Quarterly Activity Report: April 1st to June 30th 2007
IALC Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and the Middle East Project
Jordan Component: "Business and Socioeconomic Assessment of Water and Products for Community-Based Projects in the Badia Region"

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Quarterly Activities:

The main outcomes from this quarter's activities are:

- ✓ Finalizing the basic data analysis, preparing a PowerPoint presentation and initiating the writing of a technical report that summarizes the results of the agricultural water use survey in the Disi aquifer.
- ✓ Continuing with more in-depth econometric analyses of the Mafraq survey data aimed at supporting better informed agricultural water use policy decisions and help farmers improve their irrigation water use efficiency.
- ✓ Completing data collection and initiating the econometric analysis of the willingness to accept compensation for giving up their water pumping "rights" by Mafraq farmers.
- ✓ Continue with the evaluation of the management and enterprise selection adjustments that could improve the financial and economic feasibility and performance of the A'naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives.
- ✓ Continue with the planning a series of workshops involving Bedouin herders, government land-use agency officials, donor agency and NGO representatives, and other interested parties, to provide them with detailed information about the water harvesting and range restoration techniques used, the cost of implementing these techniques, and economic returns resulting from the enhanced biomass production.
- ✓ Continue work to encourage others to initiate similar range restoration activities throughout the Badia region of Jordan.
- ✓ Continue with field research to evaluate the impact of control grazing and stocking rates on the study site, and the economic implications of these treatments.
- ✓ Continue with the economic feasibility and sustainability analyses of the Wadi farming systems in the Al-Shamia/Ma'an area.
- ✓ Continue to provide campus support to Ismaiel Naser Abuamoud in preparation for beginning his doctoral program at NMSU.

The NMSU and the BRDC team members responsible for each of these activities were in frequent long-distance communication coordinating and exchanging of information through Skype phone, e-mail and e-mail document attachments. In addition, Drs. Bill Gorman and Bob Grassberger traveled to Jordan in May to continue work on the evaluation of the management and enterprise selection adjustments to improve the financial and economic feasibility and performance of the A'naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives. Dr. Octavio Ramirez traveled to Jordan mid June to: a) Discuss the overall progress in all of the project activities with BRDC President Mohammad Shabaz and BRDC Deputy Director Raed Al-Tabini; b) Receive, review, preliminarily assess and discuss the data recently collected by BRDC on the willingness to accept compensation for giving up water "rights" by Mafraq farmers; c) Discuss and arrange

for the delivery of additional information needed to finalize the analyses of agricultural water use by farmers in the Disi aquifer with Dr. Rida Al-Adamat.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

In accordance to the year-two work plan, the next quarter activities will include:

- ✓ Finalizing the technical report that summarizes the results of the agricultural water use survey in the Disi aquifer.
- ✓ Finalizing the econometric analyses of the Mafraq agricultural water use survey data, and initiating the econometric analyses of the Disi survey data.
- ✓ Continuing with the econometric analyses of the data on the farmer's willingness to accept compensation for giving up their water rights in the Mafraq aquifer.
- ✓ Support and monitor the A'naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives in the implementation of the recommended management and enterprise selection adjustments to improve their financial and economic feasibility and performance.
- ✓ Prepare training materials for workshops using the A'naqeed Al-Kahir and the Tal-Rimah cooperatives as examples to train individuals involved in similar projects throughout Jordan on how to analyze their economic and financial feasibility and use the results from these analyses to improve a cooperatives' business performance.
- ✓ Begin a series of workshops involving Bedouin herders, government land-use agency officials, donor agency and NGO representatives, and other interested parties, to provide them with detailed information about the water harvesting and range restoration techniques used, the cost of implementing these techniques, and economic returns resulting from the enhanced biomass production.
- ✓ On the basis of the results of the economic analysis of the community based water harvesting and range restoration activity, continue work to encourage others to initiate similar range restoration activities throughout the Badia region of Jordan.
- ✓ Continue with field research to evaluate the impact of control grazing and stocking rates on the study site, and the economic implications of these treatments.
- ✓ Continue with the economic feasibility and sustainability analyses of the Wadi farming systems in the Al-Shamia/Ma'an area.
- ✓ Continue to provide technical support for Bedouin onion project in Disi basin via video conferencing with NMSU subject matter expert.

As in the previous quarter, the NMSU team members responsible for the different activities will be in frequent long-distance communication with their BRDC counterparts, coordinating and exchanging of information through Skype phone, e-mail and e-mail document attachments. It is also likely that at least two trips to Jordan by NMSU team members will take place during the next quarter. The dates and specific purposes for these trips, however, have not been decided.