Enhanced Water-Agriculture Coordination and Cross-Sector Policy Coherence in Arab Countries

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Mohamed Al-Hamdi
Senior Land and Water officer & Delivery Manager of the WSI
FAO Regional office for the Near East and North Africa
**Overall Objective:** Contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in the context of increasing water scarcity, through:

- Strengthened policy coherence/convergence/coordination between the water and agriculture sectors.
- Enhanced Partnership and Collaboration.
- Informed strategic water planning driven by effective water accounting, enhanced water productivity and integrated WEF nexus management approach (*WEPS Project*).
- Non-conventional water supply alternatives (wastewater reuse) SNE wastewater reuse initiative.
- Development of the Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity.
Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Policy Coherence

- Preparatory work to identify suitable coordination mechanism (FAO, ESCWA, AMWC and AOAD).
- First Joint Ministerial Meeting (4 April 2019)
  - Endorsed the Cairo Declaration.
  - Set joint ministerial meetings at biennial basis.
  - Established High-Level Joint Technical Committee – annual meetings.
  - Established a Joint Secretariat (Secretariat of the AMWC and AOAD).
- Work modality through strengthening the **Science-Policy Interface** on crosscutting issues.
Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Policy Coherence

First meeting of the LAS Joint (Water-Agriculture) Ministerial Council (4 April 2019)

**SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE**

- **Identification of Cross-cutting (water-Ag.) issues**
- **Prioritizing the issues within the HLJTC Agenda**
- **Strengthened Science-Policy Interface Work Modality**
- **Application at Pilot scale, adjusting and upscaling**
- **Political level Discussions and setting policy directions**
- **Developing Technical position on the issue**

*First meeting of the LAS Joint (Water-Agriculture) Ministerial Council (4 April 2019)*
Water Allocation for Agriculture – Technical Position

• Background Technical paper (Oct. 2019 – 1st HLJTC meeting)
  • Request for Guidelines for improved allocation for agriculture
• Draft Guidelines elaborated and presented (Oct. 2020 – 2nd HLJTC meeting)
  • Draft subject to comments from countries
• Revised Guidelines presented (Oct. 2021 – 3rd HLJTC meeting)
  • Raised to the Joint ministerial meeting for endorsement

Water Allocation for Agriculture – Policy Direction

• Final draft of the guidelines officially adopted (Jan. 2022 – Second Joint meeting of Ministers of Water and Ministers of Agriculture)
  • Invited countries to apply guidelines at pilot scale
**Science-Policy Interface**

**Water Allocation for Agriculture – Piloting**
- Requests received from 4 countries (Jan. – April 2022)
  - **National core team (agriculture-water) formed**
  - Pilot area tentatively identified
  - Technical support – international and national consultants
  - **Action plan preparation (Dec. 2022)**

**Water Allocation for Agriculture – Application at country level**
- Implementation of action plan (2023)
- Draw lessons and recommendations
- Institutionalize through developing appropriate legal and institutional frameworks
- Upscale to national scale
Getting the process to move

Leadership
Mandate, agendas

Shared understanding
Date, maps, tools

Ownership
Diverse users
Self assessment

Engagement
Broad stakeholders
Coordination

Improved Allocation
Create an agenda for improved water allocation

Change leaders to:
1. bring different stakeholders together
2. invest in developing the shared evidence-based understanding
3. give space to the diverse group of users
4. connect to higher level leadership and follow up processes and
5. give all the confidence that the process is under control

Political endorsement

Publicity

Institutionalization
Having a shared data set

Catalytic
- Overview
- Discussion
- Agreement

Instruments
- SCADA
- Water Accounting Plus
- Remote sensing
Stakeholder engagement

• Processing of get to know each other and appreciate different positions
• Reflect on different interests and positions
• Create common perception preferably by maps and data
• Create structured process with delegated subgroups
• Make use of local activists
Ownership of diverse users

Diverse users:
- Agriculture and others
- Different parts of the system

Self assessment as tool
Water Allocation for Agriculture – Regional level

• Draw lessons from national cases
• Amend the guidelines in accordance with national results
• Approval of revised guidelines
• Call for adoption by all member countries

Science-Policy Interface
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For more information: Mohamed.alhamdi@fao.org