

Quarterly Activity Report: January 1st to March 31th 2006
IALC Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and the Middle East Project
Jordan Component: “Business and Socioeconomic Assessment of Water and
Products for Community-Based Projects in the Badia Region”

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Quarterly Activities:

Administrative work took place this quarter to develop and agree on a \$100,000 sub-contract to BRDC. The sub-contract was finally signed by both parties on April 20.

Technical activities from the NMSU side included identifying the data needs and designing the data collection framework (surveys or templates) for the four main project activities that began during this quarter:

- (1) Economic feasibility analysis and business plan development for the A’naqeed Al-Kahir diversified (crop and animal) and the Tal-Rimah milk purchasing/cheese production and marketing cooperatives;
- (2) Economic feasibility and socioeconomic impact analyses of a community based demonstration project of water harvesting techniques for range restoration and enhanced grazing capacity.
- (3) An assessment of the economic feasibility and sustainability of Wadi farming systems in the Al-Shamia/Ma’an area, based on a combined use of shallow-well and deep aquifer water sources for agricultural production.
- (4) A survey to characterize and analyze typologies of agricultural water users living within the boundaries of the Disi and Mafraq aquifers according to production and resource use patterns and socio-economic status.

The NMSU and the BRDC team members responsible for each of these project activities were in frequent long-distance communication coordinating and exchanging of information through Skype phone, e-mail and e-mail document attachments.

In general, from the BRDC side, this quarter activities included conducting exhaustive literature reviews, organizing/systematizing the existing data and putting it into the templates provided by NMSU, and beginning the collection process of the additional data that will be needed for these analyses.

An NMSU team including Jim Libbin, Rich Phillips and Carlos Rosencrans traveled to Jordan during mid March to work with their BRDC counterpart researchers on data review, organization and systematization of existing data, and survey/data collection instrument design and testing.

A summary of the progress in each of the project's activities is provided below:

- (1) Economic feasibility analysis and business plan development for the A'naqeed Al-Kahir diversified (crop and animal) and the Tal-Rimah milk purchasing/cheese production and marketing cooperatives:
 - ✓ Determination and description of data needs and development of data template by NMSU
 - ✓ Review of the available data by BRDC
 - ✓ Collection of additional data needed for the analyses by BRDC
 - ✓ Preparation of a data report for the two cooperatives by BRDC using the data template provided by NMSU.
 - ✓ Although the NMSU team members that traveled to Jordan in mid March are not directly responsible for this activity, they visited the two cooperatives and discussed the report with the BRDC counterparts.
 - ✓ The report was then submitted to Bill Gorman and Bob Grassberger, the NMSU team members that are directly responsible for this activity, for comments and feedback, and will be discussed in detail during their trip to Jordan in mid May.

- (2) Economic feasibility and socioeconomic impact analyses of a community based demonstration project of water harvesting techniques for range restoration and enhanced grazing capacity:
 - ✓ Preliminary determination of data needs by NMSU
 - ✓ Data and literature review by BRDC
 - ✓ BRDC review of literature and information on crop budgeting provided by NMSU
 - ✓ Review of available data by Jim Libbin during his mid March visit to BRDC and preparation of a format for data systematization and analysis.
 - ✓ Preparation of a draft crop budget by BRDC following this data format.

- (3) Assessment of the economic feasibility and sustainability of Wadi farming systems in the Al-Shamia/Ma'an area, based on a combined use of shallow-well and deep aquifer water sources for agricultural production:
 - ✓ Data review and collection by BRDC
 - ✓ Preparation by BRDC of a report on the farming activities in this area
 - ✓ Jim Libbin (NMSU) and Odeh Al-Meshan (BRDC) begin preparation of a report about economic situation in the Wadi Al-Shamia.

- (4) Survey to characterize and analyze typologies of agricultural water users living within the boundaries of the Disi and Mafraq aquifers according to production and resource use patterns and socio-economic status:
 - ✓ NMSU and BRDC develop and, during the mid March NMSU team visit, field test the survey instrument
 - ✓ Quick field survey conducted by BRDC in the farming areas in southern Jordan

- ✓ BRDC received a summary of the farming activities in the south from the Ministry of Agriculture; which will be translated to English for later use
- ✓ BRDC team members visit farms in the Wadi Rum area to prepare for NMSU trip
- ✓ BRDC and NMSU team visit with and survey farmers in south and north of Jordan during mid March.

Other activities:

- ✓ Publication of paper entitled “Anaqeed Al-Khair Case Study: Badia region of Jordan” In: *Regional Consultation on Linking Farmers to Markets: Lessons Learned and Successful Practices. Cairo, February 2006*, by Raed Altabini, Jim Libbin and Bill Gorman.
- ✓ Training session for BRDC team on “team and project management” by Richard Phillips.
- ✓ Meeting of BRDC and NMSU team members with Jochen Regner from GTZ to exchange information and explore possible collaboration.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

As planned, second quarter activities will focus on:

- ✓ Training the surveyors and carrying out the agricultural water use survey
- ✓ Finalize data collection and systematization and begin the economic analyses of the A’naqeed Al-Kahir the Tal-Rimah cooperatives
- ✓ Finalize data collection and systematization and begin the economic analysis of the community based water harvesting and range restoration activity
- ✓ Begin data collection for the economic feasibility and sustainability analyses of the Wadi farming systems in the Al-Shamia/Ma’an area

As in the previous quarter, the NMSU team members responsible for the different activities will be in frequent long-distance communication with their BRDC counterparts, coordinating and exchanging of information through Skype phone, e-mail and e-mail document attachments. In addition, all six NMSU team members will travel to Jordan at least once during the summer, at various times, in order to work with their BRDC counterparts on the activity that they are directly responsible for, as well as to provide support and advice on all other ongoing project activities.