

Spate Irrigation Network (SpN)

What is the spate irrigation network?

The Spate Irrigation Network exchanges experiences and good practices, helps upgrade training, identify priority fields for improvement and research and development. The network consists of professionals and practitioners.



Objectives:

- Familiarize policy makers, implementing agencies (NGO's/ government departments), research agencies and funding agencies with development scope, experiences and practical approaches to spate irrigation development and support
- Initiate practical research in spate irrigation
- Disseminate experiences between countries
- Work with other organizations to develop productive and effective programs of implementation in spate irrigation areas



Special engineering solutions: combining spate irrigation with recharge

Activities of Spate Irrigation Network

- Work with implementing and funding organizations in spate area development
- Preparation and dissemination of guidelines
- Preparation of training material for use in professional curricula - including training of trainers
- Policy visits
- Liaison with research organizations and land/water networks
- Participate in preparation and reviews of spate irrigation programs



Improving productivity: spate irrigated onion fields

What is spate irrigation?

Spate irrigation is a type of water management that is unique to semi-arid environments. It is found in the Middle East, North Africa, West Asia, East Africa and parts of Latin America. Flood water from mountain catchments is diverted from ephemeral river beds (wadis) and spread over large areas. Spate systems are risk-prone. The uncertainty comes both from the unpredictable nature of the floods and the frequent changes to the river beds from which the water is diverted. It is often the poorest segment of the rural population whose livelihood and food security depends on the spate flows. At the same time there are many options to tremendously increase the productivity and livelihood functions of spate irrigation systems. Substantial local wisdom has developed in organizing spate systems and managing both the flood water and the heavy sediment loads that go along with it.



Constructing soil diversion and guidance bunds in lowland systems