



## WAFLA: INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGROFORESTRY CONCEPTS IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID AREAS OF LATIN AMERICA

Despite being the region with the world's largest fresh water reserves, around of **one-fourth of Latin America is covered by arid lands**, including the dry lands of the Pacific coast, the dry plains of the Andean mountains, the arid areas in Patagonia and the dry areas of Mesoamerica. **Desertification** is the result of the unsustainable use of natural resources and poses a **major challenge for the development of these areas**. This unequal distribution of such a valuable resource entails a **reduction in the productivity** of ecosystems and agriculture, along with the consequent **increase in poverty** among the areas' inhabitants.

The WAFLA project's general aim was to coordinate current **technology research and innovation** with the implementation of social and political activities by creating synergies to promote the adoption of **integrated water resources management (IWRM)** and **enhanced agroforestry systems**. In order to do so, **solutions were proposed to combat the degradation of dry lands and reinforce development in rural areas**. These results were materialised in the identification of management strategies to promote agroforestry structures adapted at a regional level based on the participatory management of agroforestry modules involving local communities.



This concept harmonises **technology, institutions and the environment** with suitable technology, economic and social tools, including:

- Local identification of indigenous and adapted species with industrial value
- Identification and development of technology packages suitable for the production of quality crops
- Development of management recipes adapted to planting, irrigation, maintenance, harvesting and processing
- Development of a market information network for agroforestry products to empower local producers and merchants
- Development of a dissemination and agroforestry exploitation strategy in arid areas

### THE WAFLA PROJECT PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT THE DEGRADATION OF DRY LANDS AND REINFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

The activities proposed were carried out over 30 months by a well-balanced consortium which allowed for the **maximum integration of know-how, abilities and experience** among the 22 members representing each relevant area in the **resources management of arid and semi-arid ecosystems**.



## PROJECT DATA

**Web:** [www.treatanduse.eu](http://www.treatanduse.eu)  
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