

Partnership proposal presented by the French government

TITLE: SIRMA: Water economy in Irrigated Systems in North Africa.

PARTNERS: Participating agencies (full address): (1) Common Irrigated System Program (PCSI made up of Cemagref, Cirad and the IRD); French National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (AFEID). Associated parties (NGOs, local authorities, businesses, international organizations, governments, etc.): see list below. National partners: See list below. International partners: see list below. The partnership will involve regional leadership of a network of French and North African scientists and parties responsible for management of the irrigated perimeters. The group will call on teams with extensive experience in North Africa in research into water economy and on teams with experience in multidisciplinary research that have developed integrated approaches. The PCSI consortium (Common Irrigated System Program made up of French agencies active in irrigation research) will be responsible for management, as co-supervisors, of several doctoral works undertaken by scientists employed by research and development institutions or by young scientists with priority being given to North Africans. The consortium will also be responsible for implementing and pursuing trials and investigations, workshops and seminars for discussion between the various disciplines and audiences cited, on a regional scale. Many North African institutions are involved, including research and user groups (see list of research institutes below). The French partnership is made up of Cemagref, Cirad, Engref, the IRD and the AFEID (French National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage) which includes and represents French professional partners in the sector at an international level (professional organizations, town and country planning agencies, design offices, NGOs, ministries, etc.).

Algeria: ENP: Ecole Nationale Polytechnique; INA EH: National Agronomics Institute, El Harrach; IGR UB Rural Engineering Institute, Blida University. **France:** AFEID: French National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage; Cemagref: Agricultural and environmental engineering research institute; Cirad: Centre for international cooperation in agronomic research for development; ENGREF: French Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering; IRD: Institute for Research and Development; PCSI: Common Irrigated Systems Program.

Morocco: AUEA: Association of Agricultural Water Users; ENAM: National School of Agriculture, Meknès IAV HII: Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II, Rabat; INRA: National Institute for Agricultural Research; ORMVA: Regional Added Value Agriculture Office; SEEN: Department of Studies, Experimentation and Standardization of the Ministry of Agriculture. **Tunisia:** CRDA: Regional Commission on Agricultural Development; DGGR: General Rural Engineering Directorate ENIT: National Engineering College, Tunis; GIC: Community Interests Group; INAT: National Agricultural Institute, Tunis; IRESA: Agricultural Research and Higher Education Institute; INRGREF: National Institute for Research in Rural Engineering, Waters and Forests. **International:** IWMI: International Water Management Institute.

DESCRIPTION: The irrigated agriculture sector is the primary water consumer in North Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia). These countries have mobilized most of their resources and should now continue to improve management of demand to guarantee the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of the sector. National “agricultural water economy” strategies have been defined. The aim is that these measures be implemented by local bodies (from the perimeter manager to the agricultural water user) in spite of the difficulties associated with the major technical, social and economic constraints involved. The aim of the research project is to develop new management tools and procedures (via modelling) to try and balance water resources, the needs of plants and social and economic practices in the irrigated perimeters. The aim is to “co-construct” new practices with the irrigated perimeter managers then, via modelling and further trials, to select those which are most suitable and to apply them to other irrigated sites.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE for implementation: From early 2003 and over 4 years

IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES envisaged: Financing: MAE: €2 million; PCSI: €1 million: North Africa: €1 million; Europe: €1 million. Evaluation process: a steering committee, a scientific committee, an evaluation mission at the halfway point and an evaluation at the end of the process

Contact: **Alain LEPLAIDEUR**, Head of mission, General Directorate for International Cooperation and Development, Research subdirectorate, 244 Bd Saint Germain, 75303 PARIS 07 SP, tel.: +33 (0)1 43 17 82 83, alain.leplaidur@diplomatie.gouv.fr

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