#### **ENCYCLOPEDIA ON**

# WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID REGIONS OF THE ARAB WORLD

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December 2009

#### **PREFACE**

The decision to conceive and publish this Encyclopedia on water resources development and management in arid and semi-arid regions of the Arab world is the perfect result and unique model of cooperation between the Arab Water Council and the CIHEAM/Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy.

The Encyclopedia was planned to combine, as a fundamental source, some selected scientific and technical publications in the water sector issued by Bari Institute in the last 15 years. The Encyclopedia will be then translated from English into the Arabic language.

The translation of the Encyclopedia into the Arabic language will give great opportunity to a relatively high number of experts to be acquainted with the water resources challenges and possible solutions, especially the issues of the Arab world, thereby increasing the massmedia awareness as well as putting into action the statement "water is the subject of all to all".

The preparation of the Encyclopedia by both Bari Institute and Arab Water Council started four years ago. This collaboration has been strengthened since the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari joined the Arab Water Council as one of the foundation members in the AWC Board of Governors.

The role of Bari Institute, through its technical and financial support to the Arab Water Council during the preparation of the Encyclopedia, is the real interpretation of the solid collaboration between both the Institutions to achieve the final goal of having the Encyclopedia in our hands, today.

Indeed, for Bari Institute, this is the first programme accomplished under the umbrella of the Arab Water Council which will be followed by many other successful programmes.

The Encyclopedia consists of 13 volumes, as follows:

#### Volume 1:

Water Resources in the Arab World

#### Volume 2:

Water Vision for the Arab World and the Mediterranean

#### Volume 3:

Water, Food and Agricultural Challenges in the Arab World

#### Volume 4:

Supply and Demand Water Management in the Arab World: the case of the Mediterranean

#### Volume 5:

Coping with Water Scarcity in the Arab World: Options and Tools

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Gender and Water Resources Management and Development

#### Volume 11:

Water Valuation in the Irrigation Sectors:

Tools and Mechanisms

#### Volume 12:

Capacity Building for Water Resources Development and Management

#### Volume 13:

Application of New Technologies in Water Resources Management

This comprehensive work will remain not only as a tangible proof of the common efforts made for the development of a field which is so strategic and important in the economic growth of the whole Arab region, but also as a cornerstone for the coming generation.

The Encyclopedia will contribute to improve and update the capacity of the Institutions and the know-how of technicians, scientists and decision-makers involved in the water sector activities in the Arab world

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