**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**

**Dead Sea (Jordan)**

**8-9 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 an 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 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

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 Amman 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 the preparation of the action plans to correct them. During this evaluation workshop, the MONEVA system has shown its capacity to identify activities and issues that need to be improved. In this sense the MONEVA system has fully achieved the primary purpose of its development. Participants in the first evaluation workshop expressed their satisfaction with the system that was an “eye opener” to clearly identify where corrective actions were needed. During the workshop, Actions Plans were prepared by each group (national, regional and local levels) which contained measures/actions to be implemented to improve the performance of the PIM/IMT programme implementation.

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 “Regional” and “Local” levels 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 regional and local levels.
3. For the regional office/directorate and WUAs that participated in the first evaluation workshop (South Shuneh Directorate and WUA no. 91), compare between 2013 and 2014 evaluation results and assess the progress made between the two evaluations.
4. Identify lessons learnt and the road map of future activities.

Target Group

The main target are the **staff of the Regional Office of South Shuneh and the WUAs in South Shouneh** that have been involved in the pilot implementation of the M&E system during 2015.

**However**, the following are also invited to attend

* The relevant staff from the WUAs Administration supporting PIM/IMT at the national level
* The staff of the regional offices who participated in the pilot implementation of the M&E system during 2014
* Relevant JVA Information and Technology (IT) specialists who attended the training of June 2014 and August 2015
* The leaders and water officials of the WUAs who participated in the pilot implementation of the M&E system during 2014
* Donors’ representatives who are active in the field of PIM/IMT

Proposed Agenda

**Day 1 (8 November 2015)**

| **Time.** | **Description** | **Speaker** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **8:30 – 9.00** | **Registration** |  |
| **9:00 - 9:30** | * **Welcome remarks** * **Overview of SWIM-SM during 2015** * **Presentation of agenda** | **Khaled Qsous:** DirectorWater Users Administration  **Suzan Taha**: SWIM-SM Key water expert |
| **9:30 - 9:55** | **Short presentation about evaluation in the context of M&E systems.** | **Juan A. Sagardoy**; Senior Water Management Consultant, SWIM-SM non-key expert |
| **9:55- 10:00** | **Progress on the Action Plan – National level**   * Presentation of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan prepared during the evaluation workshop of 2014 at the national level. (20 minutes) * Open discussion (15 minutes). | **Khaled Qsous:** DirectorWater Users Administration |
| **10:00 - 10:30** | **Presentation of the 2014 monitoring data and comparison with 2013 – Regional level**   * Presentation - Office of South Shuneh (20 minutes) * Discussion (10 minutes) | **Mamoun Kharabsheh –**  Head of Irrigation and Maintenance North Karameh |
| **10:30 - 11:00** | **Coffee Break** | |
| **11:00 – 12:30** | **Practical Exercise for the development of Action Plan – Regional level**   * Guidelines for the preparation of the action plans. (10 minutes) * Workgroup Exercise involving: * Assessment of the 2014 evaluation results given by the MONEVA system for the Regional Office of South Shuneh; while comparing them with 2013. * Review the action plan that was developed in 2014 evaluation workshop and identify actions still requiring implementation. Identify further actions if needed and time frame for implementation.   **Action Plan developed in 2014 will be distributed to the workgroups** | **Suzan Taha**  **Two workgroups facilitated by two experts** |
| **12:30 – 13:30** | **Lunch Break** | |
| **13:30– 14:15** | **Presentation of workgroups results:**   * Workgroup 1: Comparison between 2013 and 2014 Evaluation results (15 minutes) * Workgroup 2: Actions still requiring implementation and the time frame for implementation (15 minutes) * Discussion (15 minutes) | **Designated Workgroups representatives** |
| **14:15- 16:00** | **Development of Action Plans – Local level**   * Workgroups 1-3: WUAs Pump 95, Pump 81 and Rama * Assessment of the 2014 MONEVA evaluation results and preparation of the Local Action plan by the concerned WUAs * Workgroup 4: Baladna WUA * Comparison between 2013 and 2014 evaluation results. Review the action plan that was developed in 2014 evaluation workshop and identify actions still requiring implementation. Identify further actions if needed and time frame for implementation   (105 minutes) | **Four working groups** assisted by the project facilitators |
| **15:00 - 16:00** | **Coffee Break to be served during workgroups** | |
| **17:00 Dinner** | | |

**Day 2 (9 November 2015)**

| **Time.** | **Description** | | **Speaker** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **9:00 – 10:20** | **Presentation of the evaluation results and action plan by the WUAs**   * WUA Pump 81 (25 minutes) * Discussion (15 minutes) * WUA Pump 95(25 minutes) * Discussion (15 minutes) | | **Representative - WUA Pump 81**  **Representative** -**WUA Pump 95** |
| **10:20 – 10:35** | **Coffee Break** | | |
| **10:35-12:20** | **Presentation of the evaluation results and action plan by the WUAs (Continued)**   * WUA Ramah (25 minutes) * Discussion (15 minutes) * WUA Rameh (30 minutes) * Discussion (15 minutes) | | **Representative - WUA Rama** |
| * WUA Baladna * Comparison between 2013 and 2014 Evaluation results (30 minutes) * Actions still requiring implementation and the time frame for implementation (15 minutes) * Discussion (15 minutes) | | **Representative - WUA Baladna** |
| **12:20 -13:20** | **Lunch Break** | | |
| **13:20 - 14:00** | **Lessons learnt (National, Regional & Local) and suggestions for the future road map**  **to ensure sustainability of the MONEVA utilization in the country** | **Two workgroups**  assisted by the project facilitators | |
| **14:00 - 14:40** | **Presentation of workgroups results** | **Workgroup representative** | |
| **14:40 – 15:00** | **Workshop closure** | **Khaled Qsous:** DirectorWater Users Administration  **Suzan Taha**: SWIM-SM Key water expert | |

Proposed Location and Date

The workshop is planned to be held in the Dead Sea for two days on 8 and 9 November 2015.

**Working facilities**

Simultaneous translation of English – Arabic will be available. Computer facilities will also be available for the working groups.

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)