

Summary Report

Workshop held on April 17,2012 to discuss the Final Report of Local Community Initiative on Water Governance, initiative to prevent transfer of groundwater in Al-Malikhah village , BaniHoshish district , Sana'a to other areas for irrigating Qat

Workshop Location

Agricultural Cooperation Federation (Union), Conference's Hall.

Sessions :

The workshop included 2 sessions separated by coffee break. The 1st session was for presentation of the main component of the Final draft report and the second was for discussion. The sessions were chaired by Mr. Hamoud Al-Robaidy , GSCP General Manager.

Participants :

The participants were officials and experts from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation , Ministry of Water& Environment, NIPs, NWRA-Sana'a Branch and representatives from WUAs of Al-Malikhah and ACU also participated.

Main Comments and Notes Raised during discussion:

Major issues that were raised related to the water scarcity pattern in Yemen. These comments and notes are summarized under:

- **Export of Shamlan mineral water in the Shamlan area:** 12 wells have been constructed recently in the area which sell water to Haddah Mineral Water Company . The Shamlan Mineral Water Company also consumes huge amount of water. These mineral water industries are exporting their product to the neighboring countries in Horn of Africa such as Ethiopia and Djibouti which affect negatively the limited groundwater resources in the area.
- **Exporting water abroad,** It was recommended to follow the Japanese and Indian examples where they legally prevent exporting mineral water to other countries to save their water resources.
- **Water is a National asset:** Many representatives argued that since the wells are owned by the farmers they have right to use the well water in any manner they like. It was clarified that this was not true as Yemeni constitution declares water as a national asset and not a private property.

- **The critical Water and food security situation in Yemen;** It was informed that the per capita water availability of water in Yemen was the lowest in the world. With increase of population at 3.7 % per year, the population of Yemen will be doubled in 2030, and per capita water availability will become half to almost 45-30 m³ /capita /year which is not adequate for sustainability of human living. Yemen is already importing 70% of its food grain requirement. Qat which is increasing nearly at 9% p.a is taking over agricultural areas and after 10-15 years , when Yemen is likely to be net importer of oil, how the food imports will be possible for the increased population with decreasing agricultural areas. The participants were asked to consider these critical issues and asked to take steps to conserve water and reduce Qat cultivation.
- A community partnership on water governance is necessary to deal with critical water resource problem in Yemen.

Reporting

Abdulkhaleq Al-Ghaberi

Team Leader