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**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), and 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. Case studies will be conducted in pilot farms of the countries involved in the project. Data collected at the farm level will be extrapolated to the irrigation district level to support water management decisions and policies. Indicators for quantitative assessment of environmental, economic and social sustainability of the irrigation options will be defined.

**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**

MEDWATERICE Project is financed in the context of the PRIMA Programme (PRIMA-Section2-2018; Topic: 1.1.3: Irrigation technologies and practices)