



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



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THE MULTI-ACTOR REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN NAIROBI: A 1ST YEAR'S MILESTONE



Around 60 attendees from multiple countries, including Italy, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Netherlands, and Finland, gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 8-9, 2023, for WATDEV'S Regional Meeting. Stakeholder Forum members and project partners selected Best Management Practices to enhance sustainable water use in agriculture and resilient agro-ecosystems. 20 representatives from leading universities, research institutes, national and local public authorities, also attended. Awareness-raising and training activities' implementation sites were also identified.

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WATDEV PROJECT KICKED-OFF IN ITALY ON MAY 2022 WITH ALL THE EURO-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

In May 2022, partners of the WATDEV project met at CIHEAM Bari Campus to launch their joint Activity Plan. CIHEAM Bari and AICS co-organized the meeting, with participation from AICS Offices in Cairo and Khartoum, as well as the European Commission's Directorate General International Partnerships (DG INTPA). The meeting involved presenting the project under the DeSIRA Programme and discussing operational methods, executive planning, and the engagement of regional and local actors, including farmers' organizations, to address their unique requirements.

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TOOLBOX IMPLEMENTATION BY MODELLING WORKING GROUP

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The WATDEV modeling working group has held meetings in Wageningen on October 2022 and Helsinki on April 2023 to discuss models for simulating project scenarios. These meetings were attended by partners ISRIC (Netherlands), SYKE (Finland), AICS Cairo (Egypt), and CIHEAM Bari. Local partners like Heliopolis University, KALRO, WLRC, and WRC also participated. The group reviewed proposed models, discussing their pros and cons and data requirements in the Study Areas. The objective behind this collaborative process was to integrate and validate models for innovative planning.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS YEAR'S DISSEMINATION & AWARENESS EVENTS

After the selection of the most suitable Best Management Practices done during the Nairobi regional meeting for each study area, four awareness-raising events were held between June and July 2023 in Wad Madani (Sudan), in Bahir Dar (Ethiopia), in Lower Tana River (Kenya), and in Belbeis Sekem Farm (Egypt). Water Users' Association, Agroforestry, Intercropping, Manuring, Crop rotation, and Improved Seeds were the main topics of the meetings. The main goal of these seminars was to raise the awareness of the local communities on the risks of a non-sustainable management of natural resources (crop, water and soil), ultimately enhancing the implementation of selected BMPs and innovations. The BMPs will be implemented on the ground by a committee consisting of stakeholders from various backgrounds. This implementation aims to achieve the desired productive goals of sustainable development such as improved productivity, reduced water waste, and the mitigation of climate change impacts. Click on the Study Area below to know more.

[EGYPT](#)

[ETHIOPIA](#)

[SUDAN](#)

[KENYA](#)



STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN STUDY AREAS TO IDENTIFY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Between September and October 2022, four Stakeholders' meetings were successfully held with the communities of the study areas in Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia. Participatory evaluation of the local stakeholders' ability to work together to adopt or adapt farming practices was carried out during the meetings. Structured debate with stakeholders led to the definition of the base approach for crops, water and soil best management practices implementation (BMPs) at farmers and community level, along with the analysis of the BMPs' suitability based on needs and priorities raised by stakeholders. WATDEV project local partners, namely, [Heliopolis University](#), [KALRO](#), the [Water Research Centre \(WRC\)](#) of the University of Khartoum and the [Water and Land Resource Centre \(WLRC\)](#) of Addis Ababa University hosted the meetings, organized in cooperation with the [Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa \(ASARECA\)](#) and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari). Click on the Study Area below to know more.

[EGYPT](#)

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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

IMPLEMENT **AGROFORESTRY**, COMBINING TREES, CROPS, AND LIVESTOCK, TO PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP, BIODIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS!

IMPLEMENT THE POWER OF **CROP ROTATION** FOR HEALTHIER CROPS, INCREASED YIELDS, & SUSTAINABLE FARMING.

IMPLEMENT **INTERCROPPING** TO PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP, BIODIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

IMPLEMENT THE BEST **MANURING PRACTICES** TODAY, FOR HEALTHIER SOIL, BOUNTIFUL CROPS, & A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

EMBRACE THE POWER OF **IMPROVED SEEDS** & UNLOCK YOUR FARM'S POTENTIAL FOR HIGHER YIELDS, INCREASED RESILIENCE, & UNMATCHED QUALITY.

TOGETHER, WE'LL PROMOTE **SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT**, EQUITABLE ALLOCATION, & RESOURCE PRESERVATION!



UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Module of the high-level training course “Water, Soil and Crop Management in a Climate-Smart Agriculture”, in CIHEAM Bari Campus, Italy, on December 2023.

Join the conversation online



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