**Info note and Agenda**

**SWIM-SM 2nd Evaluation Workshop of the Pilot Implementation for the M&E System to Monitor and Evaluate the Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) and Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Process**

**Tunis (Tunisia)**

**16 – 17 November 2015**

Introduction

SWIM is a Regional Technical Support Program that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine territory, Syria[[1]](#footnote-1) 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 (MeHSIPPPIF), 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 is performing 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 during September 2013**, and subsequently refined to reflect the results and recommendations of the invited experts in the said meeting.

The M&E system consists of four modules as per the objectives listed below:

1. Module A: assesses 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
2. Module B: assesses the performance of the responsible irrigation agencies in the implementation of the PIM/IMT program
3. Module C: Assesses the institutional, financial and technical performance of Water Users Associations
4. Module D: Assesses the impact of WUAs' establishment

The specific objective of this activity is to:

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

During 2014, SWIM-SM converted the M&E system into a computer program (now called MONEVA) with the assistance of the “International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – the Agronomic Mediterranean Institute of Bari ([*CIHEAM*](http://www.google.jo/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCQQjBAwAQ&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iamb.it%2Fmod%3Dstatic_content%2C359%2C359%2Cciheam.htm&ei=099QVIzbCdXjavi3gRg&usg=AFQjCNFKHG9nttHa1qFHNiK5cx8jwIkyNg)[[2]](#footnote-2))/[*IAMB*](http://www.iamb.it/)[[3]](#footnote-3)) and tested its applicability in selected regional offices and WUAs in two pilot countries; namely Jordan and Tunisia.

Training of the concerned users was carried out and data entered at national, regional and local levels for the selected Regional offices and Local organizations (WUAs). The first evaluation workshop was carried out in September 2014 in Tunisia with the aim to assess the functioning of the MONEVA system and to evaluate its effectiveness in identifying the shortcomings in the performance of the PIM/IMT process and in guiding the preparation of the action plans needed to correct them Action Plans were also prepared by each group (national, regional and local levels) which contained specific measures/actions to be implemented to improve the performance of the PIM/IMT programme implementation in the country.

On the other hand, several recommendations were made to improve the MONEVA system during the evaluation workshop, which included:

* Several indicators for which the scoring criteria should be modified to account for the local experience.
* Definitions of some indicators should be changed to improve the understanding of the underlying concept.
* The Arabic version of the system should be completed and made available within MONEVA.
* The user’s Help should be revised and changed according to the changes made.
* Participants felt that additional support (particularly more hands-on training) may be needed for a certain time (6-12 months) to use the MONEVAS system with all its potential and that measures to assist in the institutionalisation of the system in each pilot country were needed. These included preparation of:
  + Detailed procedures for calculating some of the more complex indicators should be prepared
  + Detailed procedures for data collection, data entry and exchange (as needed in each country)

In consideration of the above suggestions, the SWIM-SM activity was designed for the year 2015. Considerable improvements were made on the MONEVA system, and the testing of the revised system extended over a larger number of WUAs. Training of the potential users was carried out in August 2015 and now the second evaluation workshop will be implemented.

Objectives of the 2nd Evaluation Workshop

The objectives of the workshop are:

Conduct in each pilot area, a 2-day self-evaluation workshop involving the stakeholders with the objective of:

1. Analysing the monitoring and evaluation results of the PIM/IMT process during 2014 (using 2014 data) at the local level as a result of applying the revised version of the MONEVA system in the pilot country.
2. Based on the 2014 M&E results Identify the actions needed to improve the PIM/IMT planning and implementation at the local level
3. For the CRDA and WUAs that participated in the first evaluation workshop (CRDA Sousse and GDA Chott Miriem), compare between 2013 and 2014 evaluation results and assess the progress made on the action plan between the two evaluations.
4. Identify lessons learnt and the road map of future activities to ensure sustainability of the MONEVA utilization in the country with special emphasis on the institutional framework.

Target Group

The main target are the relevant staff from (a) the DG/DGREE supporting PIM/IMT at the national level, (b) CRDA Sousse (c) the technical officers from GDAs **WUAs** **Baloum, Chieb, Chott Miriam, Chott Rumman, Sidi Bou ali** that have been involved in the pilot implementation of the M&E system during 2015 and (d) the staff from the CRDA who participated in last year evalaution workshop. Donors’ representatives who are active in the field of PIM/IMT are also welcomed to attend the first day of the workshop.

**Proposed Agenda**

**Day 1 (16 November 2015)**

| **Time.** | **Description** | **Speaker** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **8:30 – 9.00** | **Registration** |  |
| **9:00 - 9:30** | * **Welcome remarks** * **Background overview and presentation of agenda** | **M. Ridha Gabouj:** Directeur DG/GREE:  **Suzan Taha**: SWIM-SM Key water expert |
| **9:30 – 10:00** | **M&E activity in Tunisia**   * Summary of the main activities carried out in Tunisia during 2015 (20 minutes) * Discussion (10 minutes) | **Raqya Al Atiri** – SWIM-SM non key expert |
| **10:00- 10:45** | **Progress on the Action Plan –CRDA Sousse**   * Presentation of: * the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan prepared during the evaluation workshop of 2014 at the regional level of CRDA Sousse * Overview of the obstacles to the implementation of the action plan (30 minutes) * Open discussion (15 minutes). | **Representative CRDA Sousse** |
| **10:45 - 11:15** | **Coffee Break** | |
| **11:15 - 12:00** | **Progress on the Action Plan –GDA Chott Miriam**   * Presentation of * the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan prepared during the evaluation workshop of 2014 for GDA Chott Miriam (30 minutes) * Overview of obstacles to the implementation of the action plan (30 minutes) * Open discussion (15 minutes). |  |
| **12:00 – 13:00** | **Lunch Break** | |
| **13:00- 14:30** | **Presentation of the 2014 evaluation results and action plan by the WUAs**   * GDA Baloum (30 minutes)   Discussion (15 minutes)   * GDA Chieb, (30 minutes)   Discussion (15 minutes) | GDA Baloum Representative  GDA Chieb Representative |
| **14:30 - 14:45** | **Coffee Break** | |
| **14:45 - 16:00** | **Presentation of the 2014 evaluation results and action plans by the WUAs (Continued)**   * GDA Chott Rumman (30 minutes)   Discussion (15 minutes)   * GDA Sidi Bou Ali(30 minutes)   Discussion (15 minutes) |  |
| **19:00 Dinner** | | |

| **Time.** | **Description** | **Speaker** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **9:00- 10:00** | **Comparative analysis of**  **the evaluation results (2013 and 2014) and Presentation of 2014 action plan**   * GDA Chott Miriam (30 minutes)   Discussion (15 minutes) | GDA Chott Miriam Representative |
| **10:00-10:20** | * **Presentation of Lessons learnt of M&E activities in 2015**  at Project level (20 minutes) | Raqya Al Attiri |
| **10:20 – 10:50** | Coffee Break | |
| **10:00 – 11:00** | **Workgroups to identify**   * the Lessons Learnt at the National, Regional and local levels * Future road map: Ensuring sustainability of the MONEVA utilization with a view to the institutional framework   **Presentations of the workgroups results** | Three Workgroups (One at each level) facilitated by the experts |

**Day 2 (17 November 2015)**

Proposed Location and Date

The workshop is planned to be held at the Belvedere hotel in Tunis for one and a half day on 16 and 17 November 2015

**Working facilities**

**All participants are kindly requested to bring lap tops with them**

1. The situation is that cooperation with Syria is temporarily suspended until further notice from the EU [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo de Bari [↑](#footnote-ref-3)