Agricultural Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT SUMMARY

After years of neglect and isolation, Iraqi agricultural and irrigation sectors needed physical, institutional, and technical rehabilitation and modernization. Working with the U.S. Agency for International Development and Iraqi officials, Riverside Technology, inc. helped Iraqis to improve irrigation management practices and expand critical national Agro-Ecological Zone programs and activities.

LOCATION
Iraq

PERIOD
2003 – 2006

PROJECT DETAILS

Riverside Technology, inc. (Riverside) provided technical assistance to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI). Under a subcontract to Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Riverside helped increase Iraqi agricultural productivity, began rehabilitation of the Iraqi resource base, and helped to restore the capacity of small and medium agro-enterprises to produce, process, and market agricultural goods and services. Riverside focused on improving water management and irrigation conditions and practices in Iraq by:

Riverside irrigation expert providing training in Suleymaniya, Iraq

- Establishing numerous demonstrations of how to improve irrigation efficiencies
- Encouraging and developing small-scale irrigation projects
- Addressing the problems of drainage and soil salinity
- Re-establishing agro-meteorological data acquisition sites and processes, including enhancing the agro-meteorological data collection for irrigation scheduling and determining crop coefficients
- Institutional development and capacity building of key Ministry of Agriculture staff

Riverside also organized and implemented an inter-ministerial capacity building effort among the Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources, Transportation, and Planning to refine, expand, and implement a national Iraqi Agro-Ecological Zone (AEZ) program. Using satellite imagery, the program used AEZ concepts and technology to prepare a land suitability system for major crops in Iraq. Geographic information systems (GIS) modeling techniques were also used to identify crop-specific limitations under assumed levels of inputs and management conditions to produce high-quality crop suitability maps.

Stakeholders collecting data

These models showed land suitability for different crops and enabled the Ministry of Agriculture to assist farmers in maximizing yields and incomes.

RELATED PROJECTS

Monitoring Policy Reforms and Improving Farm and Water Management in Tajikistan

Agricultural Sector Review and Planning in Uzbekistan

Amu Zhang Irrigation Rehabilitation Project

Sukhandarya Irrigation System Improvements

RIVERSIDE
global science solutions

CORPORATE
2950 E. Harmony Rd.
Suite 390
Fort Collins, CO 80528
(970) 484-7573

D.C. AREA OFFICE
1010 Wayne Ave.
Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(240) 638-3345

www.riverside.com