**MEDWATERICE**

Towards a sustainable water use in Mediterranean rice-based agro-ecosystems

www.medwaterice.org

**CONTEXT**

In the Mediterranean basin, rice is cultivated over an area of 1,300,000 hectares. The most important rice-producing countries are Italy and Spain in Europe (72% of the EU production; 345,000 ha), Egypt and Turkey among the extra-EU countries (almost totality of the production; 789,000 ha).

**OBJECTIVES**

The project aims at exploring sustainability of innovative irrigation options, in order to reduce rice water consumption and environmental impacts, and to extend rice cultivation outside of traditional paddy areas to meet the escalating demand.

**EXPECTED IMPACTS**

Outcomes generated by MEDWATERICE are aimed at injecting tailored and updated knowledge to improve the sustainability of rice production in the countries of the Mediterranean area, with particular attention to the adoption of water-saving techniques. The project will be developed in close cooperation with stake-holders and decision makers.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- Stake-Holders involvement and dissemination of results
- Assessment of the overall sustainability of rice production in Mediterranean areas
- Evaluation of rice irrigation options with respect to food safety and security
- Upscaling of on-farm gains at the irrigation district scale to support water management decisions

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