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*Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)*

*Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM)*

*United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action (IDfA): "Water for Life" 2005-2015*

**National Capacity Development Training of Trainers (TOTs) Workshop on  
Developing and Implementing Mitigation and Preparedness  
Water Scarcity and Drought (WS&D) Management Plans  
Zaragoza - Madrid, Spain, May 6-9, 2014**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**I. THE ORGANIZER AND THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP**

The National Capacity Development Training of Trainers (TOTs) Workshop and Field visits are organized by UN-DESA in partnership with Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM) and United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action (IDfA): "Water for Life" 2005-2015 and to be held at the premises of IAMZ-CIHEAM in Zaragoza, Spain from 6 to 9 May 2014.

The TOTs and Field visits falls within the framework of UN-DESA capacity development Project ROA-207 entitled "Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa".

The project's main objective is to strengthen the capacities of national planners, policy makers and stakeholders in water-scarce and in transition settings countries in West Asia/North Africa, and to enhance their effectiveness in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of mitigation and preparedness drought management strategies.

The capacity building project will be implemented in the following Pilot Countries:

- Jordan
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Tunisia
- Yemen

**III. OBJECTIVES**

The National Capacity Development Training of Trainers (TOTs) Workshop and Field visits aim at training key national drought management officials in the pilot countries and strengthen their knowledge of the latest WS&D management guidelines, methodologies, tools and best management practices, in particular, the Mediterranean Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Planning Guidelines (MEDROPLAN). The objectives are:

- To assess the WS&D management plans in West Asia and North Africa region;
- To review the latest development and the challenges of the pilot countries in the WS&D area;
- To adapt the MEDROPLAN guidelines, methodologies and approaches to each pilot country;
- To provide direction pilot countries efforts in developing and implementing Water Scarcity and Drought Management plans.

## II. TOT Participants and Trainers

This training session will bring together key policy makers and national stakeholders from the pilot countries along with experts with extensive regional and international experiences on drought planning and management including MEDROPLAN's developers and experts. This will include:

- Key project team members from the five pilot country governments (4 each): Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen.
- Project's regional and national experts.
- Experts from regional and international institutions involved in drought management in the region.
- MEDROPLAN scientists from the Polytechnical University of Madrid who authored the MEDROPLAN guidelines.

## IV. TOTs METHODOLOGIES AND MECHANISM

The rationale behind conducting the project's key Training of Trainers (TOTs) session in partnership with CIHEAM- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza is due to CIHEAMS's specialized expertise and key role as the project coordinator during the developing of MEDROPLAN and their role in arranging the initial trainings of the guideline in the region. Also, the DA project's EGM held at ESCWA in June 2013 strongly recommended collaborating with CIHEAM and utilize and adapt the MEDROPLAN guidelines for West Asia and North Africa under DA ROA-207.

Mediterranean Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Planning (MEDROPLAN)<sup>1</sup> Guidelines will be the main reference of the training. It was published in 2007 and translated into Arabic, English, French, Greek, Italian, and Spanish<sup>2</sup> and was partially funded by the EuropeAid Co-operation Office-European Commission under the MEDAWATER programme initiative with the collaboration of scientists and stakeholders from Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia. The purpose of the MEDROPLAN Guidelines is to provide Mediterranean countries with a framework for an effective and systematic approach to prevent and/or minimize the impacts of drought on people.

The Guidelines include five components, which are the planning framework, organizational component, methodological component, operational component and public review component.

- **The planning framework** defines the local, regional and national purpose for developing drought planning.
- **The organizational component** assists the user of the Guidelines in understanding the institutional and legal framework within which the drought plan will be designed and implemented, as well as to define an efficient organizational structure to implement the plan in an efficient manner.
- **The methodological component** defines the technical approach and the type of studies to be carried out in order to establish the linkage between the drought phenomena and the management actions.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/medroplan/index.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.emwis.org/initiatives/medaeau/fo1719001/fo1033012>

- **The operational component** identifies both the long and short term actions that can be implemented to prevent and mitigate drought impacts.
- **The public review component** presents a methodology to revise the application of the previous components when developing a drought plan.

The advantages of the 3-day TOTs Workshop and field visits in Zaragoza and one-day field visits to Madrid are:

- The training will be conducted by the most active scientists who wrote the MEDROPLAN Guidelines.
- The field training in Zaragoza provides the opportunity to have a complete and comprehensive view of how water scarcity and drought planning is designed and carried out in Spain. That will include a seminar session at the Ebro River Basin Authority, created in 1929 whose main functions are the elaboration and management of the Basin Water Plan and the management and control of the public water domain, including a drought management plan. The General Community of Upper Aragon Irrigation, which brings together 58 community-based users, with 125,000 hectares of crops, and provides drinking water to towns in the provinces of Huesca and Zaragoza and to ten industrial estates, with an area of influence of 2,500 square kilometers. The water is distributed through 2,000 kilometers of canals, and with about 3,000 kilometers of drains. These infrastructures have their corresponding service roads, totalling about 5,000 kilometers, of which many are the only communication from different villages with the rest of the province
- The field visit in Madrid to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, The State Agrarian Insurance Body (ENESA) , Canal Isabel II, which is the public body in charge of water provision to the Madrid area and other civil society organizations and stakeholders will allow the participants in the training session to meet and interact with the highest level Spanish decision makers in the area of water and drought management, and understand the global state organisation and planning in this field.

## VI. CORRESPONDENCE

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