

## Background

**« Promoting an integrated and balanced management of water resources use, by conciliating respect of the environment, and economically viable irrigated agriculture »**

is the objective of a local dialogue operation between farmers, development professionals and various stakeholders.

*This concept has served as a reference for the construction of the ISIIMM project led by Agropolis (France).*

## The support team

- **IRD Ur044** : *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Unité de recherche dynamiques sociales de l'irrigation - France*
- **CNEARC** : *Centre National d'Etudes Agronomiques des Régions Chaudes - France*
- **UM II & III** : *Universities of Montpellier II & III - France.*
- **UP** : *University of Perpignan - France.*

## The Mediterranean Partners

- **Egypt**: Center for Rural Development Researches and Studies, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University / EARSUD Association
- **France**: Chambre Régionale d'Agriculture du Languedoc-Roussillon / Association VERSeau Développement
- **Italy**: Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei / Autorità di Bacino Alto Adriatico
- **Lebanon**: Chambre de Commerce d'Industrie et d'Agriculture de Zahle
- **Morocco**: Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II / Association pour le Développement Local
- **Spain**: Universidad Politécnica de Valencia / Unidad Sindical de Usuarios del Júcar.

## The sites

- **Egypt**: Fayoum, Behera (Nile Delta) and Menia (Nile Valley)
- **France**: River Têt and River Durance.
- **Italy**: River Piave
- **Lebanon**: Upper Litani basin
- **Morocco**: Office du Haouz and Ait Bouguemez Valley
- **Spain**: River Jucar and River Genil.

## Period

May 2003 – April 2007

## Applicant

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ISIIMM works in association with **EMWIS**  
(Euro-Mediterranean Information System  
on the know-how in the Water sector Project)  
<http://www.emwis.org>



**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
REGIONAL PROGRAMME  
for Local Water Management  
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# ISIIMM

Institutional  
and Social  
Innovations in  
Irrigation  
Mediterranean  
Management

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[www.isiimm.agropolis.org](http://www.isiimm.agropolis.org)



# ISIIMM – MEDA PROJECT

## Overall objective

overcoming current contradictions associated with local water management in Mediterranean catchment areas through innovative institutional and social solutions, based on an understanding of **six key axes**:

### Social

Essential to an understanding of irrigation techniques and practices developed in the framework of social systems that are characterised by alliance or competition.



### Agricultural

Land use patterns result from the interplay of multiple factors and are in constant evolution to provide rural populations with their livelihood. Water needs and uses evolve in tandem with them.



### Hydrological Hydraulic

Water scenarios need to be adapted to different situations, especially where reliable information including the evaluation of water scarcity and abundance (the frequency of droughts and floods) is lacking.



### Institutional

The three main forms of local management – administrative, community-based and industrial – reflect the diversity of competing interests for water that need to be reconciled.



### Historical

Describes how the other axes have developed through cycles of activity, (mis-) management and crisis, reestablishment, rehabilitation and reorganisation.



### Territorial

A reading of the landscape allows us to understand how irrigation and drainage systems form a network whose meaning is not only technical and hydraulic but also social and political.



#### Target groups

- Public authorities and rural municipalities
- River-basin authorities
- Water users organisations (WUOs)
- Environment and development NGOs
- Local and regional development organisations.

#### Main activities

- **Facilitating** coordination between water managers and other actors in each river basin
- **Strengthening** institutional capacities and training in irrigation water management
- **Promoting** a better understanding of the key axes through project partners networks
- **Identifying** solutions to problems of water conflict
- **Developing** Organisation System of Information and Research of Irrigation Societies (OSIRIS) that will underpin the different axes of ISIIMM
- **Exchanging** information and know-how.

#### Main expected outputs

- **Building** a common knowledge and comprehension of social and institutional irrigation management and creating adapted institutional tools
- **Creating** new perspectives for irrigation development policies and for innovation at local level through guidelines and documents that synthesise the 11 ISIIMM pilot-basin cases
- **Developing** OSIRIS (database GIS) and communication products
- **Training** and dissemination through website and distance learning.