

Today in Palma, Josep Marí, Councillor of Rural Environment of the Consell de Formentera, and Rita Costa, from the Formentera Community of Irrigators (CRF), attended the signing of an agreement between irrigators' groups on Formentera and in Porreres and the State Commercial Society of Agricultural Infrastructures (*Sociedad Mercantil Estatal de Infraestructuras Agrarias*, SEIASA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This agreement marks the start of phase one of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), which envisions implementing sustainable irrigation modernisation projects on Formentera and in Porreres.

The agreement, which was signed this Tuesday between the heads of SEIASA and the two groups of irrigators at the offices of the central government's delegation in Palma, involves the investment of €8.48 million in Next Generation funding to optimise, digitise management and improve the quality of water which is reclaimed for agricultural irrigation on Formentera and in Porreres.

With central government delegate Aina Calvo presiding, the ceremony consisted in the signing of the agreements between Francisco Rodríguez Mulero, president of SEIASA; Rita Costa Ferrer, president of CRF, and Juan Mora Adrover, president of the irrigation community of Porreres. Mae de la Concha, Balearic Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, also attended the signing.

The 'Consolidating Irrigation by Optimising Reclaimed Water on Formentera' project has a budget of €1.06m (VAT not included) to modernise 82 hectares of local land under the care of 75 irrigators. Plans envisage improving water quality by improving how reclaimed water is used. Efficiency improvements will affect how water is pumped from the pond to plots and water management will be optimised by digitising irrigation through the installation of a remote control system.

Investments included in the irrigation plan are of a public-private nature. The PRTR will cover up to 80% of eligible expenses, while the irrigation communities and users will contribute the rest.

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