Jordan Activities Quarterly Report-XVII Sustainable Development of Drylands Project IALC-BRDC

Activities Summary (October 1 – December 31, 2006):

2006/2007 SOW

- The Jordanian component SOW for Year 4 of project is finalized and approved by the USAID-Amman mission with the following activities:
 - 1. Conference: "Can Water Resources Be Sustained in Dry lands? The Challenge for the Present and Future"
 - 2. Distance Learning Course on Reclaimed Water Irrigation Management
 - 3. Advanced Biosolids Laboratory Training,
 - 4. Required Biosolids Laboratory Training
 - 5. Development of Drying Bed Sludge Treatment Method to Arrive at a Permitted "Process to Further Reduce Pathogens" (PFRP) (Madaba),
 - 6. Modeling Biosolids Treatment in Jordan
 - 7. Application of Treated Biosolids to Land Irrigated with Effluent (Madaba)
 - 8. Management Practices of Sludge and Biosolids in Jordan with three volumes: Manual for Management of Biosolids in the Drying Beds at the WWTP Level (Volume I), Management Practices of On-farm Biosolids Application Manual (Volume II, and Laboratory Procedure Manual (Volume III)
 - 9. The Development of Anaerobic Wastewater Treatment Technology for Jordan (Septage Characterization and UASB Technology Development
 - 10. Characterization of Septage at Ein Ghazal
 - 11. Rangeland Responses under Biosolids Application
 - 12. Linkages for On-Farm Applications and Technology
- Activities 6, 8, 9 and 12 are from Year 3 SOW and continuing at this project year

Bio-solid Analysis:

- Phase III of the bio-solids project with Royal Scientific Society (RSS) was concluded and the final report was submitted.
- Final report is under review by the TAT team at U of A

Linkages for On-Farm Applications and Technology

- The contract between BRDC and JUST was signed and processed,
- The project team at JUST received the first payment from the fund and started the project activities
- First progress report was due at the end of October 2006 but not received.

The Development of Anaerobic Wastewater Treatment Technology for Jordan

- The contract between BRDC and WERSC/UJ was signed and processed,
- The first payment from the project fund was transferred to WERSC and the project started at the end of November 2006,

• New amendment for the WERSC contract is prepared and signed with new start and reporting dates to accommodate the delay in transferring the fund and starting the project.

Water Conference

- Dr. Ramzi Touchan, Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), visited BRDC and met with the suggested Theme heads (TH) and other SC members,
- Dr. Touchan explained to the TH's their duties and agreed on due dates for assigning Session Heads (SH) and preparing abstracts for the various sessions,
- Two TH's were withdrawing and new TH's were contacted and agreed to work with the SC.
- TH's started assigning SH's and contacting them to prepare abstracts for their sessions

Distance Learning Course in Reclaimed Water Management

• The course started on time as delineated in the JUST agenda with more than 10 students registered for the course,

Advanced Biosolids Laboratory Training

• During the first two weeks in November, 2006 two RSS staff attended a training session at U of A on advanced laboratory testing,

Activities Summary for the following period (January 1 – March 31, 2007):

2006/2007 SOW and BRDC Sub-contract

• The Year 4 sub-contract between IALC/UoA and BRDC will be finalized and signed from both sides.

Water Conference:

- The conference sessions' abstracts will be finalized and announced,
- Conference proposal will be prepared and transfer of funds to the BRDC will be facilitated.
- Organizational arrangements (including venue, lodging and others) will be started.

Distance Learning Course on Reclaimed Water Irrigation Management

- The course will be concluded as per the JUST agenda late January 2007,
- Evaluation of the course including content, technical facilities, students-instructor interaction and general setup of the course will be prepared and analyzed by JUST staff.

Required Biosolids Laboratory Training

• The RSS staff who attended the advanced laboratory training at U of A during November, 2006 will prepare a training course for WAJ lab technicians on the required testing of biosolid according to the new standards.

Development of Drying Bed Sludge Treatment Method

- This activity will be initiated by RSS working with the drying bed method whose aim is to arrive at a permitted "Process to Further Reduce Pathogens" (PFRP),
- The project will be at the Madaba WWTP (Madaba),
- Dr. Akrum Tamimi will be the lead for this activity,
- The proposal for this activity will be prepared and will undergo the review process at U of A

Modeling Biosolids Treatment in Jordan

- This is a continuing activity,
- Dr. Tamimi will be the lead for this activity with the RSS team,
- The proposal for this activity will be prepared and undergo the review process at U of A.

Application of Treated Biosolids to Land Irrigated with Effluent (Madaba)

- Dr. Tamimi will be the lead for this activity with the RSS team,
- This activity will test the use of treated effluent to irrigate areas with biosolid application,
- The project will be at Madaba WWTP and (Madaba),
- The proposal for this activity will be prepared and undergoes the review process at U of A

Management Practices of Sludge and Biosolids in Jordan

- This activity is a continuation of the survey done by the biosolid ad hoc committee on the management practices at the WWTP's,
- The project will develop three volumes: Manual for Management of Biosolids in the Drying Beds at the WWTP Level (Volume I), Management Practices of On-farm Biosolids Application Manual (Volume II), and Laboratory Procedure Manual (Volume III),
- The Volumes will be developed by RSS in coordination with JUST for Volume II and WAJ for Volumes I and III
- Work plan for developing this activity will be prepared by RSS and sent to U of A for review

The Development of Anaerobic Wastewater Treatment Technology for Jordan

- Sampling and analysis for septage samples and UASB reactor will start,
- First progress report is due at the end of March 2007,

Characterization of Septage at Ein Ghazal

- This activity will be with WERSC to characterize the septage and liquid biosolid that is dumped at Ein Ghazal station,
- Proposal for this activity will be prepared by WERSC and sent to U of A for review.

Rangeland Responses under Biosolids Application

- Dr. Saad Al-Ayyash from BRDC will lead this activity
- The activity will look at the hydrologic response of areas treated with biosolid,
- The activity will be between BRDC and Hashemite University (HU),
- Proposal for this activity will be prepared and sent to U of A for review.

Linkages for On-Farm Applications and Technology

- First progress report will be submitted,
- A number of workshop will be organized for different stakeholders in the farming sector

Saad Al-Ayyash, Project Coordinator, BRDC January 2007