



42 Tunisia Goubellat Irrigation Perimeters Construction Project

Helping improve agricultural productivity and increase agricultural production by providing irrigation equipment

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount 2.637 billion yen / 2.008 billion yen
Loan Agreement December 1996
Terms & Conditions 2.7% interest rate (consulting services: 2.3%), 25 year repayment period (7 year grace period), General untied
Final Disbursement Date December 2004
Executing Agency Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques (Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources)



Project Objectives

The objective of this project was to increase agricultural production, including improving agricultural productivity, by irrigating 2,900 ha of farmland in Goubellat in the Béja Governorate, which is located in northern Tunisia, and thereby contribute to improvement of farmers' livelihoods and living standards.

Effectiveness and Impact

Rating **a**

Construction of an intake sluice gate, pump stations, and a reservoir, as well as upgrading of irrigation and drainage canals were carried out under this project. In 2006, 2,907 ha of land had benefited from irrigation, which was slightly above the planned area of 2,900 ha. The number of persons benefited by irrigation in 2006 was 1,798, of which 1,004 persons are actually conducting irrigation; thus, the initially planned number of 1,014 persons was almost reached. At 2,097 ha, the cultivated area for potatoes and tomatoes was somewhat less than planned due to slight schedule delays in planting, but the cultivated area by other major crops was almost as planned or above planned. The annual average farm income per farm household increased approximately 679% from 4,734 dinars* before project implementation, to 32,147 dinars (four times the annual average farm income per farm household in Tunisia) after project implementation. Although the increase was largely due to the uplifting effects of the nearly 30% high income farm households, it was also ascertained that there was a bottom raising effect seen in improvements in low and medium income farm households. Therefore, this project has largely achieved its objectives, and effectiveness is highly satisfactory.

* Dinar: The unit of Tunisian currency.

Cultivated Area Using Irrigation, by Major Crops

	Plan	Actual (2006)
Wheat	600 ha	620 ha
Potatoes	545 ha	363 ha
Pulses	185 ha	211 ha
Oats for animal feed	166 ha	155 ha
Barley	125 ha	150 ha
Tomatoes	95 ha	55 ha
Watermelon	45 ha	197 ha

Source: Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques

Relevance

Rating **a**

This project has been highly relevant with Tunisia's national policies both at the time of the appraisal and at the time of the ex-post evaluation.

Efficiency

Rating **b**

The project period was much longer than planned (192% of planned period) although the project cost was lower than planned (68% of planned cost); therefore the evaluation for efficiency is moderate. The project delays were primarily caused by the time needed to procure the consultants and contractors, and because the contractor in charge of concrete pipes delivery experienced a deficiency in manufacturing capacity, which resulted in delayed delivery and the extension of pipe-laying work.

Sustainability

Rating **a**

No major problem has been observed for capacity of the executing agency nor the operation nor its maintenance system, therefore, sustainability of this project is high.



Water supply facility

Third-Party Opinion

This project helped improve the living standards of farmers and contributed to economic development in the project area. There is room for improvement in the operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities for tertiary and lower-ranked canals, and it is hoped that technical guidance will be provided to the farmers' association.

Name of specialist: Mr. Tijani Merdassi (consultant)
 Former technician at the Ministry of Agriculture. Currently a consultant for development projects. Specializes in agricultural civil engineering.