

Water User's Associations Evaluation & Strengthening in Spate Areas within IWRM approach

CASE STUDY: WADIZABID, TIHAMA PLAIN, YEMEN

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Background

- ❖ The crisis in the public budget to rehabilitate and improve infrastructure for the spate irrigation schemes and centralize responsibility the management of spate irrigation within the public sector caused poor maintenance for the spate irrigation schemes and to address the problem of non-sustainability of the existing spate irrigation schemes, the Government of Yemen adopted the concept of PIM, whereby farmers taking a growing share of the responsibility for the O&M of the spate irrigation schemes.

Therefore the assessment is performance WUAs, productivity and sustainability of irrigation systems becoming ever more important due to the following trends:

1. Increasing competition and conflict over water between water users, irrigation systems and different sectors.
 2. The need to produce more “crop per drop” due to increasing populations and the competition for water.
 3. The declining availability of public sector funds for irrigation.
 4. Increasing need to assess performance of irrigation systems after reforms.
 5. Increasing need to assess and mitigate environmental problems.
- ❖ The increasing reliance on service plans and agreements and local financing requires ever higher attention to transparency in decision making and accountability among stakeholders.
 - ❖ The transfer of management responsibilities to WUAs and service agreements with third parties increase the need for integrated management audits (which include technical, financial and organizational aspects). Identification of good performance standards, relative to a region and type of irrigation system, can provide benchmarks to help drive improvements in other systems.

Objectives

1. Evaluate the technical capacity of the WUAs whence:
 - ❖ Knowledge of the WUA leaders with regard to different indigenous designs of water distribution and diversion structures.
 - ❖ Planning and implementation of operation and maintenance tasks.
 - ❖ Knowledge about the different agronomic practices.
2. Evaluate the managerial capacity of the WUAs whence:
 - ❖ Organizing and leading meetings.
 - ❖ Mobilizing resources for operation and maintenance.
 - ❖ Solving conflicts.
 - ❖ Creating a good relationship with external organizations including TDA.
3. Evaluation financial capacity and sustainability whence:
 - ❖ Does the WUA has an financial plan.
 - ❖ How much of the financial requirement is covered from internal source water fees.
 - ❖ What are external financial source - how reliable are they.
 - ❖ Does the WUA has plans strengthen its financial sustainability.
4. Identify a number of measures including tailored trainings that contribute to strengthening the technical, managerial and financial sustainability of the WUAs.

Research Findings

❖ *The Findings of Technical Evaluation for WUAs*

1. Weakness at understanding members WUAs of management council functions of WUAs.
2. Activity of some WUAs do not comprise all areas been transferred to her.
3. Members affiliation weak with some WUAs.
4. Representation of poor farmers marginal in some WUAs.
5. Women's were do not allowed to have any leadership or participation in WUAs management
6. Most of WUAs weak in monitoring and evaluation of the distribution of water.
7. Water delivery records do not be available in most of WUAs.
8. Applying Ala'alafala'ala rule in modern spate irrigation systems to unfair water distribution on canals level because of floods not breach the weirs and this one led to Give those who are at upstream wadi right to exploit and expand cultivation of new lands to provide water for their own rights.
9. WUAs do not intervene to prevent the recurrence of irrigation and control is on flood at channels beginning .
10. Irrigation council staff is not adequately supported by the concerned authorities for arrest of senior land owners from opening the main gates without licenses.
11. WUAs have not role in groundwater management.
12. Weak knowledge of the members of management council of WUAs about the legislation and laws related to water management and structures maintenance.
13. WUAs all her have weakness about knowledge by modern agricultural practices.

14. Most of WUAs suffer from technical weakness in maintenance whence planning of maintenance process application and maintenance importance comprehension Lack of irrigation schemes and its risks by many WUAs actors.

❖ *The Findings of Administrative Assessment for WUAs*

1. Higher castes have dominated management WUAs and the social relationships as they continue to look down upon the lower castes.
2. Low democratic level(not repeat elections in most of WUAs).
3. Some management council WUAs do not hold a meetings and also do not hold any meetings with members of WUAs Mndhu 2008.
4. Performance weakness of Inspection and observation committees.
5. Absence of meetings records and lecturer in most of WUAs.
6. Most of WUAs do not internal regulations discipline.
7. Appearance of conflicts external between some WUAs and internal conflicts among the members of some WUAs.
8. Weak capacity of WUAs in conflict resolution external.
9. Relationship weakness between members and management council in some WUAs.
10. Relationship and communication weakness between WUAs and the maintenance adjuration in TDA.
11. Nothing to do with external institutions and organizations.

❖ *The Findings of Financial Capacity Assessment for WUAs*

1. Annual plans and financial records(income, cash, property, equipment, supplies, etc.)not availability in more WUAs.
2. Do not availability any plans for plural of fees is the irrigation in most of WUAs.
3. Some members WUAs do not pay irrigation fees.
4. Members do not pay organic fees in all WUAs.
5. Irrigation Fees tariff are different between WUAs.
6. Existing laws/bye-laws also do not empower the WUAs to collect irrigation fee from the beneficiaries which can be used for the O&M of these structures nor they can impose any fines on the defaulting farmers.
7. Absence of the monitoring and annual audits for financial operations in most of WUAs.
8. Financial status quo too low and WUAs do not preparation plans to increase income.
9. Plans and financial records not review by the users (farmers).

Recommendation

❖ The Performance Improvement WUAs in Water Management Required to:

1. provide technical and consultations support to enable WUAs from development of rules traditional, such as AL- Gabarti traditional rules the related to water rights in order to agree with modern irrigation system and the climate changes which helps to improve the distribution of water on level wadi and canal of what reduce the control on flood at the beginning of the channels and upstream wadi.
2. Traditional rule application that prohibits land from receiving spate water more than once in a 14-day period.
3. Water distribution rights and rules in spate irrigation systems must necessarily adjust to new situations created by various factors new land development, changes in crop pattern, structural modernization. Example: Added a phrase preventing repetition to Ala'alafala'ala rule in modern spate irrigation systems lead to fair water distribution on canals level so as to reduce the control of the water at the beginning of the channels.
4. WUAs members consciousness by their role, rights and responsibilities, role of management council and by-laws should be distributed and displayed in key areas (coffee shops, village meeting halls, etc.)
5. Management board members must represent all areas been transferred to WUAs of what to help in verbalizing WUAs activity in all areas.
6. Promotion for the effective participation of all farmers and affiliation in WUAs.
7. Coordination with is the concerned authority for WUAs authorization in groundwater management from where the digging watcher and new irrigations techniques popularization.
8. Draft bylaws to the water law should give the legal power of WUAs in the following:
 - a) Authority to establish mandatory fees and contributions, for construction and maintenance.
 - b) Authority to establish rules concerning proper distribution for flood water, with penalties for violations that may include fines and restrictions on water use.
9. WUAs decisions to establish or modify rules, fees, penalties, and other matters must be approved by majority in meeting general associations or by referendum among beneficiaries.

❖ Technical Performance Improvement for WUAs in Maintenance Operation Required to:

1. Training WUAs on manners of Planning maintenance and maintenance process application.
2. For development of maintenance operation necessary be correlation among water rights and maintenance where can be for example the right to flood land by water is tantamount for farms contribution in the maintenance rule application of field loss for flood irrigation if one fails to contribute maintenance prohibiting flood access to a field its owner failed to contribute maintenance.
3. Provide proper training to the WUAs in the O&M of modern structures to restore confidence in them and amend the draft bye-laws which would empower the WUAs to collect fees from the water users or impose fines on the defaulters for the O&M of water installations as envisaged under Article 10 of the Water Law.

4. Economic incentives have a key role for stimulating WUAs performance in maintenance process.

❖ ***Technical Performance Improvement for WUAs in Agricultural Production Operation***

Required to:

1. Verbalizing the researches agricultural to improve irrigated agriculture with WUAs.
2. Determination of suitable cropping patterns based on water availability.

❖ ***Managerial Performance Improvement for WUAs Required to:***

1. Development of managerial skills within the WUAs the related to good management from where registers preparation, minutes of the meeting, the archive it and the irrigation schedule preparation.
2. Training WUAs on measures calming conflicts or avoid them occurring include:
 - a) WUAs management meet to discuss possible conflict situations and prepare actions to help mitigate or avoid the identified potential areas of conflict.
 - b) Development of trust between the WUAs management and members through good management, good communication, and open, transparent and fair procedures.
 - c) Conflict management and resolution through source of conflict identified, the nature knowledge and because of the conflict, the conflict resolution procedures prescribe in the statutes or by-laws.
3. Training WUAs on how to planning for future .
4. Have developed the communication and reciprocity of knowledge and expertise (Internal and external communication).
5. Help WUAs to amend the regulations with respect to:
 - a) law amendment elected of Management Board members so that do not allow members of the governing body of the election more than two sessions for restriction control WUAs.
 - b) Irrigation council support and the authorities for members WUAs to replace any member of from management Board members if there is a weakness and laxity in the performance of his duties according to the rules and procedure of WUAs.

❖ ***Financial Performance Improvement for WUAs Required to:***

1. Financial income development from through WUAs support on:
 - a) Tariff increase of Irrigation fees for hectare.
 - b) Procuring Irrigation fees and the fines.
 - c) WUAs direct in new financial sources creation such as the work in producer marketing and import herbicide.... etc .
2. WUAs Capacity Building in Financial Management through the training on:
 - a) Financial bookkeeping.
 - b) Preparation of annual budget and financing plan.
 - c) Mobilization of financial resources.
 - d) Filing and maintenance of financial records.
 - e) Capacity Building of WUAs in the internal inspection Procedure and audit of financial records and Preparation of audit report.