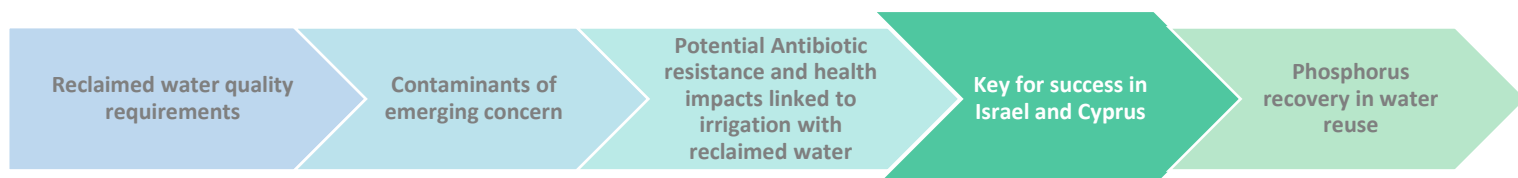




Info-package 3

Water Reclamation Operators

Fact Sheet 3.4 – Key for success in Israel and Cyprus: Main concepts in their water reuse strategy



SUWANU EUROPE is a H2020 project aiming to promote the effective exchange of knowledge, experience and skills among practitioners and relevant actors on the use of reclaimed water in agriculture. This factsheet is part of a total of 5 factsheets in Info-package 3 aimed at water reclamation operators, that describe the keys for successful application of reclaimed water in agriculture.

Introduction

SuWaNu Europe thematic network was created to bridge gaps between the water and agriculture sectors by accelerating the uptake of research results in the field of water reuse in agriculture and increase the reuse of treated wastewater. One of the main goals of the project is to learn from existing knowledge, good practices and regional experience. Israel and Cyprus were selected to present their experience and expertise in water reuse for agriculture.

A series of fact sheets was created as part of the SuWaNu Europe thematic network to identify best practices that can lead to increased reuse and assess the reasons, mechanisms and circumstances that lead to the successful reuse in both countries. These 'lessons learned' fact sheets cover the same topics for both Israel and Cyprus, thus presenting two different approaches to be served as an inspiration for identifying the best solutions suitable for a given locality. The fact sheet presented here summarizes the main concepts that are common to Israel and Cyprus and were identified as the background for the successful reuse in both countries. It is provided as an overview of the basic conditions needed for the successful implementation of reclaimed water for agriculture reuse.

Centralized Management

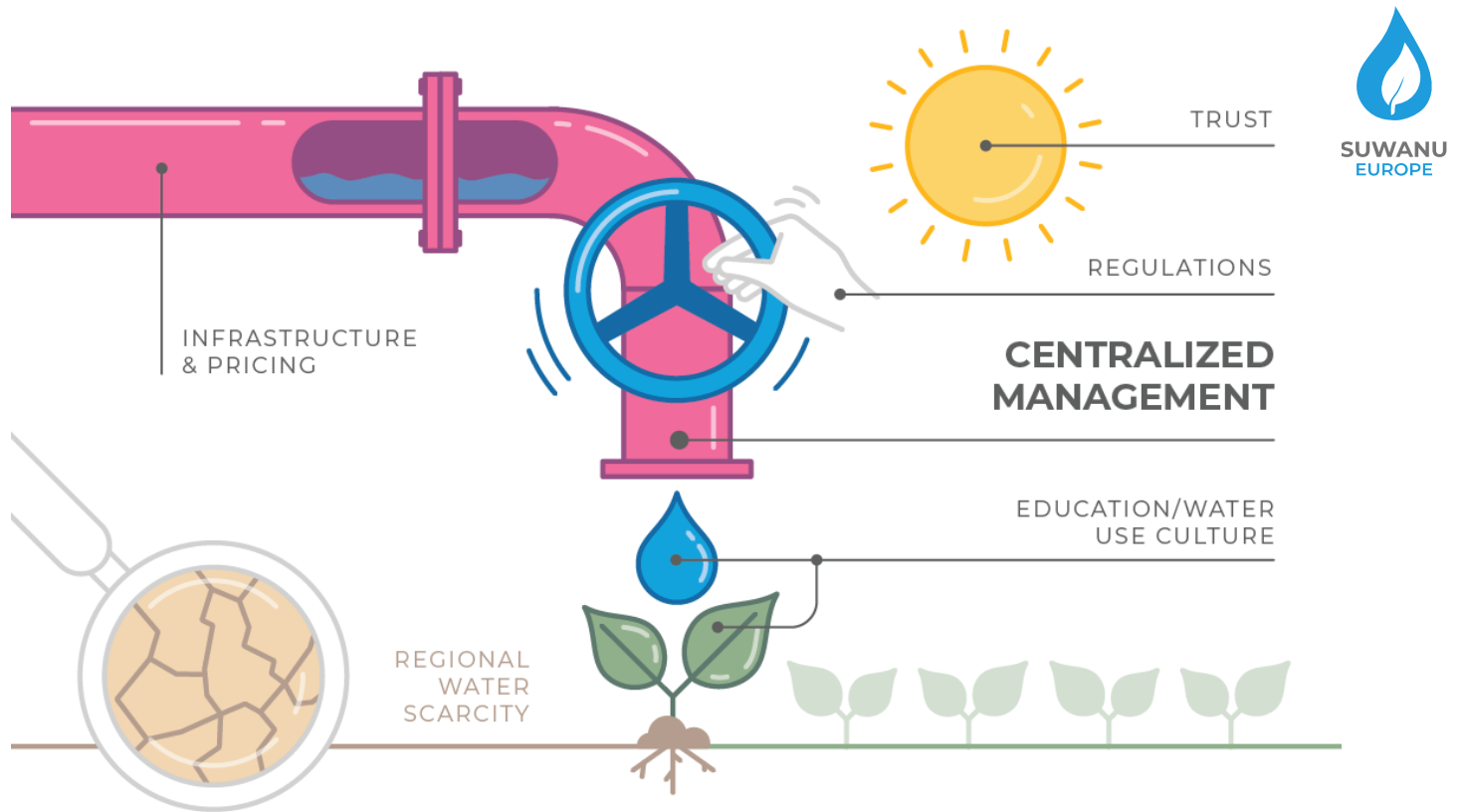
The water sector is centrally managed at the state level. This allows an integrated view and control of all resources and of their accessibility to the consumers at various time frames, at a national scale. When utilized appropriately, this approach can create synergy between different sectors and key stakeholders, allowing the effluent produced by one sector to be efficiently used as a resource by another thus turning a nuisance into a valuable resource.

Regional Water Scarcity

The lack of adequate water supply to meet all demands creates a prolonged need and an understanding that using alternative water sources is a must, because the natural fresh and groundwater resources are limited and do not suffice to supply the demand.

Education/ Water Use Culture

Lasting educational programs that become embedded into the country culture and education system at a national scale can be used to increase awareness for the need to conserve water and for its sustainable use. Establishing this state of mind increases the willingness to accept the concept of water reuse.



Regulations

A coherent framework of local regulations needs to be in place to enable the safe reuse of effluent with different quality for various purposes.

Pricing

Competitive pricing mechanisms can be applied to direct water consumers into using a desired water source. For example, water pricing for a certain water source can vary depending on the designated use. Similarly, within a specific sector different water sources can have different rates, making certain water sources more economically viable than others. This pricing mechanism can have a major role in managing the water sector as a self-financing, independent market.

Infrastructure

The presence of a large-scale infrastructure system is needed to efficiently connect large effluent producers (metropolitan areas) with scattered agricultural consumers.

Trust

The trust established between key players and stakeholders is the core of a thriving water sector that can support all consumers, while meeting all local water demands. Regarding water reuse, this mainly refers to the trust between those managing the water sector and the agricultural sector, which enables long-term planning on the government side and operational flexibility by the farmers side. This trust is the basis for changing strategies and implementing new large-scale management and reuse policies.

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