

Remediating Desertification in the Guadalentín (Spain)



The main objective of SLM measures in the Guadalentín is to reduce soil and water loss and increase soil fertility.



Next Steps

- Send *Newsletter 3* with monitoring results to stakeholders after the workshop.
- Send Workshop report to participants before end of October
- Representatives from CSIC will make an appointment with the DG of the regional ministry of Agriculture and of Environment to present and discuss DESIRE and workshop results
- Organise field demonstration day when more results are available

Feedback

- Participants learned a lot from each other, from discussions and from the results of field trials
- The interactive approach of workshops is effective to achieve interaction between participants, and highly valued
- Optimal dissemination is achieved through field demonstration to farmers and farmers organisations
- Change is achieved through lobbying responsible policy makers
- Higher participation of farmers is required!

Priority Remediation Strategies

The five SLM strategies that were tested in DESIRE were ranked by workshop participants. The Table below illustrates that the experimental results from DESIRE strongly affected the stakeholders opinion about some of the measures. These SLM strategies were selected by participants because they were conceived to be easy to implement, economically feasible and effective towards protection of soil and water resources. It must be emphasised that stakeholders prefer a package of options rather than just 1 or 2. Not all measures can be used in all settings. Therefore, a combination of these five options is suggested as best strategy towards SLM.

Rank	Before field trials	After field trials
1	Traditional water harvesting (Boquera)	Green manure in Almonds orchards
2	Reduced tillage in Cereal and Almond fields	Reduced tillage in Cereal and Almond fields
3	Organic mulch to reduce water losses	Traditional water harvesting (Boquera)
4	Green manure in Almonds orchards	Organic mulch to reduce water losses

Promoting Remediation in the Guadalentín

How can we enable priority remediation options to be adopted?

1. **Training:** a) of technical representatives at farmers organizations , and b) at high-schools and universities to create awareness and put environmental sustainability higher on the agenda.
2. **Demonstration activities** in the field and development of a **network of demonstration and experimental farms** throughout the region
3. Better **cooperation and collaboration** between different institutes (i.e. researchers, administration and farmers organisations)
4. **Economic support** for implementation of SLM measures
5. **Lobby and convince responsible policy makers**
6. **Put higher economic and social value** on products that are produced in a sustainable manner
7. **Link payment of agricultural subsidies** to implementation effective SLM measures
8. **More dissemination and publicity** for SLM measures through newsletters and websites



Key Policy Messages

- There are SLM measures that are easy to implement, save money and time and are ecologically effective
- The new Rural Development Programme will be designed in the coming months. Now is the right moment to talk to responsible policy makers!
- There is a need for more training and wider education on the benefits of SLM for society
- Farmers can best be convinced through field demonstrations rather than websites and fancy folders