

## PRESS RELEASE

### *FENACORE claims to Spanish Government for infrastructures on irrigation modernization*

*Madrid, 13th of October 2020*



The Spanish Federation of Irrigators Communities (FENACORE) has asked the Government to include 5.2 billion euros in the National Plans for the EU Recovery Fund to modernize the one million irrigation hectares still pending.

Irrigators have sent a letter to the President of the Government, Pedro Sánchez, in which they defend the work of irrigation in the social and economic reconstruction of Spain, since these modernization works "fit perfectly" with the objectives set by European Authorities to grant EU funds.

According to a statement from the federation, irrigation also contributes contrast pollution and depopulation of rural areas, as it improves water quality, reduces the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and increases productivity and irrigators socioeconomic level.

"The actions planned for irrigation modernization meet the four general objectives set by the European Commission: boosting territorial cohesion, improving economy competitiveness, crisis impact mitigation and facilitating green and digital transition", stated FENACORE's President, Andrés del Campo.

FENACORE has urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) to approve an Irrigation Plan in order to increase resources to modernize these systems, which in the last decade granted water savings of 16% with respect to non-modernized irrigated areas.

The organization has denounced the lack of investment in irrigation by River Basin Authorities, even though these organizations "receive around 100 million euros from irrigators" in annual fees.

Measures aimed to meet water demands have only received 19% of the investment planned in river basin management plans.

More than 76% of the existing irrigation area in Spain, almost 3 million hectares, is modernized and 53% of this irrigated area is equipped with dripping irrigation systems, considered the most efficient, according to the international scientific literature and local data.



## NOTES FOR EDITORS

**Irrigants d'Europe – IE** is an international association constituted joining force between the largest Associations managing water in agriculture for a better dialogue with the European Institutions. Since its inaugural steps, Irrigants d'Europe cover of about 75% of the irrigated areas in Europe, 7,7 out of 10,2 million hectares, which largest part is managed every day by the founders. The founders, are the national association in charge of irrigation water management of the Member States where irrigation is most diffused: ANBI - Associazione Nazionale Consorzi di Gestione e Tutela del Territorio e Acque Irrigazione (Italy); FENACORE - Federación Nacional de las Comunidades de Regantes de España (Spain); Irrigants de France (France); FENAREG - Federação Nacional de Regantes de Portugal (Portugal). Irrigants d'Europe aims supporting irrigation and rural communities, allowing an evolution of the water management in agriculture, based on the sustainable management and the promotion and competitiveness of the irrigated agriculture sector in the European context.



**More Information:** <https://irrigantsdeurope.eu/>