



Climate Smart WATer Management
and Sustainable DEvelopment
for Food and Agriculture in East Africa



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WATDEV REGIONAL WORKSHOPS: ADVANCING BASIN-SCALE CLIMATE- SMART WATER AND AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS

Across Eastern Africa, **WATDEV Regional Workshops in Kenya, Egypt-Sudan, and Ethiopia** marked a decisive step in advancing basin-scale, climate-smart water and agricultural management. These multi-country meetings convened **policymakers, researchers, technical experts, public institutions and development partners** to jointly **review and validate Best Management Practices (BMPs) scenarios** developed through advanced modelling under the WATDEV framework. Designed as high-level participatory platforms, the Regional Workshops focused on moving from local assessments to **basin-wide planning**. Participants examined how simulated BMP scenarios **respond to territorial, socio-economic and climatic realities, and assessed their feasibility, scalability and policy relevance**. By combining scientific evidence with institutional and field-based perspectives, the workshops ensured that proposed interventions are not only technically robust but also **socially grounded and implementation-ready**.



In Kenya, discussions centred on agroforestry and the strengthening of Water Users Associations to address flood and drought risks at basin level. **In Egypt, the workshop validated scenarios on manuring, intercropping and water governance**, while also integrating valuable insights from **Sudan, where partners contributed despite challenging circumstances**, reinforcing the project's regional solidarity and shared learning. **In Ethiopia, stakeholders collectively reviewed agroforestry, composting and water governance scenarios**, aligning them with national priorities and on-the-ground needs.



Across all locations, **interactive group work, policy-oriented surveys and open dialogue** enabled participants to identify enabling conditions, implementation barriers and opportunities for refinement. The outcomes directly informed the next iteration of basin-scale simulations and strengthened pathways for evidence-based decision-making.



Together, these Regional Workshops **consolidate the project's multi-scale co-creation efforts**, ensuring that **climate-resilient solutions for water and land management** are credible, actionable and aligned with long-term development goals.

Click on the Country below to discover insights and outcomes from each Regional Workshop.

[Kenya](#)

[Egypt/Sudan](#)

[Ethiopia](#)

WATDEV LOCAL FEEDBACK MEETINGS: GROUNDING CLIMATE-SMART SOLUTIONS IN LOCAL REALITIES

Building on feasibility studies and **modelling results**, participants examined proposed practices, assessed their relevance, feasibility and sustainability, and shared field-based knowledge to ensure alignment with local priorities and constraints. Through **open dialogue**, **interactive sessions** and **participatory evaluations**, farmers and local stakeholders played a central role in refining assumptions, identifying barriers and enablers to adoption, and contributing to the development of practical implementation protocols.



Across Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia, **WATDEV Local Feedback Meetings** served as key participatory platforms to bridge scientific research with **local realities**. Convened with **farmers, Water Users Associations, researchers, public institutions** and **project partners**, these meetings aimed at validating the outcomes of the feasibility studies with local actors and collecting feedback to support broader adoption of BMPs at the basin scale.



Beyond technical discussions, the meetings **strengthened collaboration** among institutions and communities, reinforced **farmer-to-farmer learning**, and captured bottom-up perspectives on water governance and agricultural challenges. By grounding evidence-based solutions in lived experience, the Local Feedback Meetings reaffirmed **WATDEV's commitment to co-creation, inclusiveness and locally driven pathways towards resilient food systems**.

Click on the Country below to discover insights and outcomes from each Local feedback Meeting.



[Kenya](#)

[Egypt](#)

[Ethiopia](#)

WATDEV SHOWCASED AT THE INNOVATION FAIR IN BRUSSELS



On 23 October, CIHEAM Bari took part in the Innovation Fair – “Enabling that step forward”, held in Brussels. Organized by the European Commission, in the framework of the EU’s Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation with Africa and the Mediterranean region, the event aimed to showcase the vitality of the **cooperation among European, African and Mediterranean innovation ecosystems**, promoting innovative solutions with potential for market and societal uptake, vis-à-vis potential public and private funders and fostering networking, matchmaking and collaborations. **The project WATDEV** - Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable DEVELOPMENT for Food and Agriculture in East Africa was showcased at the CIHEAM Bari booth in the Fair through the videos streamed on a screen and featuring the project’s main characteristics and activities, people and challenges involved, methodologies adopted, and expected outcomes.

[Find out more](#)

WATDEV MODELLING WORKING GROUP MEETS AT CIHEAM BARI TO ADVANCE INTEGRATED RESEARCH



Bari, Italy – 24 – 25 September 2025, CIHEAM Bari hosted the modelling working group of the WATDEV Project, bringing together senior researchers to share insights about the applied research on integrated modelling for sustainable water management in agriculture. The meeting gathered senior researchers and experts from **ISRIC** – World Soil Information (the Netherlands), **SYKE** – Finnish Environment Institute (Finland), and CIHEAM Bari, alongside PhD students from Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

[Find out more](#)

WATDEV PROJECT SHOWCASES INNOVATION AT AGRITECH CAIRO 2025

The **WATDEV Project**, funded by the **European Union**, participated in the AgriTech International Forum & Fair for Smart & Green Agriculture, held in Cairo from 24-26 June 2025.

On the forum's opening day, WATDEV was represented in a high-level panel discussion titled: "**Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Collaborative Frameworks for Agri-Tech.**"

Dr. Rasha Hosny, Assistant Professor at Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development and Co-Principal Investigator of WATDEV in Egypt, presented the **Egypt Case Study**. Her remarks highlighted the project's focus on **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**, **cross-sectoral collaboration**, and **inclusive innovation** in building resilience against climate challenges.



[Find out more](#)

WATCH OUR LATEST VIDEO: BREAKING DOWN MODELLING IN SIMPLER TERMS WITH INSIGHTS FROM OUR RESEARCHERS



TAKE A LOOK AT THE WATDEV PROJECT'S JOINT REPORTS & PUBLIC DELIVERABLES ON THE WATDEV WEBSITE

As the WATDEV project progresses, the partnership has produced joint reports and deliverables that make the results of their research and development activities public and evident. Take a look at the WATDEV website to find out and consult the deliverables finalized by the partnership. You can then understand how the research led to the selection of the best management practices for each study area, how local communities and stakeholders are constantly involved in the process, which training programs have been delivered to the agroecosystem key actors, and how the modelling strategy has been defined and is evolving.



EXPLORE NEW TRAINING RESOURCES ON THE WATDEV WATER MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE PORTAL



The Water Management Knowledge Portal on the WATDEV website has been updated with new training material. Delve into two significant training opportunities held in 2024 and 2025 for 20 selected participants from WATDEV partner countries who have been trained as **the trainers of their agricultural communities**. **All the training material are available online. This space will be further updated in the following months.**



[Module 1 - Principles of Implementation of the selected Best Management Practices](#)



[Module 2 - Innovative Technologies in Agriculture and Water Management](#)



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

IMPLEMENT
AGROFORESTRY,
COMBINING TREES,
CROPS, AND LIVESTOCK,
TO PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP,
BIODIVERSITY, AND
COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS!



IMPLEMENT
THE POWER OF
CROP ROTATION
FOR HEALTHIER CROPS,
INCREASED YIELDS, &
SUSTAINABLE FARMING.



IMPLEMENT
INTERCROPPING
TO PROMOTE
STEWARDSHIP,
BIODIVERSITY,
AND COMMUNITY
LIVELIHOODS




IMPLEMENT THE BEST
MANURING PRACTICES
TODAY, FOR HEALTHIER
SOIL, BOUNTIFUL CROPS,
& A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



EMBRACE THE POWER
OF **IMPROVED SEEDS**
& UNLOCK YOUR
FARM'S POTENTIAL
FOR HIGHER YIELDS,
INCREASED RESILIENCE,
& UNMATCHED QUALITY.



TOGETHER,
WE'LL PROMOTE
**SUSTAINABLE
WATER MANAGEMENT**,
EQUITABLE ALLOCATION,
& RESOURCE PRESERVATION!



Join the conversation online



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