

CLIMAGRI – Climate Change and Agriculture

FAO/UCEA CLIMAGRImed PROTOCOL FOR COLLABORATION

Development of a network in the Mediterranean region on climate change and agriculture

Technical component

Quality and homogeneity of meteorological data for construction of climate change scenarios

International Consultant on Climatological Data Analysis

Report of the First Mission to Egypt

Duration: 21 - 23 December 2003

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Counterpart: Egyptian Meteorological Authority (EMA); Kobry El-Qubba, El Khalifa El-Maamon Street, Cairo Egypt – P.O. Box 11784 – Phone (00202) 6849858.

Principal researchers involved: Rabie Sayed Fouli (Director General of Scientific Research – phone: 6849858; Fax: 6849857; e-mail: rabiesf@hotmail.com), Mohamed Abd El-Rham Aly Dawod (Researcher – Agrometeorology), Emad Attia (Researcher- Agrometeorology – e-mail: emadattiaus@yahoo.com), Ahmed Adel Faris (Under Secretary of State for Stations and Instruments – phone: 6855829; Fax: 6744716), Maheb H. Doos (Director General of International Affairs (Phone: 6849844 – Fax: 6849857).

Evaluation of the existing situation of the meteorological sector in terms of data availability, methodologies for analysis, logistic infrastructures and identification of a suitable counterpart for an effective transfer of methodologies: EMA seems to be a suitable counterpart as it is Egyptian National Office for Meteorology and Climate. EMA has a good data availability with digitalised records for around 40 years and longer records on paper, even if the actual availability of the not digitalised data has to be investigated more in detail. It has an internal research team, good facilities for data analysis and good logistic infrastructures. It has performed interesting research concerning the characterisation of Egyptian Climate (a good Climate Atlas has been produced), whereas the studies on climate change and variability are currently at a preliminary stage as they yet concern a rather short period.

Factors which could hamper implementation of activities: the most critical factor in the cooperation with EMA is that before the first mission never the Director General of Scientific Research nor anybody else of EMA staff had clear information on CLIMAGRImed. So the

inclusion of EMA in the project has to be confirmed in the next weeks after EMA staff will obtain the authorisation from the Chair of the Board of Directors (Medhat M. Arafa – Fax (00202) 6849857). Mr. Fouli thinks that a critical point could be to highlight the benefits for EMA of the participation to the project. So, he suggested to transfer not only knowledge, but also equipment (e.g. 1-2 personal computers). This possibility was however excluded by FAO as CLIMAGRImed funds can only cover travel costs. Another critical point could be connected with the conditions under which the Egyptian data can be used by the other participants. My suggestion is to discuss this points within the next weeks and then to contact EMA at the highest level (Mr. Arafa) to verify the results of the internal discussion they should have performed after my mission.

Workplan and schedule of activities: collection of data and metadata (first 6 months); Quality control and homogenisation (months 3 to 9); Data analysis (months 9 to 15). Recommendation: the first condition to be successful in reaching the goals of the project is to begin the activities as soon as possible. That requires the formal inclusion of EMA to the project.

Identification of datasets to be collected: a first proposal of stations was performed. In the next weeks EMA researchers will evaluate the real data availability (digitalised data and paper archives) and will make their final proposal.

Activities to be completed before the first mission of the counterpart: before the first mission of the counterpart it is necessary that EMA finishes the collection of data and metadata.

Notes: the information on the WEB has to be changed in order to include EMA.