

**BELGIUM: A CASE STUDY ON COMMITMENTS-RELATED BEST PRACTICE OR
LESSONS LEARNED IN
WATER**

**Enhancing the assessment capacity of Moroccan scientific and technical institutions
in the field of sustainable water management**

Cooperation between Belgian universities and universities in the South has over the years evolved from financing ad hoc research programmes, mainly driven by the interests of the Belgian researchers to long term partnership between Belgian universities and universities of the South. Enhancing the academic performances and the building of a scientific network is the main purpose of this cooperation. For each country, the partners of the network negotiate a specific 5 year programme (several Belgian universities and local universities, research institutions and government institutions). The end result is a balance between the priorities of the host country and the answering capacity of the Belgian universities.

The programme with Morocco focuses mainly on capacity building, research and information sharing in the field of water management and protection of this vital resource, mainly for agricultural production.

In a first phase (1995-2001) diagnostic methods to measure and control the quality of water and soil under irrigation was established together with monitoring system that could be used by technicians in charge of agricultural intensification programs (“Atlas – Qualité des sols et des eaux”). Another specific programme is oriented on the transfer of technology in the field of hydrogeology. This contains the establishment of a method to identify the quantity and the quality of the underground water and its vulnerability to pollution. The third component of the 5 year programme is mainly oriented to the translation of these results and the development of information tools and training of agricultural extension workers so that they become agri-environmental instead of pure agricultural advisors.
