case study consists in the planning of a dual water distribution system that provides pressurised water for agricultural irrigation and non-potable water for urban areas. The non-potable water line can be used for landscape purposes (irrigation of garden, car washing and other uses connected with productive processes). This project aims at providing a more efficient irrigation system and at rationalising the use of drinking water. (see pictures p.4).

### Briefly, in this release

- Land Reclamation Boards in Italy
- ISIIMM seminars: Institutional Seminar (Lebanon), Moroccan-Spanish and Italian- Lebanese exchanges
- Update on the Solid Waste Management in Mostafa Agha Project (SWAMMA)
- ISIIMM's Mediterranean Partners: Morocco
- Good Reads
- Upcoming events



◀ Green wastetreatment testing ▲ Training activities at school

© Mohamed NAWAT

## Update on SWaMMA

**T** Solid Waste Management in Mostafa Agha Project (SWaMMA) in Egypt is approaching the end of the first implementation phase (expected in May 2006). The ISIIMM team along with the local community council and the regional council has undertaken awareness raising programmes with pupils, with farmers and with women. The processing site has been prepared and equipment has been evaluated, tested and purchased to enable agricultural and domestic solid waste processing. The inauguration of which will take place on 13 May in the attendance of ISIIMM staff, the local and regional committees and representatives of local and regional authorities.

## Creating a Think Tank on Legislation for Irrigators' Associations

**Lebanon:** The Think Tank met in January 2006 at the Engineering University of Beirut (ESIB) in the presence of its members: Dr. Wajdi NAJEM (*photo 1*) – Dean of the ESIB, Dr. Hyam MALLAT (*photo 2*) – Legal expert in the field of water, Kamal KARAA (*photo 3*) – Head of the Department of Rural Development at the Office National du Litani (ONL) and Said GEDEON (*photo 4*) – ISIIMM National Coordinator in Lebanon. The objectives of the Think Tank were to analyse the current progress of the ISIIMM project and its objectives; identify the key

### IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS

- 1 *Land often belongs to multiple owners - there is a need to clarify the process for land consolidation – this in itself is not an easy task in an area where the people place a great importance on the land where many landowners are abroad.*
- 2 *Most farmers are not land owners, subsequently they often move about from one area to another. This makes the creation of an Irrigators' Association very difficult.*

legislative problems; make relevant information available to the Think Tank and to define a work strategy for the Think Tank moving forward. Another meeting was organised during the International Seminar in Zahle. From the local perspective of ISIIMM's target to create an irrigator's association in the irrigated area of Canal 900 in the upper basin of the Litani, the working group has identified several problems. The legislation for the *Associations Syndicales* (WUAs: Water User Associations) are not well adapted to the existing contexts. Moving forward, the ISIIMM team in Lebanon with support from the ONL will make a study of the land and legal status in one of three ISIIMM project villages. In addition, M. Mallat and M. Najem will undertake a comparative study of the status of *Irrigator's Associations* in France, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco in order to support the Lebanese situation by proposing institutional solutions and potential modifications to current laws.



Members of the Think Tank

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## Life after ISIIMM? creating sustainable partnerships in Fayoum, Egypt

In early January ISIIMM signed the trilateral protocol between ISIIMM-Egypt, the Water Management Project in Fayoum (WMPF: Dutch funded project) and the Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) in Fayoum for collaboration in the establishment of a higher level Water Users' Organisation in the ISIIMM domain area in Fayoum following the termination of the ISIIMM Project in 2007. At a time when the ISIIMM Project is actively making efforts to address the issue of ongoing sustainability (*post-ISIIMM*), this is a timely example of the local ISIIMM - Egypt team's efforts to ensure the continuation of ISIIMM achievements in Fayoum.

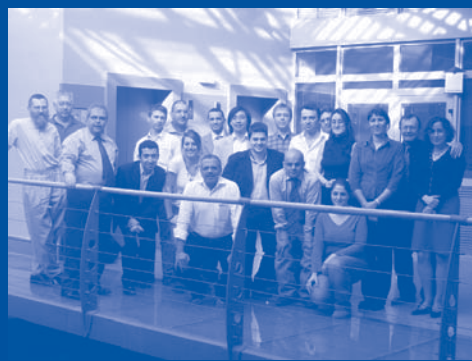


▲ Local committee meeting

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## The ISIIMM Project Logframe

**Marseille, France:** A Logical Framework training and workshop session hosted by the MEDA Water Regional Support and Monitoring Unit (RMSU) was attended by members of the ISIIMM Coordination Unit in March 2006. The objective of the ISIIMM team was to gain more insight into Logframe development and theory in order to revisit the original ISIIMM Logframe for presentation to the final steering committee meeting in June 2006. This Logframe revision activity will be supported by an additional workshop on May 16 jointly organised with the RMSU.



▲ RMSU Training

© Jda NGUYEN



## Irrigators' Exchange Seminar Reflections from Morocco and Spain

Valencia, 2005 and Marrakech, 2006 : Morocco and Spain's participation in ISIIMM's series of bilateral exchange seminars brought together farmers, government employees, irrigation managers, academics, technicians in order to exchange experiences and knowledge. Some reactions from the ISIIMM National coordinators from Spain and Morocco:

### ■ Mohamed EL FAIZ (ISIIMM National Coordinator in Morocco)

"It was important for me to see how irrigation (in Valencia, Spain) is organised, and also what future this model holds... Our main goal was to learn... from other's experiences. What seems important to us - Moroccans - is the presence of the irrigator communities. The irrigation network [is] managed by the irrigators themselves: they share water and take in charge the receipts and expenses. I think we have things to learn in this aspect.

There's also an important evolution from my point of view in Europe. Europe is changing many things in these countries. That's why I ask what will be the future of these systems. Systems which are very few in the world and continue to disappear. The Spanish example is important for us since we can maybe read a part of our own future. Will choices made in Marrakech today, choices adopted thirty years ago in Spain, be beneficial or not ?

So, that's what I think those exchanges are for. If we arrive, during them to a general conclusion, to draw the attention of the entire world, and not only of Spanish and Moroccans since it's a common patrimony, about the necessity to preserve these systems, to preserve these places of hydraulic memory and water culture, which are today exceptional in the world."



▲ Escalona, Spain  
▶ M.El FAIZ and J.Carles GENOVES during a field visit in Morocco

### ■ José Carles GENOVES (ISIIMM National Coordinator in Spain)

"We've achieved a real communication not only between two different cultures but also between different kinds of people with their own professional languages: academics, technicians, Spanish and Moroccan engineers, farmers and irrigation managers."

"I would say that these mixed - academic, technical, local agrarian - bilateral meetings are extremely interesting... because we've been able to identify the main common problems and debate calmly in a cordial environment, establishing analogies and differences between both countries."

*Videos of these interviews can be downloaded from the doc-OSIRIS section of the ISIIMM website [www.isiimm.agropolis.org](http://www.isiimm.agropolis.org).*

## Lebanese perspectives: the Italy/Lebanon exchange seminar



The first of two bilateral exchange seminars between Lebanon and Italy took place in December 2005 in Veneto, Italy. This exchange brought to Italy: farmers from the West Bekaa region, representatives from the *Office du Litani*, the Ministry of Water and Energy, the *Office des Eaux* in the Bekaa, and members of the MEDA Project - Improvement of Irrigation Water Management (IRWA).

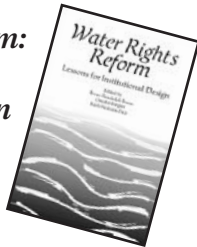
The group participated with their ISIIMM Italian counterparts in a mutual presentation of the hydraulic resources, economic and geographic situations and the related management of hydric resources in Italy and in Lebanon. The group also participated in site visits to the Piave water intake, to a farm managed by the Fighera Brothers and to the Bonifica museum to learn about irrigation water management in the Piave and related historical aspects.

A reciprocal visit by the Italian farmers to Lebanon was organised for the last week of April. The meeting passed in warm and friendly atmosphere. The parties have expressed their willing to develop further cooperation with support of the Italian and Lebanese institutional partners (Destra Piave Land Reclamation Board and Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of the Bekaa).

▲ Lebanese-Italian exchange seminar, Lebanon  
▶ Lebanese farmers during a field visit in Italy



**Water Rights Reform: Lessons for Institutional Design**



Edited by:  
Bryan Randolph BRUNS,  
Claudia RINGLER,  
and Ruth MEINZEN-DICK  
International Food Policy  
Research Institute

“ An authoritative and thought-provoking presentation of the diversity of water rights approaches, that effectively challenges prescriptive approaches to water management reform while also illuminating processes for change. In bringing together insights from practice and analysis, the collected papers also enable serious reflection on the challenges and needs of water rights reform. The result is a highly relevant and timely book that is also well-written and accessible, that will be useful to water management practitioners and water user groups as well as researchers in the field. ”

■ Linden VINCENT, Professor of Irrigation and Water Engineering, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

“ This book is a welcome contribution to the discussion on water rights on two fronts: contents and opportunity. Its contents clearly illustrate the usefulness of different water allocation tools, from administrative allocation to markets, provided that the tools fit their environment, are properly evaluated, and are not ideologically approached. The book is also opportune, because the need to legally recognize customary and informal water rights, acknowledged for some time, is now pressing, in light of the impact that international investment agreements may have on non-formalized water uses. ”

■ Miguel SOLANES, Senior Water Law Advisor, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

**ISIIMM**

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The ISIIMM Mediterranean Partners: **Morocco**



**UCAM Cadi Ayyad University**

The University Cadi Ayyad is one of the key Moroccan partners of the ISIIMM Project.

The Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech was created in 1978 in order to respond to the needs of the Southern and South-Western provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Since its creation, UCAM has experienced considerable development and progress in academic education and in scientific research. UCAM currently operates 13 establishments in Marrakech, Beni Mellal and in Safi. ISIIMM works closely with its direct UCAM Partner in Marrakech- the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences (FSJES).



**Association Al Majal**

Al Majal is a non-profit regional Moroccan association. The Association was officially created in June 1998, however Al Majal had already been in operation for more than ten years before this date.

The vision of Al Majal is in accompanying, promoting and realising socio-economic and cultural activities with and for the benefit of base communities, associative groups and/or co-operative communities and local rural or urban communities in the Marrakech-Tensift-Al Haouz area.

Al Majal aims to work for the benefit of the most deprived social layers, in rural as well as in the urban environment, by intervening using various means (capacity building, guidance and other activities), and by working in collaboration with other associations and local actors in the field and in development projects.



**A new face at ISIIMM**

Congratulations to Abdelaziz El GUEROUA, Ait Bouguemez Facilitator in Morocco and his baby boy Haytam born on 20 August 2005. We send **our best wishes** for happiness, health and prosperity to Haytam and his parents.

© Abdelaziz El GUEROUA

**Portfolio** (see p. 1)



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◀ MEDA Water projects participants  
▼ IWRM Seminar in Zahle, Lebanon



© Michel SOULIÉ

◀ Main water works of the Destra Piave Land Reclamation Board



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**Upcoming regional events**

**ISIIMM International thematic seminar “Community Irrigation Mountain Areas” Integration of resources and conflict resolution**

28 May - 3 June, 2006, Vallée des Ait Bouguemez, Province d’Azilal - Morocco

**Questions about the newsletter or its content?**

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