

Long-term bilateral co-operation on water management

# Model of the Egyptian-Dutch Advisory Panel on Water Management

APP Central Office<sup>1</sup>, APP Supporting Office<sup>2</sup>

The need to implement sub-surface drainage on all agricultural land has confronted Egypt since the completion of the Aswan High Dam enabled perennial irrigation. The Egyptian-Dutch Advisory Panel on Land Drainage was established following a request from the Egyptian Government for co-operation on drainage. The Panel started in 1975, as an Advisory Body for the Egyptian Ministry of Irrigation (current name: MWRI - Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation). Throughout the years, the Advisory Panel widened its scope from drainage specific issues to water management issues and gradually changed from technical support to policy advice, hence the change of name into Egyptian-Dutch Advisory Panel on Water Management (in short APP, Advisory Panel Project). The current phase of the APP started in January 2001 and runs through 2004. The Egyptian and Netherlands Governments have recently decided to continue with the Panel and currently plans are being developed for the 2005-2009 phase.

The work of the Panel is based on information generated from the field in general and from the Dutch-financed projects in particular, as well as on experience from The Netherlands and other regions of the world. APP provides an effective two-way conduit between the field and the policy making level. The Panel acts as an "informal think-tank" on integrated water management issues.

In the period 1976-2000, the Panel held 34 meetings between Egypt and The Netherlands alternatively. In the APP phase 2001-2004, four Meetings were held:- Siwa Oasis, Haarlem, Aswan, and Nijmegen.

## Panel membership

The Chairman is Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI). Other MWRI representations are from the Irrigation Sector, Minister's Technical Office, Egyptian Public Authority on Drainage Projects (EPADP), APP Central Office. From outside MWRI there is representation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and the Council of Arab Economic Unity. The Dutch



Typical surface irrigation, Egypt (photo: Alterra-ILRI)

side is composed of a Co-chairman (independent advisor) and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Ministry for Economic Affairs, Union of Water Boards, and Rabo Bank.

As a group of high level experts from both countries, the Panel provides the framework to identify and advise on policy issues and strategies. These issues include the efficiency of the irrigation and drainage system; the economic value of water; water pricing; public awareness; water quality policy and management; development and drainage of new lands; water resources planning policy, and water sector reform.

## Main objective

- The main objective of APP is to assist, in its advisory capacity, MWRI in carrying out its responsibilities with regard to managing the water resources of Egypt more efficiently and effectively.

## Lessons learned

Knowledge sharing on IWRM between countries can be successfully done through the Panel "model". The main lesson learned is that joint agreement, guidance, and discussion of research and pilots on water (policy) issues as well as an "open-minded" exchange of views result in a wide range of recommendations. The annual Meetings and Workshop, together with the related Agenda preparation system ensure effective and up-to-date Panel Recommendations. In all, the Panel is a very worthwhile "model" of cooperation on the subject of integrated water resources management, with results in a wide range of subjects.

## Table Egyptian-Dutch Executed Projects (1976 - 2004)

• projects initiated by the Panel (budget in M)

### Advisory Panel WWI Project Phases I-IX (1976-2004) (9.9) Land Drainage

- Drainage Technology and Pilot Areas (2.3)
- Drainage Research Programme (2.4)
- East Bahr Saft drainage (4.5)
- Drainage V (4.5)
- PVC Raw materials (1.4)
- Drainage Executive Management (8.6)
- Drainage Executive Management Project (Phase-IV) (6.3)
- Institutional and Technical Support Project for Strengthening of EPADP (INTESP) (3.3)
- Re-use of Drainage Water
- Re-use of Drainage Water (3.6)
- Re-use Monitoring Programme (0.4)
- Monitoring and Analysis of Drainage Water Quality (2.2)
- National Water Quality Monitoring Network (0.3)

### Fayoum Water Management

- Fayoum Water and Salt Balance Study (0.8)
- Batts Pumping Station (2.5)
- Fayoum Water Management and Irrigation (2.5)
- Fayoum Weed Control (3.4)
- Fayoum Water Management (15.8)

### Groundwater Management

- Hydrological Training Programme (1.9)
- Development and Management of Groundwater Reserves (3.4)
- Vertical Drainage Study (0.2)
- Feasibility of Groundwater Development (0.5)
- Pumps sets (0.6)
- Environmental Management of Groundwater Resources Project (2.0)
- Control of Waterlogging and Salinisation (1.1)

### Channel Maintenance

- Aquatic Weed Control (3.4)
- Grass Carp Project (2.3)
- Delta Breeding Station (1.9)

### Planning

- Strengthening the Planning Sector Project (3.2)
- Lake Nasser Flood and Drought Control (2.9)
- National Water Resources Plan (4.0)

### Hydrology Study

- Hydraulics Studies (3.4)
- Hydraulic Research on Nile and its Structures (IV) (1.3)
- Nile Basin Capacity Building for River Engineering (2.0)
- Strengthening the Training Capacity HRI (1.8)

### Institutional Development

- Water Board Project (3.4)
- Manual Channel Maintenance (1.3)
- Strengthening the Water Quality Management Unit (3.1)
- Strengthening the Groundwater Sector (1.9)
- Institutional Reform Unit (0.4)

### Others

- Training for ESA (phase I) Egyptian Survey Authority (1.0)
- Training for Managers Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA, phase II) (1.1)
- Satellite Image Data Sets for Inventory of Land-use & Groundwater Development (0.3)

**Total 122.5M€**

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