



June 7th, 2022

09:00AM-12:00PM CET

Minutes of the WP4 regular meeting

Organized by Nina Graveline

Writing: Héctor González & Nina Graveline

Meeting Agenda

1. Introduction on status of WP4 by Nina Graveline
2. Lebanese Lab presentation
3. Egyptian Lab presentation
4. Italian Lab presentation
5. French Lab presentation
6. Spanish Lab presentation
7. Tunisian Lab presentation
8. Wrap up on the topics raised during lab presentation

Meeting Attendants (14)

C.Dionisio Pérez-Blanco (USAL), Nina Graveline (INRAE), Héctor González-López (USAL), Laura Gil-García (USAL), Paolo Mazzoli (GECO), Francesco Sapino (USAL), Gabriele Standardi (CMCC), Hadi Jaafar (AUB), Issam Nouiri (INAT), Mohamed Fethi Ben Hamouda (INAT), Roya Mourad (AUB), Rim Hazimeh (AUB), Abddrabbo Shehata (GPAI), Jaroslav Mysiak (CMCC).

Introduction on Status of WP4

Nina Graveline starts welcoming the meeting and updating the status of the WP4.

First of all, it is commented that the D 4.1 Guidelines is about to be finished (15 June approx.). The second point is the remark of the beginning of the Task 4.2 “Pilot water laboratories” which starts in June (months of the project 12-44) and is based on the implementation of the methodology of WP4.

Lebanese Presentation

Hadi Jaafar presents the timeline of the Lebanese Lab, where the deliverable D5.2 (month 6), and D2.2 (month 12) as well as the WaPOR Workshop (month 8) are presented as already completed.

In addition, the local stakeholder's workshop is mentioned, it will be held mid-July in Lebanon, with the objective of engage the local stakeholders and introduce them TALANOA. The agenda for this stakeholder workshop is presented as well as the organization. Then the stakeholder list is presented, which comprises stakeholders from both private and public sectors, such as Ministries, River Authority, municipalities and farmers.

The ongoing cooperation between Spanish and Lebanese lab referring to the socioeconomic and biophysical modeling is presented: AUB contributes with the biophysical modeling WAPOR while USAL offers the socio-economic model.

Egyptian presentation

Abddrabbo Shehata presents the case study of the Egyptian lab, which is affected by critical scarcity and the high water consumption by rice crops in summer, and wheat and alfalfa, especially in the Nile delta area. In addition, the water availability will be decreasing due to the Ethiopian dam. In order to engage stakeholders, the Egyptian lab have planned to develop a longer workshop and invite more stakeholders in a 5 days' workshop with several topics related to water availability, optimum agricultural water management, irrigation systems and renewable energy applications for pumping water.

The activities concerned with the Egyptian lab includes 4 model which comprises information such as soil physical properties, soil chemical properties, soil fertility properties and irrigation water characteristics and qualities. This information has been combined with Water Accounting data from Lebanese lab and socioeconomic data from Spanish lab.

Paolo Mazzoli asks how many organizations manage to involve in the Egyptian lab stakeholder workshop. Abddrabbo Shehata answers that they have 20 scientists from universities and research institutes and from the Ministries of Agriculture, in addition to 25 extension agents.

Nina Graveline comments that is very ambitious to replicate the workshop in different areas. Abddrabbo Shehata replies this was successfully done in the past and the idea of replicate the workshops comes from officials.

Hadi Jaafar asks about how the Egyptian lab is planning to relate the workshop's agenda within the TALANOA framework. To this, Abddrabbo Shehata comments that the agenda won't be focus only on the rice issues, but also on managing water available in a climate change context. Hadi Jaafar asks about the proposed solution for reducing the water consumed by rice crops, Abddrabbo Shehata replies saying that they are using technologies in irrigation crops, especially with rice.

The hybrid irrigation system invented by Abdo is visible here <https://icid-ciid.org/award/watsave/43>

Italian Lab presentation

Paolo Mazzoli presents the Italian lab advancement status. The different contacted stakeholders from the “Castellarano Weir” in the Emilia Romagna Region are presented. This is an area with multiple users of water and thus the spectrum of the contacted stakeholders presents also a multi sectorial portfolio such as researchers, policy makers, industry, farmers, etc.

Then a preliminary agenda for the first workshop, which will be held on September 2022, is presented as well as the main objectives such as momentum building, research gaps and challenges, co-design scenarios and transformational adaptation strategies and finally a presentation and co-development of the modeling framework. One of the objectives is also to unveil the decision-making processes among stakeholders.

In addition, the ongoing collection of data is shown.

Jaroslav Mysiak adds that they are working on a scale of the river basin in their research from the discussion and the debate of how the water should be reallocated across the different participating regions and also that they are assisting several regions from the river basin on getting on board for the mission adaptation.

Nina Graveline asks if the invited stakeholders for the first stakeholder meeting are already met, or they are new contacts. Jaroslav Mysiak and Paolo Mazzoli reply that most of them are well known contacts already.

Issam Nouri asks about the climate models used by CMCC. Jaroslav Mysiak replies that they are using ISIMIP simulation scenarios, in addition CMCC is provided with forecasted simulation inputs by WWF. They are using several hydrological models to assess the water available, and they are using the same hydrological model than the River Basin Authority to assess this water available.

In terms of modeling CMIP + model used by Water utility

French Lab presentation

Nina Graveline presents the French case study. It is planned to develop up to 3 workshops focused on strategies and modeling (accounting for Workshop 1). The first one will be hold in the next week. This first workshop will comprise the following key points:

- Presentation of the project and validation of the INRAE approach
- Validation of the stakeholder working group
- Shared language
- State of the art
- Agree on a statement of problems and an objective of water demand balance
- What is the stakeholders' expectation on this subject?

Next to the key points to be discussed, the agenda of the workshop with interactive session is presented, including:

- Welcome / icebreaker

- Presentation of the project
- How the stakeholder group works
- The effects of climate change on agriculture
- State of the art on the water resource-demand issue
- What expectations from the approach and the work of INRAE scientist on the issue?
- Evaluation of the workshop

The list of the contacted stakeholders comprises the water users, governments, agricultural institutions, farmers etc. These stakeholders have been contacted following a snowball technique to reach the needed people.

Issam Nouiri asks about the way of discussing topic within small groups? Nina replies that the idea of the facilitator – that will be present in each table - is that all participants have voice in the discussion in order to know the different opinions of the invited stakeholders. Therefore, roundtables or paper cards can be used.

Spanish Lab presentation

Francesco Sapino presents the Spanish water lab advancements. The ISIMIP climate simulated scenarios are presented as the inputs used for assessing the water resources available within an uncertainty assessment. Some examples already developed in the center of Spain are shown to highlight the variation of the anomalies in the study area.

The stakeholder workshop will be hold in September, where stakeholders from public sector and private sector will take place in order to discuss and approve the Spanish lab approach in the study area. The stakeholder list comprises agricultural institutions, farmer associations, River Basin Authority, municipalities, and consultant companies.

C. Dionisio Pérez-Blanco comments that there is a general agenda already planned but it is needed to discuss a more detailed agenda which depends on the attendant stakeholders. the outputs from the hydro-economic model will be presented to the stakeholders within a serious game context.

In terms of modeling CMIP + model used by Water utility

Tunisian Lab presentation

Issam Nouiri presents the status of the Tunisian lab, beginning with the study area presentation, where the main issue is the overexploited of the Jeffara aquifer that supplies agricultural land.

Then the process of the stakeholder engagement is shown, as well as the data (e.g., Accounting still under development) and modeling used for the Tunisian research.

The Stakeholder workshop will be divided in two different meetings in July and September (1 information meeting in June 2nd and 2 workshops: 20 July & 7/8 sept)

The first meeting will be focus on identifying and classifying the problems and challenges of the Jeffara study area as well as the presentation of the modeling framework, while the second meeting (two days of meeting) will be focus on discussing the future scenarios, Basin Determined Contributions and the transformational strategies.

The modeling framework is presented which uses WAEP-MODFLOW DSS.

Francesco Sapino asks about the percentage of the drinking water demand in the study area to ensure that it is just 2% of the total water demand dedicated to the agricultural sector, while the other 98% of the water supply goes to drinking water demand.

Final comments

Nina thanks everyone for their presentation and expressed the feeling that we should have more time to share the stakes of our research in our labs. To increase exchanges, we suggest sharing our minutes of the existing workshops. She asks that everyone translate the key info on ppt.

It is also commented to keep in mind to think opportunities for the stakeholders (EU Mission). To have a replicable workflow.

A question on how to deal with the small groups rapporteurs – there is a risk of not having the good results.

Issam Nouri comments that it would great if all labs use global models to forecast climate change scenarios under the same approach. A note for future discussion is made on that.

Recall: 1) we have to periodically report on the outcomes of the Talanoa dialogue including in workshops and other meetings in 4 deliverables (D1.2 to D1.5); and 2) we have to produce two reports on the workshops (D4.2 Mid-term water laboratories assessment report and D4.3 on dissemination & impact). So, it is very much needed to take minutes and report all data collected from stakeholders in every event!

Next meeting: Champions on June 20th

Other information from the chat :

<https://talanoawater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/d2.2-wp2-water-accounting-database-aub.pdf>

it may be interesting to explore the implications from Ukraine war and food availability. We may connect with ongoing European research on these aspects