

A BRIEF ON THE PROGRESS SO FAR MADE BY THE IRRIGATION SERVICE REFORMS KNOWLEDGE HUB

OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS

Followings are two sets of specific objectives and relevant outputs identified and targeted to achieve by 2011 in the business plan:

A) Development of the KHub

- A.1** Organize the Irrigation Service Reforms KHub
- A.2** Link people and organizations that can form the knowledge base with clients of KHub
- A.3** Promote /Activate the KHub

And,

B) Establish network of learning reforming IMOs

- B.1** Initiate knowledge sharing and brokering
- B.2** Initiate and encourage governments, irrigation management organizations (IMOs) to review / assess and evaluate their institutions and practices in terms of service reforms and performance
- B.3** Set them on the path to Service Reform and improvement of technical, economic, social and environmental performance

Proposed areas of networking are:

- **Communities of practice** for policy makers, implementing agencies, water resources and irrigation system managers, water user and farmer organizations for the Service Reforms of irrigation system management, re-invention and improvement of irrigation at all scales
- **Knowledge synthesis** from development, practice and research on challenges and issues and effectiveness of policies, strategies, and management practices and identification of poles of excellence and knowledge gaps
- **Capacity building services** to provide updated and validated training and other support for irrigation management service reforms
- Develop new/ revision of **training curricula** in local training institutions to train the next generation of decision-makers and managers
- **Supporting action** in representative basins: support to selected IMOs to become centres of excellence and reference, and to functional centres of excellence and reference within these basins

- Development and promotion of adoption of regional guidelines for monitoring investment and results of policy reforms in the irrigation sector including a harmonized regional **irrigation benchmarking system**
- **Mobilization of the professional community in the region** for analysis, advocacy, dissemination and promotion of national initiatives through national platforms and professional networks such as national ICID committees, PIM, etc

The progress so far is as follows:

A. DEVELOPMENT OF THE KHUB ITSELF

OUTPUT A.1 Irrigation Service Reforms KHub is in operation

In order to achieve these outputs following activities were initiated:

- i) A simple governance structure for the HUB, consisting of three members established.
 - Dr David Molden (DDG/IWMI) as Chair;
 - Dr. Thierry Facon (Regional Senior Water Management Officer and Technical Group Leader, Natural Resources and Environment for Asia and the Pacific/FAO) as a members of the governing board and
 - Dr. Andrew Noble (Director, Central & South East Asia/ IWMI) as second member of the governing board

- i) A core team consisting a Manager - Dr. H. Manthritilake (Senior Researcher, IWMI) and Head of KHub Secretariat - Ms. Dawn Rodriguez (Head, Communications/ IWMI) shall manage the affairs of the KHub. IWMI and FAO staff shall be called in as necessary to assist the core team when and where necessary.

- ii) The Secretariat is located at HQ of IWMI. The Manager and the Head of KHub Secretariat shall work closely to pool the resources, tools and capacities of both the organizations – IWMI & FAO, as needed. These two shall be responsible for managing the KHub affairs on day-to-day basis.

- iii) The Core team shall:
 - develop the business plan
 - link with partners and clients and donors
 - coordinate the website development and management
 - plan and effectively implement knowledge sharing activities within the hub network (hardware, software and products)
 - Identify opportunities for collaboration, advocacy and capacity building

- Periodically, evaluate hub performance and report to the governance board and APWF
- With the governance advice adopt to changing regional requirements

Already the governance board met with the core team in August 10th, 2008 to discuss the next steps.

OUTPUT A.2 Functional links between Experts and organizations are established through the KHub

- 1) KHub shall explore the possibilities of mapping on-going irrigation service reforms in the region with the aim of monitoring the developments /changes concerning modernizing approaches and systems. A concept note on Irrigation service reforms mapping was prepared and submitted to ADB.
- 2) Development of Communities of Practice (CoP) of experts, implementing agencies, water resources and irrigation system managers, other irrigation related experts; on the Service Reforms of irrigation system management, re-invention of irrigation at all scales and improvement
- 3) In January 2009, IWMI with FAO is planning to organize an expert group workshop to review the “Future trends of Irrigation in Asia” in Bangkok, Thailand. The official launch of Irrigation Service Reform KHub shall be at this meeting.

OUTPUT A.3 KHub is known around as a reliable knowledge centre

The Communications Strategy will take into account:

- Website and leaflets
- Internal Communications within the hub network
- External Communications to Clients and Partners
- Media Relations

- A special KHub web portal is launched and with IWMI’s and FAO’s sites and other websites. It is expected that this shall create some awareness among the potentials stakeholders.

- A leaflet is available on Irrigation Service Reform Knowledge Hub

- IWMI & FAO shall inform their existing partners (Potential clients) about the launch of this KHUB

**B. ESTABLISHMENT OF LEARNING, REFORMING IMOS'
NETWORK**

OUTPUT B.1 *Initiate knowledge sharing and brokering*

- A knowledge synthesis from development, practice and research on challenges and issues and effectiveness of policies, strategies, and management practices and identification of poles of excellence and knowledge gaps
- Development of a networked capacity to provide updated and validated capacity building services in irrigation management Service Reforms

OUTPUT B.2 *Initiate and encouraging governments, irrigation management organizations (IMOs) and irrigation service providers to review / assess their institutions and practices in terms of service reforms and performance*

- Promotion of the revision of training curricula in local learning institutions to train the next generation of decision-makers and managers
- Supporting action in representative irrigation dominated basins and their surface & groundwater systems management and private irrigation

OUTPUT B.3 *Setting them in the path for Service Reforms and improved performance*

- Development and promotion of a regional guidelines for monitoring investment and results of policy reforms in the irrigation sector including a harmonized regional irrigation benchmarking system
- Mobilization of the professional community in the region for analysis, advocacy, dissemination and promotion of national initiatives through national platforms and professional networks such as national ICID committees, PIM, etc

During the next three years while developing the KHub itself, we shall identify potential clients, target areas for service reform advancement, resource personal and knowledge bases and organizations useful for promotion of irrigation service reforms and successful strategies and implementation to improve service and economic, social and environmental performance. We will establish linkages with on-going reform projects and organizations collate information on success and failures and reasons behind those and synthesize the experiences. These will be packaged and tailored to meet concrete needs. The KHub will actively promote service reform process in member countries and organizations.