

THE SYRIAN WATER SECTOR

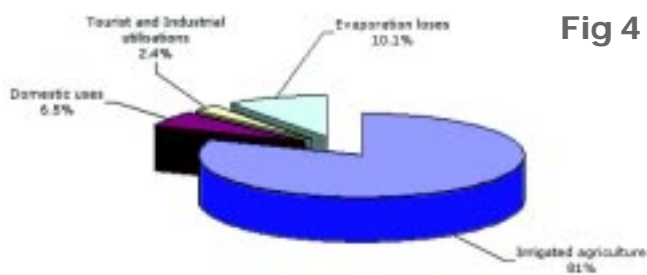


Fig 4

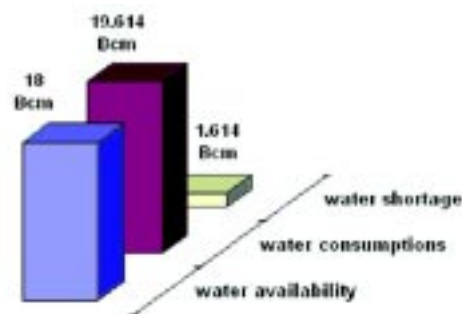


Fig 5

Water Sector Needs and Opportunities

An Initial Assessment Study of Water Sector Management in Syria carried out by German consulting agencies in May, 2004 resulted in:

“The conventional water development and management schemes in Syria are imposing unsustainably high economic, social and ecological cost on the society and the natural environment. A continuation of present prevailing water management system endangers the long-term availability of water resources and will thus become a limiting factor for future economic and social development.”

It is the main objective of the country to develop a concept

and a strategy for the reform of the Syrian water sector. The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Forum in Stockholm and implemented in the European Water Framework Directive (EWFD) is seen as the reference framework for sustainable water sector management.

In aim of achieving the objective a high qualified experts and high educated staff are required. In spite of the fact that Syria has a wide range of experts in the water sector, however, they are not within the Government decision spot. On the other hand the country is suffering from a shortage of high educated staff those have to be charged in the field of objectives executive.

Conclusion

Thus, it is widely recognised that water resources development and management should be planned in an integrated manner. Moreover, spatial attention has to be given to develop the institutional and legal systems governing the allocation and use of water. Also prompt efforts have to be adopted to raise public awareness concerning the rationalisation of water use.

In fact water management at the basin level facilitate the application of an integrated approach with regard to water resources management and would enable the water management executive authorities to deal with critical water problems such as conflicts between users, e.g., between surface and groundwater users or upstream and downstream users.

Anyhow, it is worth mentioning that centralised and decentralised administration is not necessarily antithetical; rather they are often complementary. However, the important issue is: adopting an integrated and sustainable National Methodology for water sector management.

