



Climate Smart WATer Management
and Sustainable DEVelopment
for Food and Agriculture in East Africa



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FOLLOW-UP TRAINING SESSIONS IN THE STUDY AREAS ON BMPs



After attending the 1st Module of the **training for trainers** (ToT) on “Water, Soil, and Crop Management in Climate-Smart Agriculture” in CIHEAM Bari, the WATDEV project partners in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Kenya organized **three separate follow-up training events** in their respective study areas between March and April 2024. The workshops took place this year at Sekem’s farm in Egypt on March 4th and 5th, in Hola, Kenya, on April 8th and 9th, and in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, on April 19th and 20th. The Faculty of Engineering of the Heliopolis University, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), and the Water and Land Resources Centre (WLRC) organized these training workshops, with the overall scientific assistance of ASARECA and CIHEAM Bari. ISRIC guided the sessions devoted to indicators for modeling future scenarios. Due to the ongoing war in

Sudan, the Water Resource Centre (WRC) of Khartoum University decided not to deliver the follow-up training workshop until security conditions are re-established. Nonetheless, WRC’s team conducted extensive discussions with stakeholders remotely to select the indicators for each implementation objective of the BMPs in their study area. An average of 50 people attended each training event, representing **smallholder farmers, national irrigation authorities, farmers from the irrigation schemes of interest, universities**, etc. Training was provided on the selected Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each study area: Agroforestry, Crop rotation, Intercropping trees and crops, Manuring, and Water Users’ Association. These follow-up training workshops enabled trainers and project Partners to **adapt, share, and disseminate** the knowledge on Best Management Practices acquired during the ToT; **collaborate** with stakeholders to select the list of feasibility indicators that best describe the situation in the case study areas from socio-economic and environmental perspectives, and **discuss** with local stakeholders their ideas for scenarios to be developed and simulated with the WATDEV modeling tool.

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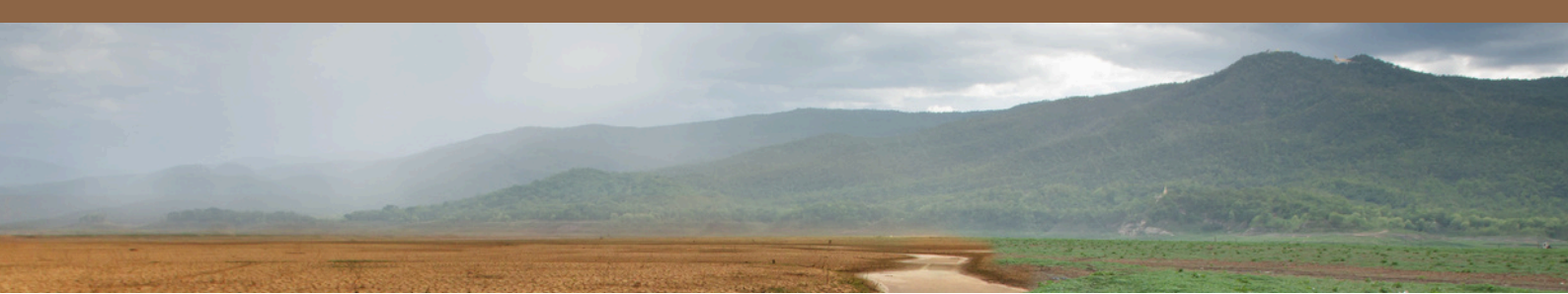
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THE SECOND STAKEHOLDER FORUM AND ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT CIHEAM BARI



Two very intense days of debates and planning took place at CIHEAM Bari on May 13th and 14th. The 2nd Stakeholder Forum and Annual Partnership Meeting aimed to present mid-term outcomes and chart future activities for the collaborative project focused on sustainable water and soil management in East Africa and Egypt. Organized by the CIHEAM Bari, in cooperation with AICS Cairo, the meeting hosted nearly 60 participants from Italy, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Kenya, the Netherlands, Sudan, and Uganda, and gathered mid and high-level representatives from national and local public authorities, universities, research institutes, and value-chain extension services. During the first day, stakeholders and project partners shared and reviewed the outcomes of local meetings previously held in the study areas. They also discussed functionalities and use of the project modelling tool, by gathering in country-specific working groups to outline future scenarios concerning the application of the **selected agricultural best management practices**. On the second day, partners took stock of the project's progress, addressed issues, and set deadlines for technical activities, communication activities as well as project administrative and financial management. The discussions also **laid out the work plan for the upcoming year**. The participation of young researchers from the study area countries and their interaction with European and African research institutions are vital components of the project as this exchange **fosters collaboration and enhances the research capacity of both regions**, contributing to the overall success of the project.

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WATDEV PROJECT DELEGATION'S MISSION TO MONITOR AND PLAN FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA AND KENYA



From April 17th to April 24th, a delegation of the WATDEV project coordinating bodies, comprising AICS Cairo, ARCO, and CIHEAM Bari, visited Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Nairobi, Kenya, to monitor progress and plan future activities together with WLRC and KALRO. In Ethiopia, the team engaged with local partners at AICS Addis Ababa and WLRC headquarters. Dr. Tena Agumassie from WLRC presented his work in agroforestry and Water Users' Associations **benefitting almost 2,500 farmers**. Despite security concerns, which led to an online monitoring meeting instead of a field visit to Bahir Dar, the discussions remained productive, focusing on **data collection from the field and monitoring platforms**. In Kenya, the delegation met with partners from KALRO and AICS Nairobi. KALRO's Dr. Michael Okoti presented agroforestry practices. The meetings emphasized the use of a geolocating toolbox for accurate data collection.

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"FROM THE SELECTION OF THE BMPs TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF SCENARIOS": FOUR NEW BOOKLETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



On May 13, 2024, during the Stakeholder Forum, CIHEAM Bari presented four booklets titled "From the Selection of Best Management Practices to the Identification of Scenarios." These booklets detail the **scientific research conducted over the past year in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan**. They provide updated data, crucial feedback from farming communities, and objectives and indicators for implementing best agricultural management practices. Each booklet highlights the **participatory approach taken in each study area, research phases, and key decisions**. This information facilitated discussions on participatory scenario development at the forum. The final section of the booklets covers three exercises conducted by stakeholders and partners to enhance the modeling tool's functionalities. The electronic versions of these booklets are available on the WATDEV website under "Publications".

[Consult the booklets](#)

BMPs DATABASE FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER, SOIL AND CROP MANAGEMENT NOW ONLINE ON THE WATDEV WEBSITE



Water resource management is a critical issue in East Africa, particularly for irrigation and food security. A collaborative research by CNR, HU, KALRO, WLRC, WRC, and CIHEAM Bari has built the database as part of the project's activity 1.1, "Inventory and Stocktaking of BMPs and Innovations." The Best Management Practices (BMPs) database for sustainable water, soil, and crop management in agriculture is now online. Users can filter practices by category, country, and BMP name. The database catalogs effective management practices used in WATDEV project study areas, partner countries, and other African regions with similar agroclimatic conditions. The goal is to **identify and promote practices that are effective but currently implemented only locally and sporadically**. A "best management practice" is defined as any successful approach, technology, method, or organizational process that enables sustainable and efficient use of water, land, and energy resources while protecting the environment.

[Access the Online Database](#)

WATDEV AT THE WORLD WATER FORUM 2024 HELD IN BALI, INDONESIA: ENHANCING WATER EFFICIENCY IN THE NILE VALLEY

10th WORLD WATER FORUM EVENTS AT AICS PAVILION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22nd
3 pm - 4 pm

Promoting water efficiency and integrated management in the Nile Valley for better living conditions

organized by AICS Cairo Field Office

Opening and Introductory Remarks:
Martino Melli
Head of AICS Cairo Office

Panel:
On-going initiatives for water management improvement
Carmelo Armetta

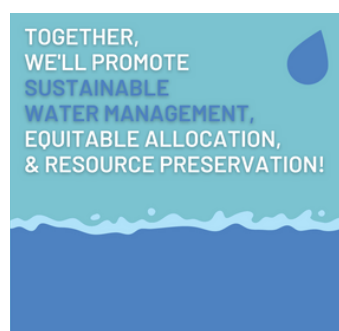
The 10th World Water Forum (WWF) in Bali gathered global experts and stakeholders in Water Management. A highlight of the Forum was a side event hosted by AICS Cairo titled: "Promoting Water Efficiency and Integrated Management in the Nile Valley for Better Living Conditions" where AICS Cairo and CIHEAM Bari showcased their collaborative efforts to enhance water efficiency and resource management in this critical region. More particularly, WATDEV's presentation focused on integrated management practices that are simulated and tested to improve living conditions in the Nile Valley. The event emphasized **the importance of capacity building among stakeholders through research-driven initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding and implementation of sustainable practices**. Attendees gained valuable insights into the challenges and solutions related to water management in the Nile Valley, reflecting the broader themes of the World Water Forum, and highlighting the need for continuous innovation and collaboration in this field.

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WATCH THE PROJECT EXPLAINER VIDEO



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



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