

■ A workshop on the Assessment of Plant Genetic Diversity for Water Use Efficiency, Marrakech, 10-12 October 2005

An international workshop on the assessment of plant genetic diversity for water use efficiency was held in Marrakech, Morocco during the period 10-12 October 2005, and organized by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in collaboration with International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and AARINENA. The Workshop was aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences on the management of water under scarcity conditions through the use of "less-thirsty" genotypes.

Presentation and discussions underlined topics on the effect of irrigation deficit on olive trees, future vision of olive plantation and water use efficiency, genetic variation of water use efficiency within crops, increasing olive water-productivity, and water saving in orchards.

The participants recommended developing a regional research proposal by participation of Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Syria to study the genetic variation of olive trees and assess their water use efficiency particularity in rainfed areas.