



# IBEX - International Biotechnology Experts

## IBEX FP7 Initiative Irrigation water saving solutions for Mediterranean agriculture

Irrigation water demand is increasing in Mediterranean countries, putting more pressure on the available fresh water reserves. There is a need to enhance the sustainable use of water in Mediterranean irrigated agricultural systems, with the aim of reducing water use.

### Goal

Development of cost-effective, innovative and more efficient water-saving solutions allowing substantial improvement in terms of consumption, waste, and water productivity.

### We propose to develop

- integrate best water-saving solutions within suitable husbandry practices
- tailor solutions to the most water-demanding crops currently grown in the Mediterranean, such as citrus, cotton, corn, potato and tomato
- study and develop new models of good governance at basin or catchments level
- define strategies and propose policies aimed at promoting a more responsible and efficient use of irrigation water at farm level
- develop and implement a dissemination plan for effective transfer of the produced knowledge towards the end-users, e.g. industry, SMEs and farmers

### Expertise sought for:

- North – African research centers with experience in agrotechnical management of Mediterranean crops, specifically in **irrigation management, fertilization and soil-water-plant relationships**.
- North – African research centers studying water management at catchment levels, with specific focus on **optimization of water usage for agriculture** and the influence of the environment and climate on water reservoirs
- North – African SMEs and industry specializing in the development and production of highly innovative **water irrigation systems**

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**IBEX FP7 Initiative**  
**Irrigation water saving solutions for**  
**Mediterranean agriculture**

**KBBE-2009-1-2-03: Irrigation water saving solutions for Mediterranean agriculture – SICA (Mediterranean Partner Countries). Call: FP7-KBBE-2009-3**

Irrigation water demand is increasing in Mediterranean countries, putting more pressure on the available fresh water reserves. The project will address issues related to the sustainable use of water in Mediterranean irrigated agricultural systems, with the aim of reducing water use and reversing the current unsustainable trend. The research focus should be on cost effective innovative and more efficient techniques allowing substantial savings in terms of consumption and waste, and improving water productivity. The best water-saving solutions should be integrated within suitable husbandry practices and tailored to the most water demanding crops currently grown in the project target areas, thus improving the whole system performance. The project should also include the study and development of new models of good governance at basin or catchments level, and should define strategies and propose policies aimed at promoting a more responsible and efficient use of irrigation water at farm level. In this respect, a participatory approach is recommended, as well as the planning of an effective communication and demonstration strategy to facilitate an adequate involvement of stakeholders. The dissemination plan should include a sound strategy for an effective transfer of the produced knowledge towards the end-users, e.g. industry, SMEs and farmers.

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project (small or medium-scale focused research project) for Specific Cooperation Actions Dedicated to International Cooperation

**Additional eligibility criteria:** SICA - Minimum number of participants: 2 from different Member States or Associated countries and 2 from different ICPC from the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

**Expected impact:** The European and international added value lies in mutual knowledge generation and in capability-building and increased trade opportunities for European and ICPC companies. The project will contribute to the reduction of irrigation water use through the development of innovative, more efficient and water-saving irrigation systems, technologies and techniques. Thus the project will address and add value to the global issue of natural resource management.

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