



FLOWERED Project Coordinator's Note

Dear reader,

We now, ended the FLOWERED project! During the last three years and half, our activities were mostly dedicated to Research, on innovative de-fluoridation technologies, on capacity building and information of the wide public. The last activity of the project consisted to participate in an event organized by FAO that allowed the consortium to show the main achievements of the project and provided, I hope, new perspectives for the project. This is also the last edition of the FLOWERED Project and I wish you, on this occasion a Happy New Year! For updates, visit our website: <http://www.floweredproject.org> and follow us on Twitter @floweredproject, Facebook @FloweredEastAfrica, linkedIn FLOWERED East Africa, and Youtube Channel FLOWERED.

Giorgio Ghiglieri, Coordinator of FLOWERED Project

FOCUS on FLOWERED Technical meeting at the FAO headquarters in Rome, 10th December 2019

Introduction and scope

With the support of FLOWERED Scientific Advisor Board, the FLOWERED project, in collaboration with the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** Land and Water Division, organized an "Experts Meeting" at FAO headquarter in Rome on 10 December 2020. The aim of the event was the exchange of good practices and discuss on possible future activities to be undertaken in synergy between the project and FAO and explore the possibility to mobilize potential funds for their implementation.

In this regard, a round table on the following subjects, was organized to discuss about:

- Exchange of experiences, knowledge and good practices;
- New and joint paths to explore on defluoridation technologies for improving quality of water and agro-animal products;
- Potential funds for implementation of new activities.

Participants

The meeting participants was constituted by **people from the FLOWERED project**, European Commission Project Adviser, and representatives of the FAO Land and Water Division.



Picture, Technical meeting at the FAO headquarters in Rome, 10th December 2019

Presentations and discussions

The event lasted **one morning**, organized in a Round table focalized to the following points as stated in the agenda of the meeting :

First of all, the meeting was introduced by Sasha Koo-Oshima, FAO Deputy Director of Land and Water Division. She welcomed FLOWERED project participants and underlined FAO interest in the direct and indirect effects that fluoride and arsenic has in the food chain and the consequences of health problems (physical and mental). She shared FAO experience Under FAO's One Water One Health Initiative. This event was webcasted ([See http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5159/icode/](http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5159/icode/)).

After FAO Deputy Director of Land and Water Division introduction, the main results of the project was presented by FLOWERED consortium representatives, covering the following topics:

1. Advancing hydrogeological knowledge;
2. Developing mitigation options for fluoride contamination in agriculture and livestock systems ;
3. Developing innovative water defluoridation technologies ;
4. Socio-Economic Analysis.

The FLOWERED Project (de-fluoridation technologies for improving quality of water and agro - animal products along the East African Rift Valley in the context of adaptation to climate change) aims to develop sustainable water management systems in areas affected by fluoride contamination in water, soils and food in the African Rift Valley countries to improve people's living standards. ([see http://www.floweredproject.org/en/index.php](http://www.floweredproject.org/en/index.php))

FAO experiences in similar actions was also shared, in particular the Arsenic problem experienced in Asia.

As results of the discussion, FAO is willing to collaborate in the processes to publish (disseminate) to UN Water a sort of guideline, summarizing the main scientific evidences. It was noted that it will be important to rise this issue and to take it at government level and to get it involved. It is recommended to think about how to better interact to upscale to another level (countries, government) by organizing meeting with FIDA, FAO or other institutions. In this regard, it is recommended that FLOWERED representative attend the UN Water meeting to be organized at Rome on 28 January 2020.

Conclusion

This Meeting and the results it produced will act as a sounding board of what have been done, then for future projects and actions. The discussions and exchange of experience between FAO representatives and FLOWERED Project's resulted to a new collaborative actions. It was agreed to prepare guidelines illustrating **FLOWERED/FAO synergy** that will be disseminated world-wide. It was recommended to apply pressure on the fluoride issues to the governmental agencies in the countries case studies.

Documentary film - 2019

In order to increase the awareness of the fluoride contamination phenomenon in the East African Rift Valley and to show the main FLOWERED projects achievements during the period of 2016-2019, a 15 mn documentary film has been produced. It shows several findings on innovative technologies for de-fluoridation of Water and Agro-animal products, along the East African Rift Valley (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania). You may discover some east african landscapes in the study areas of the project: Nakuru (Kenya), Arusha (Tanzania) and Addis Ababa. <https://youtu.be/Xb2lUtiRXyU>



Picture: FLOWERED Project Youtube account, with about 30 videos

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