

Staff orientation



Upon receiving final approval to start project implementation plan in Sept. 06; the project management started recruiting field staff composed of a research coordinator with an organizational development coordinator and a driver in each of the four project governorates: Aswan, Sohag, Fayoum and Kafr El-Sheikh.

Project management was then adamant to have recruited personnel reach common understanding on project objectives and methodology; therefore organizing a workshop for all staff during the period 28-30 November 2006. Representatives from MWRI were also invited to the workshop to ensure highest possible coordination and understanding. The MWRI representatives were keen on participating in discussions and elaborating on water conflicts in their governorates: causes and the role of MWRI units in working towards finding solutions to the conflicts among water users.



Head of strategic research unit –the governmental counterpart in the project- Prof. Nahla Abo-el-Fotoh commented that this workshop has really set integrated field teams composed of project staff supported with the technical expertise of the SRU and in full cooperation with concerned MWRI departments in the governorates.

Cont.: Governorate Conferences

these conferences came from the project conflict management advisor, Professor at York University, Sultan Barakat, who argued after the first conference in Fayoum that these conferences are really giving the floor to different stakeholders to explain their points of view and activating the dialogue amongst them around irrigation conflicts towards finding solutions.

The major recommendations of these conferences were: (a) the need to rationalize the use of water;

especially through realizing governorate crop quotas – replacing rice and sugarcane with convenient economic crops which might be exporting crops; (b) farmers should adhere to irrigation techniques recommended by both MALR and MWRI; (c) farmers grouping entities whether Water Users Associations or water groups within established community development associations, these groupings should be activated through two things: 1) to set a convenient legal formula that would enable such entities



Strong community and executive participation was key to success of first project conferences in the governorates



to mobilize resources and respond to social claims to ensure sustainability; and (2) to ensure that such entities are provided with necessary organizational development training to qualify for their mission. The last recommendation (d) was to provide better orientation to stakeholders on the MWRI established mechanism for raising complaints or offering suggestions to MWRI, and the need to review and respond to such.

Why Participatory Action Research

Water & stability is a development participatory action research falling, categorized under applied research which generally seeks to develop knowledge to reach a certain objective (in response to a need or a specific problem); transforming abstract knowledge into solid applications. Participatory action research; e.g. Water & Stability, shall work in cyclic phases starting with study/ planning, then taking an action, observing and reflecting. To ensure sustainability of such learning for action cycle; the project insists on community participation; to train community cadres and enable them to follow on study/plan, propose and activate actions whenever needed in the future.



Care international in Egypt
34 street 106; Hadayek El-Maadi
Tel.: (+202) 5260096
Fax: (+202) 525 7074
E-mail: Helshafeay@egypt.care.org
<http://www.care.org.eg>



Water & Stability News

Periodical newsletter issued by "Water & Stability" project



Year 1, issue 1;
January 2007

Water Conflict Management Mechanism

Demand on water is increasing yet resources are limited, a true fact especially in Egypt.

With the increasing demand on water and the limited resources; the potential for conflict increases especially around irrigation water which is essential for the oldest and widest spread profession on earth: farming.

Therefore, through a partnership between CARE and the strategic research unit of the national water research center and in collaboration with concerned departments at the MWRI; the "Water &

Stability" project with funds from the Dutch government seeks to find and test effective mechanism/s to manage conflict around water in Egypt. In order to reach such the project shall attempt to snapshot conflict in four Egyptian governorates. These snapshots shall be studied towards reaching mechanism/s to manage conflicts in participatory manner thus reducing the severity of the conflict and potential negative social impact.

Participation is key. In an attempt to attract the different conflict stakeholders to participate and



Some excess in the use of water While lack of water with the crops of others with their dreams of a honorable life



contribute to project activities we'll be issuing this newsletter on a quarterly basis to attempt giving a very brief account of major project activities; and also providing some definitions/introductions to important conflict and water management concepts.

Finally, I would like to invite all of you to participate with us with your comments, and views which we shall study carefully with all due respect.

Eng. Samir Sedky

Governorate conferences

Aiming to introduce the project to different irrigation water stakeholders at governorate level; the project teams in Fayoum, Sohag, Kafr El-Sheikh and Aswan convened local conferences on Dec., 06 and Jan. 07. These conferences also sought to activate dialogue among the different stakeholders on irrigation water conflicts: causes, reflections, potential instability and mechanisms available to reduce these.

Being a hot issue; all invitees were very positively responsive to participate in the dialogue and discussions. Participants included undersecretaries of Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) and Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR), MPs, members of local popular and administrative councils, faculties, representatives of Ministry of Interior, Social Development Fund, National Council of

Women, WUAs, CDAs, farmers associations, and media personnel. As these conferences touched sore issues for rural communities, the media provided good coverage of the conferences: airing an interview with Project Manager, Samir Sedky on Channel 7, and airing an interview with project Aswan team on Channel 8, in addition to articles on such newspapers as Al-Ahram, Sohageya, Fayoum News and others.

One of the first comments on



Al-Ahram highlighting parts of the project conference in Sohag