

Quarterly Activity Report: July 1st to September 30th 2007
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:

The main outcomes from this quarter’s activities are:

- ✓ Finalizing the writing of a technical report that summarizes the results of the agricultural water use survey in the Disi aquifer.
- ✓ Continuing with more in-depth econometric analyses of the Mafraq survey data aimed at supporting better informed agricultural water use policy decisions and help farmers improve their irrigation water use efficiency.
- ✓ Continuing with the econometric analysis of the willingness to accept compensation for giving up their water pumping “rights” by Mafraq farmers.
- ✓ Continue with collecting new information and updating existing data useful in the evaluation of the management and enterprise selection adjustments that should improve the financial and economic feasibility and performance of the A’naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives. The focus has been on seeking alternatives to increase employment opportunities for rural women.
- ✓ Hold a one week in-service training in Las Cruces NM for BRDC’s M.S. Ahmad Al-Rawajfeh on: 1) Understanding and preparing accrual accounting statements and 2) How to prepare financial feasibility analyses. Updated reports using FY-07 data on the profitability assessments for the Tal-Rimah dairy cooperative and the A’naqeed cooperative will be prepared during this training.
- ✓ Continue with the planning a series of workshops involving Bedouin herders, government land-use agency officials, donor agency and NGO representatives, and other interested parties, to provide them with detailed information about the water harvesting and range restoration techniques used, the cost of implementing these techniques, and economic returns resulting from the enhanced biomass production. The first of these workshops is scheduled for the Tal Rimah rangeland rehabilitation site on December 13, 2007. The materials for this workshop are being prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.
- ✓ Continue work to encourage others to initiate similar range restoration activities throughout the Badia region of Jordan.
- ✓ Continue with field research to evaluate the impact of control grazing and stocking rates on the study site, and the economic implications of these treatments.
- ✓ Continue to monitor existing rangeland rehabilitation projects and to investigate potential future sites.
- ✓ Continue with the economic feasibility and sustainability analyses of the Wadi farming systems in the Al-Shamia/Ma’an area.
- ✓ Continue to provide advice to M.S. Ismaiel Naser Abuamoud as he prepares to begin his doctoral program at NMSU.
- ✓ Continue providing technical support to the Bedouin onion variety trial project in Disi basin via video conferencing with NMSU subject matter expert.

The NMSU and the BRDC team members responsible for each of these activities were in frequent long-distance communication coordinating and exchanging of information through Skype phone, e-mail and e-mail document attachments. In addition, Derek Bailey and Jim Libbin traveled to Jordan to review the range rehabilitation progress at the Tal Rimah site and to investigate the potential of replicating the success at this site in two additional locations: Al Moreghah and Ba'ir. They also discussed the format and process of designing grazing management studies at Tal Rimah and a potential site at Al Moreghah and met with various government agencies to elicit their interest in cooperative work in those sites.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

In accordance to the year-two work plan, the next quarter activities will include:

- ✓ Finalizing the econometric analyses of the Mafraq agricultural water use survey data
- ✓ Continuing with the econometric analyses of the data on the farmer's willingness to accept compensation for giving up their water rights in the Mafraq aquifer.
- ✓ Continue supporting the A'naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives in the implementation of the recommended management and enterprise selection adjustments to improve their financial and economic feasibility and performance.
- ✓ Finalize preparation of training materials for workshops using the A'naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives as examples to train individuals involved in similar projects throughout Jordan on how to analyze their economic and financial feasibility and use the results from these analyses to improve a cooperatives' business performance.
- ✓ In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, finalize preparation of the materials for and deliver the first producer workshop on rangeland rehabilitation at the Tal Rimah site on December 13. This workshop will involve Bedouin herders, government land-use agency officials, donor agency and NGO representatives, and other interested parties, to provide them with detailed information about the water harvesting and range restoration techniques used, the cost of implementing these techniques, and economic returns resulting from the enhanced biomass production.
- ✓ On the basis of the results of the economic analysis of the community based water harvesting and range restoration activity, continue work to encourage others to initiate similar range restoration activities throughout the Badia region of Jordan.
- ✓ Continue with field research to evaluate the impact of control grazing and stocking rates on the study site, and the economic implications of these treatments. Continue to monitor existing rangeland rehabilitation project and to investigate potential future sites.
- ✓ Prepare a complete draft of a technical report that will summarize the results of the agricultural water use survey in the Al-Shamia area.
- ✓ Continue to provide technical support for Bedouin onion project in Disi basin via video conferencing with NMSU subject matter expert.

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. It is also likely that at least two trips to Jordan by NMSU team members will take place during the next quarter. The dates and specific purposes for these trips, however, have not been decided.