

SIRRIMED Newsletter n° 5

15/05/2014



Last meeting of the SIRRIMED Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the SIRRIMED project held its final meeting in the city of Avignon on the 12 and 13 February 2014. Project partners discussed and pooled the various tools that have been developed to improve water productivity at different levels of management in the Mediterranean basin. It was agreed to elaborate the final project publications as a best practices handbook and several guides for farmers. The date and agenda of the final conference of the project and the guest list was also approved.

SIRRIMED EVENTS

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Final conference of SIRRIMED project

On Wednesday, the 19th of March 2014, the scientific consortium of SIRRIMED project (FP7 - Grant agreement: 245159) organized its final conference on "Sustainable Use of Irrigation Water in Mediterranean Region" aiming to present the main results obtained at different irrigation-water management levels (farm, district and watershed) as well as the possibility to harmonize on-farm and off-farm husbandry practices into one district and watershed information system (DIS & WIS). This event took place in the CSIC's office in BELGIUM (Rue du Trône, 62 — 1050 Brussels). The conference program consisted of 2 sessions: the 1st was a series of PowerPoint presentations showing the main findings obtained from each of the SIRRIMED's work packages and the 2nd session was a round table discussion regarding SIRRIMED's results as compared to the present and future perspectives of water productivity in the Mediterranean region. This discussion was facilitated by Prof. Elias Fereres. It involved four experts external to the project (Wim G.M. Bastiaanssen: Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences. UNESCO Chair Global Water Accounting; Jerry Knox: Irrigation and Water Resources, School of Applied Sciences, Cranfield University; Redouane Choukrallah: Professeur IAV Hassan II, Morocco; Thomas PETITGUYOT: Policy officer – Water Framework Directive-European Commission) and about 40 participants from different Euro-Mediterranean countries. The final publication of the project, a handbook with its most important results, was presented during the conference.

SIRRIMED CONTRIBUTIONS

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SIRRIMED TARGET AREAS

Lake Karla Basin

One of the pilot basins studied in SIRRIMED is the Lake Karla basin (LKB), located in the eastern part of Thessaly region (Greece). SIRRIMED focuses on the largest area with existing irrigation networks of the Thessaly region, called Lake Karla basin.

Lake Karla was one of the most important Greek wetlands and a natural reservoir, which provided water storage and recharge to the groundwater system. However, technical studies recommended draining the lake and building a smaller reservoir instead of the natural lake for flood protection and for the revelation of agricultural fields. Although the lake was drained in 1962, the suggested reservoir was never built. This delay has compounded the environmental problems that the region has got from the intense agricultural activity. The suggested plan for the restoration of Lake Karla, one of the most important environmental projects in Greece, started few years ago and it proposes the creation of a 38 km² reservoir. This partial restoration is expected to reverse the unsustainable drawdown of the water table and other adverse environmental problems caused by the lake drainage as the reservoir will cover the irrigation needs of the nearby agricultures, which today are irrigated only by the groundwater resources.

As part of SIRRIMED WPs 4 and 5, a hydrological information system which is planned for commercial application has been developed for this pilot area.

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Online Professional Irrigation Scheduling Expert System - OpIRIS

PROJECTS RELATED TO SIRRIMED

Two partners of the SIRRIMED project namely CEBAS-CSIC (Spain) and CERTH (Greece) have signed a new grant agreement for EU collaborative project funded under the seventh framework program [KBBE.2013.1.4-07]- "Boosting the translation of FP projects' results into innovative applications in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture". This new project titled "Online Professional Irrigation Scheduling Expert System" aims to build an online consulting and irrigation remote control service that take advantage of some progresses developed during previous EU-projects (CLOSYS, IRRIVAL and SIRRIMED). Through its considerable database on real irrigation-related case studies, OpIRIS pretends highlighting and quantifying both direct and embedded benefits from adopting different irrigation scheduling options. It is formulated to progressively guide its visitors and sway them toward adopting water conservation practices and technologies following a win-win approach. OpIRIS is based on integrated analysis of soil and plant water-status indicators and weather variables using an advanced environmental sensing wire-less network.

OpIRIS involves 2 research centers, CEBAS-CSIC (Spain, coordinator) and CERTH (Greece), 2 commercial SMEs dealing with irrigation related products and facilities (RITEC – Spain and ARGOS – Greece), 2 EU end-users associations (EIC-Spain and SEMIDE-France) and 7 SMEs dealing with fruit trees production and vegetable crops under greenhouses using hydroponic systems. OpIRIS started on the 1st of December 2013 and will end on the 31st of November 2015.

For more information: visit www.opiris.eu or contact the coordinators jalarcon@cebas.csic.es or omounzer@cebas.csic.es

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY
saving resources, creating jobs

Green Week, Brussels > 3-5 June 2014

EUROPEAN NEWS

Green Week Conference 2014 : Circular economy – saving resources, creating jobs

The 2014 edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from 3 to 5 June at The Egg Conference Centre, Rue Bara, in Brussels.

The theme will be Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste.

A circular economy is the logical solution for a resource-constrained world. It's a place where almost nothing is wasted, where the re-use and remanufacturing of products has become standard practice, and where sustainability is built into the fabric of society. In 2014 the Commission will set out new proposals enabling Europe to unlock the potential of the circular economy, underlining the need to change our way of thinking about design. There will also be a focus on better waste management, and on how it can help the EU use its resources more efficiently.

Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges of experience and best practice. Over the past decade, the conference has established itself as an unmissable event for anyone involved with protecting the environment. The 2013 edition attracted some 2100 participants from government, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media. The 2014 programme is available now. Green Week is open to the public and participation is free of charge. Green Week also has an area for exhibitors and satellite events take place all around Europe.

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New call for proposals in H2020 : Water Innovation — Boosting its value for Europe

The Horizon 2020 framework programme addresses water-related issues. A call for proposals is running under the “Water Innovation: Boosting its value for Europe” title. It includes a topic which aims to explore integrated approaches to food security, low-carbon energy, sustainable water management and climate change mitigation.

More specifically, proposals should aim to:

- develop tools and methodologies for integrating agriculture, forestry, climate change impacts and adaptation with climate-energy-economic models and land-use models, using a multi-disciplinary approach;
- consider the potential role, contributions and limitations of low-carbon options with respect to land and water resources;
- develop a better scientific understanding of the land-water-energy-climate nexus;
- develop integrated strategies and approaches, at different spatial scales (regional, national, continental, global), integrating resource efficient land use, agricultural productivity improvements, sustainable water management and low carbon energy transition and analysing interactions with the existing regulatory frameworks in these areas and the potential barriers to implementation.

The deadline for this call is October 16th, 2014.

NEW CALL OF PROPOSALS