



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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USTDA GRANT PROTECTS GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN MOROCCO

RABAT, MOROCCO – Supporting the Kingdom of Morocco’s efforts to identify viable solutions for wastewater treatment throughout the country is the goal of a USTDA grant awarded today to the Moroccan Office of Potable Water (ONEP). The \$378,000 grant will fund an analysis of the waste generated by meat processing facilities in Morocco and identify optimal water usage schemes for on-site treatment and the complete removal and disposal of wastewater.

The grant was conferred in a signing ceremony held at ONEP’s headquarters. The Honorable Thomas T. Riley, U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, and Mr. Ali Fassi Fihri, ONEP Directeur Général, signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. government and ONEP, respectively.

The Government of Morocco operates hundreds of municipal and rural open-air meat processing facilities with a total annual meat production estimated at 230,000 tons. Because a significant number of these facilities are not connected to the sewer system, liquid waste generated from those meat processing plants is either treated through septic tanks or not treated at all.

The Government of Morocco is implementing stricter environmental laws to improve the country’s management of wastewater discharges and more effectively address water scarcity issues. In addition, enforcement actions have been increased in order to comply with European Union environmental regulations, which require certification that exporters of food products meet strict standards for the treatment of wastewater.

As the Moroccan government agency responsible for the management of liquid waste treatment at public facilities, ONEP must ensure that the meat processing facilities comply with national norms and thresholds for waste disposal. The USTDA grant awarded today will assist ONEP in improving wastewater collection and pre-treatment systems in meat processing facilities throughout Morocco to significantly improve sanitary conditions, preserve natural resources, and protect the public health.

(More)

The opportunity to provide technical assistance to ONEP pursuant to the USTDA grant will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fbo.gov. Interested U.S firms should submit proposals following the instructions in the Federal Business Opportunities announcement. ONEP will select the U.S. firm that will provide the USTDA-funded assistance.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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