



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

for a world without hunger

FAO Rehabilitates Irrigation Scheme to Improve Farmers Access to and Quality of Water in Erbil Governorate

From 2004 to 2006 FAO-Iraq implemented a project in the Village of HERAN, located in the Shaqlawa district within Erbil Governorate, to restore appropriate level for irrigated agricultural production and to safeguard water-needs, provided by springs in the area, for human consumption. In the previous year prior to the implementation of the project, the area was subjected to drastic drought. The decreased rainfall caused by the drought lead to considerable drop in waterlevels in the rivers, streams and spring water sources. This diminished agriculture productivity because the quantity of water was not sufficient to irrigate all the land that had been previously planted.

The goal of this project was to improve rural livelihoods through the restoration of adequate levels of water supplies by rehabilitating and constructing an irrigation scheme in the village. To rehabilitate the irrigation scheme, cement lining was applied on the earth channel and the scheme cleaned. As a result of the above action, the cultivated lands has increased considerably, and water is now available to irrigate all the stated area for the concerned projects. Most importantly this rehabilitation has prevented water logging. Water logging had occurred as a result of excessive irrigation in poorly drained soils. With a drainage system rehabilitated, the quality of water for agriculture increased. This has helped farmers to utilize their lands in a more profitable way and has encouraged farmers to cultivate most of the agricultural lands around the project, resulting in increased crop yields and annual income for farmers. It was estimated at the end of the project that a total of 180 households were directly impacted by the project.



Dr. Fadel El-Zubi
Head, Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
Tel: 00962-6-556 2550/1
Fax: 00962-6-556 2553
email: fao-irq@faoiraq.org