

6 December 2007

09:00 Registration

Session 1: Introduction - The INECO Approach

09:30 Welcoming addresses

10:00 The INECO Project - Principles and Approach, *Prof. Dionysis Assimacopoulos, INECO Coordinator, National Technical University of Athens*

10:30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Water Management in Tunisia & Groundwater exploitation patterns

10:45 Water Resources Management in Tunisia, *Dr. Rachid Khanfir, DG RE*

11:00 The focal water management problem of groundwater overexploitation - Recharge of water tables in the Governorate of Nabeul, *Dr. Moncef Requaya, CRDA of Nabeul*

11:15 Groundwater overexploitation - An analysis of causes and effects, *Mr. Ahmed Bouzid, CITET*

Session 3: Building of the problem tree through a participatory approach

11:30 Group Work Session: Separation into small groups for analysing causes and effects to groundwater overexploitation and reporting towards the audience

13:00 Lunch Break

14:30 Building the problem tree by the workshop moderator

Session 4: Discussion on objectives and alternatives

15:00 Institutional and Economic Instruments for Groundwater Management, *Dr. Jean-Marc Berland, International Office for Water*

15:30 Coffee Break

15:45 Building the objective tree - Discussion on alternative solutions and implications

16:30 Completion of assessment questionnaires - Experiences and Narratives

17:00 End of Workshop

Contact for queries and further information:

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INECO

Institutional and Economic Instruments
for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region
web site: <http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/ineco>

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

"Building a common vision for managing groundwater resources in Tunisia"

THURSDAY 6th December 2007



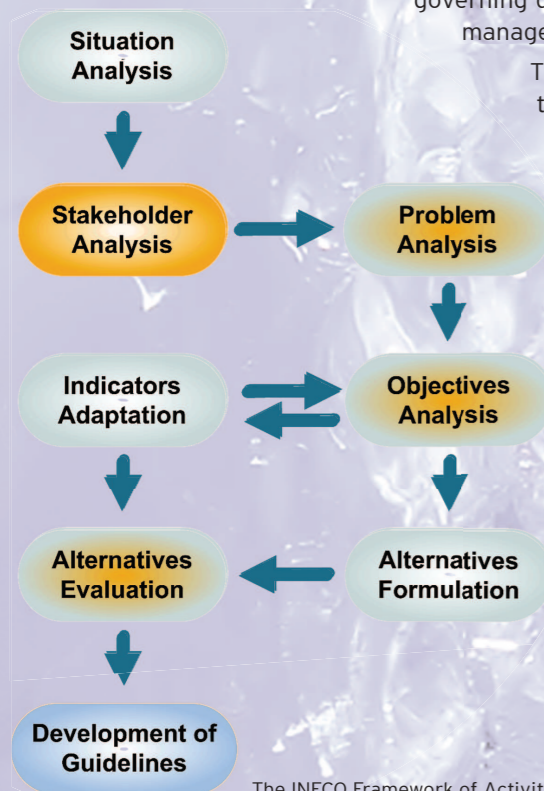
INECO is a Coordination Action supported by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Programme, and addressing the "Specific Measures in Support of International Cooperation (INCO Programme) - Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)" Priority (Contract no: INCO-CT-2006-517673).

THE INECO PROJECT

INECO is a Coordination Action Project supported by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Programme, addressing the “Specific Measures in Support of International Cooperation (INCO Programme) - Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)” Priority. The INECO Consortium brings together 14 institutions from 10 Mediterranean Countries (Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Algeria and Morocco), including public (6), private (7) and international organisations (1).

The goal of INECO is to introduce an interdisciplinary approach to water management building upon the integration of three major aspects: environment, economics and society. INECO will discuss shared problems in the decision-making process and the deficiencies of the present governance structures around the Mediterranean Basin. Research focuses on alternative institutional and economic instruments which can promote equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability in the sharing and governing dimensions of water resources management.

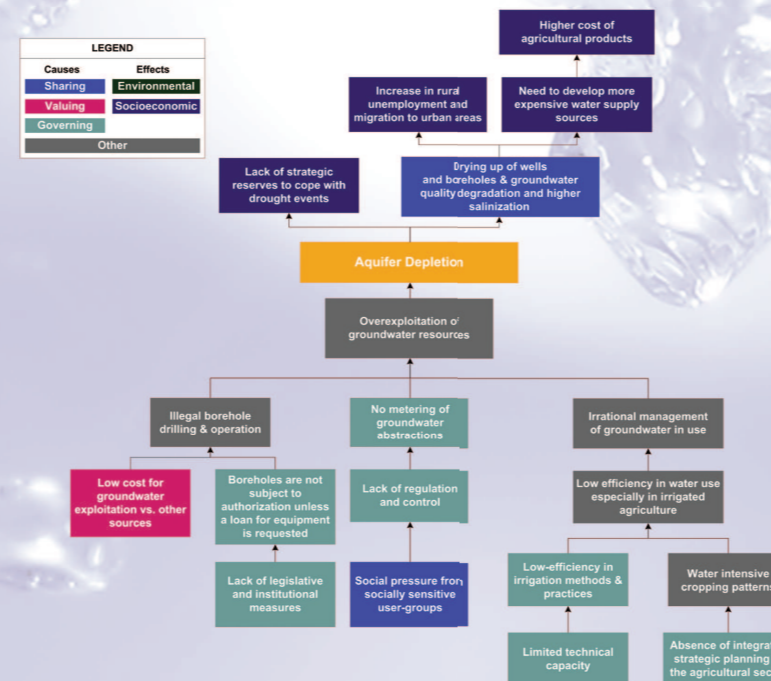
The Tunisia workshop is one of the stakeholder workshops organised by INECO in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The workshops aim to develop a constructively engaged Integrated Water Resources Management process, and lay the foundations for reaching a common understanding on what the real problems are and how these could be addressed in a commonly agreed water resources management situation.



INECO IN TUNISIA - GROUNDWATER OVEREXPLOITATION

Water scarcity in Tunisia is becoming more and more severe, as a result of population growth, rising living standards, and accelerated urbanization which pose a threat on the sustainability of water abstractions and the sustaining of agricultural activities. The escalating urban water demand has led to increased utilization of fresh water for domestic purposes and to the production of larger wastewater volumes. In spite of the considerable effort for water resources mobilization, a strategy which has played a prominent and determinant role in the mitigation of socio-economic impacts of the last 15-year droughts, farmers continue to overexploit phreatic water tables. This has resulted in the current focal problem of groundwater depletion and salinisation. At present, 71 out of 273 water tables are overexploited at a rate of 146%, whereas groundwater represents more than 52% of the country's total renewable water resources.

The overexploitation of groundwater resources is mainly attributed to the operation of illegal boreholes, mostly drilled by farmers for irrigation purposes. There is a pressing need to rationalize groundwater resources management and agricultural water use, by fostering the application of water-efficient irrigation methods and offer incentives towards less water-intensive cropping patterns.



Causes and effects of aquifer depletion in Tunisia

THE TUNISIA WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to strengthen the alliance between the INECO Research Team and Local Stakeholders in Tunisia by:

- Discussing on the focal water management problem experienced in the region;
- Promoting the development of a process where each contributor gains a better understanding of the problem and insight on how other participants see the problem;
- Initiating the participatory involvement of stakeholders in determining, defining and evaluating alternative institutional and economic instruments towards problem mitigation.

The workshop will serve as a discussion forum on the problems and challenges faced by stakeholders. It will offer the opportunity for participants to share their experiences, knowledge, ideas, preferences, hopes, fears, opinions, and values.

