

FACT SHEET

Agricultural Water Management Project



Community members rehabilitate an irrigation system in Figuig.
Photo: NEF

CONTEXT

Despite its significant size, the Oriental region is one of the poorest and most water-scarce areas in the country. Agriculture is a mainstay of the local economy, and its potential for growth is high. Harnessing the region's agricultural potential rests on sound water management at all levels, from large-scale industrial operations to rural smallholders. Mobilizing water for agriculture is challenging in the Oriental Region, located in eastern Morocco, for several reasons - low and decreasing rainfall, lack of storage capacity, reliance on an unstable water source, namely the Moulouya River.

USAID RESPONSE

Through the Agriculture Water Management Project, USAID, in partnership with the Near East Foundation, helped smallholder farmers improve agricultural water management in remote rural areas of Berkane, Taourirt, and Figuig provinces. The location and design of the project was tailored to take advantage of synergies with the second pillar of the Government of Morocco's Green Morocco Plan, which aims to increase rural farmer incomes through water optimization, crop rotation, diversification and intensification.

More specifically, the project supported agricultural water management by:

- Mobilizing 20 farming communities around community-based water management to use agricultural water more efficiently
- Promoting more efficient uses of agricultural water and management techniques to 2,500 smallholder farmers
- Promoting sustainable growth through market-oriented agricultural value chain development and efficient harvesting techniques

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improved watershed management for over 134,000 hectares through the development and implementation of 22 Agricultural Community Water Action Plans

QUICK FACTS

- **Project Name:** Agriculture Water Management (AWM) Project
- **Project Duration:** November 2010-May 2013
- **Program Goal:** to advance Moroccan initiatives for peaceful reform
- **Project Objective:** to support increased farmer incomes through improved resource management

- 2,282 individuals adopted new technologies and management practices as a result of project activities, including drip irrigation, solar pumps, pruning techniques, and fertilization techniques.
- 4,886 community members participated in training focused on improved watershed management and crop/farming techniques to maximize production and preserve water.