

## SPAIN

### Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

#### Location

Páramo Medio

#### Programming period

2007-2013

#### Axis / Priority

Axis 1

#### Measure

M125.- Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry

#### Funding

Total budget 5.7 mil EUR  
EAFRD 2.8 mil EUR  
National/region 2.9 mil EUR

#### Project duration

Sep 2008 – mar 2010

#### Project promoter

Instituto Tecnológico Agrario de Castilla y León

#### Contact

[http://www.itacyl.es/opencms\\_wf/opencms/contactar/index.html](http://www.itacyl.es/opencms_wf/opencms/contactar/index.html)

In order to replace outdated irrigation infrastructure RDP support financed the construction of a pumping station, a piping system and electrical installations towards improving water use efficiency, increase crop yields and reduce energy costs

### Summary

In 1959, agriculture in Páramo Medio, Castilla y León, was transformed from traditional rainfed crops (wheat, barley and vineyard) to irrigation crops, thanks the construction of a reservoir that brought water to the area. The switch required irrigation infrastructure which over the years became outdated and it was needed to modernisation.



RDP support financed the replacement of the outdated equipment with modern and efficient technology including automated pumping stations and pressure irrigation networks. An automated monitoring system was also installed that starts the engines depending on demand. The project also helped setting up low and high-voltage installations for the operation of the irrigation system.

### Results

The project optimized the water use and reduced consumption by 28 %.

The amount of fertilisers and pesticides that runoff was substantially reduced due to a better appliance of the water in the fields.

An increase in the holdings productivity was achieved due to an increase in crops-production and decrease in production costs. For instance, the productivity of maize increased from 10 000 kg/ha to 13 000-14 000 kg/ha.

The working conditions of the farmers improved due to the modern irrigation system which is much easier to manage and operate.

### Lessons & Recommendations

Even though the project was very successful and it is considered as a good practice for several reasons, there was weakness identified that was not solved. The area has a considerably high age profile of farmers and the project aimed to promote generational renewal through the introduction of technology as a way to attract young farmers. It came out that only technological advances and modernisation are not sufficient to attract young people in agriculture.

