

Re-inventing irrigation and agricultural water governance in the Asia Pacific to meet the Millennium Development Goals

A regional programme to support action at all levels through knowledge sharing, capacity building and implementation

PROGRESS REPORT

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Initiative Background

- Designed to enable implementation of the recommendations of the 1st Asia Pacific Water Forum
- Focus: Irrigated Agriculture: human development and environmental targets will not be met if this sector does not adopt adaptive forward-looking strategies
- Builds on:
 - FAO Regional Irrigation Modernization Programme
 - IMWI-led knowledge synthesis
 - Other global research initiatives (including the Comprehensive Assessment of Water for Agriculture, the Challenge Programme on Water for Food, and the groundwater governance programme)

- Key objective: to support feasible pathways to re-invent irrigation and re-think agricultural water governance to ensure sustained food security and poverty alleviation in the river basins of the region
- Concepts behind the initiative design:
 - Necessity to achieve consistency at all management levels
 - Support for existing effective practice and identification of new knowledge

Initiative Strategy

- Objectives achieved through:
 - Adoption of effective policies and strategies
 - Investment and modernization of all types of irrigation systems
 - Improved agricultural water governance
- Facilitated by:
 - substantial capacity building at all levels
 - instruments to monitor and evaluate the results of change
- Specific focus:
 - Large and medium sized irrigation systems
 - Exploitation of groundwater
 - Focus to be broadened to all forms of agricultural water management after establishment

5 inter-related components

- 1. Development of communities of practice** for policy makers, implementing agencies, water resources and irrigation system managers, water user and farmer organizations
- 2. A knowledge hub for a knowledge network** on irrigation and groundwater governance
- 3. Supporting action in representative basins and their groundwater systems:** support to initially 7 basin centres of excellence/reference, to functional centres of excellence /reference within these basins
- 4. Development and adoption of regional guidelines for monitoring investment and results** including a harmonized regional irrigation benchmarking system
- 5. Mobilization of the professional community in the region** for analysis, advocacy, dissemination and promotion of national initiatives

- Implementing organizations: FAO, IWMI
- Tentative partner organizations: Global Water Partnership; IPTRID; ADB; AIT; ICID; WBI; INWEPF; ESCAP; UNESCO-IHE; Singapore; PUB; IUCN; Krishna CP, KNNL and MWR, Karnataka State, India; MWR, NCIDD, Shanxi DWR and JMK project, China; DID, MADA, Malaysia; MRCS and national MRC Committees; national ICID committees; CSIRO; NARBO; University of Melbourne; Vietnam: Cau RBO, MARD, MONRE, VIWRR; Indonesia: Citarum basin, BAPPENAS, etc. Pakistan: ARC, etc.

The context has changed:

- Soaring food prices have re-focused attention on food security and the need to re-invest in agriculture
- Investment in irrigation emphasized
- A number of countries in the region are accelerating/ increasing investment plans and interventions to improve agriculture water management and reviewing their food security strategies
- These investments must be more effective and accompanied by necessary reforms and policies
- The Rome Declaration: Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy
- ESCAP: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
- G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit

- FAO and IWMI have confirmed partnership and will shortly establish a Joint Interim Secretariat
- A two-year regional project (US\$500K) to start in October 2008 to develop the initiative framework, establish partnerships, formulate regional and 7 river basin components: Muda, Yellow river, Bang Pakong, Cau, Krishna, Indus, Citarum, establish communities of practice and mobilize resources

- a 3-year project (US\$890K, MAFF/Japan): water allocation to agriculture, establish community of practice, and support activities in 4 basins (Muda, Cau, Bang Pakong, Yellow River): 10/08
- A 2-year project (US\$500K) on capacity building and community of practice on modernization of irrigation systems: Muda, Cau, Bang Pakong, Yellow River: 10/08
- Additional projects on irrigation modernization in the pipeline: India, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand
- Additional river basins through new projects

- Knowledge Hub on Irrigation Services Reform: IWMI with FAO as partner: Business plan submitted and to be revised July
- Monitoring of investment and results: under development with ESCAP
- On-going discussions with IPTRID to focus IPTRID networks on initiative centres of excellence
- Partnership established with Australia-China Water Resources Research Council: Shanxi
- Discussions initiated with ICID and GWP

Thank you

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