

Development of Efficient Irrigation Technology and Extension (Phase II), Syria

(Period of the project: 44 months from December 2008,
Our assignments: Leader/irrigation, Training, Extension and Cultivation)

Background of the project

Available water resources in Syria have been depleted because of rapidly increasing water demand. Particularly the water balance in groundwater use has fallen due to too much excess of requirement. It causes significant problems, like rapid groundwater lowering and depletion everywhere in the country. In this situation the regulation of water utilization was not reinforced, so it has become clear that the dissemination of water-saving irrigation knowledge to farmers through training and extension activities is the most effective way to help with these problems. Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) has been designated as the implementation organization for proceeding with the extension of water-saving irrigation. They had poor experience and know-how of agricultural techniques for dry areas and extension methods at farm level. Therefore, it has also become clear that their human resource development and training should be improved. This project was started in December 2008 aiming to expand and deepen the achievement of phase-I by the promotion of modern water-saving irrigation in five focused governorates of Rural Damascus, Daraa, Hama, Aleppo and Raqqa.

Outline of the project

The project was started with the basic strategy that it is more effective and sustainable in the long run to adopt the approach that farmers naturally select water-saving irrigation methods according to their ability and awareness, improved by “extension”, rather than being forced by “control and regulation”. The key points are to establish appropriate irrigation technology at farmer’s field level by means of field surveys and reviewing existing research results, and to disseminate relevant technologies and mind-setting for saving water through training and extension.

Our assignments

- Capacity building for Irrigation SMSs and Water Extensionists along with the introduction of evaluation system
- Implementation of model extension activities and establishment of extension activity cycle including evaluation
- Establishment of demonstration farms and implementation of demonstration activities at the project site
- Implementation of field level research activities in order to promote water-saving irrigation technology
- Preparation of various manuals (irrigation technology, training and extension) and extension materials (posters, brochures and various tools)
- Conducting and evaluating technical transfer to counterparts, and review and evaluation of the project



Training activities on crop water requirement



Extension activities on field discharge measurement



Demonstration activities on modern irrigation system



Research activities on discharge measurement