



NWSSIP Update

DRAFT REPORT
Updated Sunday
25.05.08

Section 1. Irrigation Working Group Achievements

1.1 Group Composition:

The Irrigation Sub Sector group in the National Water Strategy and Investment Plan Update (NWSSIP- Update) was chaired by Eng. Abdul Malik Al-Arashi, the Deputy Minister (MAI) and was comprised from representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) , the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPIC), the Ministry of Local Administration (MLA), the National Water Resource Authority (NWRA). The representatives of some donor agencies were members of the sub group. These are: FAO, WB, GTZ, KfW, Dutch Embassy. Detailed information of the members of the Irrigation Sub Sector Group and the attendance of the meetings are listed in the following table:

No	Name	Position	No of meetings attended	Total
1	Abdul Malek Al-Aarashi	Deputy Minister / MAI	7	13
2	Salem Hasan Ba-Shuaib	NWRA	7	13
3	Khaled Mohamed Saeed	Ministry of Planning	10	13
4	Abdul Malik ak-Thawr	Planning Department /MAI	8	13
5	Mohamed Abdulla Al-Eryani	Assis. Dep. Min / Irri.	6	13
6	Hamoud Al-Rubaidy	DG/ Soil &Wat. Pr / GSCP	7	13
7	Isam Luqman	DG / AFPPF	9	13
8	Abdulla Husain Al-Attab	AFPPF/ Planning Dep.	8	13
9	Ali Genaid	Planning Department /MAI	10	13
10	Iskandar Thabet Abdulla	Irrigation Department /MAI	13	13
11	Ali Hasan Ali Al-Nakhiby	General Association of Irrigation	8	13
12	Abdul Elah Hussain Hatroom	Irrigation Improvement .Project	8	13
13	Abdul Karim Sabri	Central Unit for Water	13	13
14	Abdo Mohamed Fadhl	DDG GSCP	2	13
15	Nagi Abu Hatem	World Bank / Sana'a	8	13
16	Mohamed Al-Arrosi	EKN / Dutch Embassy	8	13
17	Ton Negenman	EKN/ Dutch Embassy	6	13
18	Ibrahim Thabet	FAO Office Sana'a	11	13

19	Jean Francois	Consultant NWSSIP	6	13
20	Anees Abdul Azeez Noman	M&E / NWSSIP	10	13
21	Hamoud Hammadi	Ass. Dep. Min./ Min. of Local Admin.	4	13
22	Hashem Al-Shami	FAO Res. Rep.	2	13
23	Gerhard Redecker	KfW/ Sana'a	2	13
24	Jawid Jailani	Social Fund for Development	6	13
25	Christopher Ward	International Consultant	2	13
26	Mehboob Karim	M&E Consultant	1	13
27	Dr. Abdul Wahed Mukred	National Consultant/	13	13

The membership of the Irrigation Sub Group included the Director General of the Irrigation Department (MAI) Eng. Mutahar Zaid Mutahhar, who refrained from attending the meetings because of personal reasons. Efforts to convince him to attend the IRRI Sub Group meetings failed.

1.2 Methodology:

The group adopted a methodology derived from the overall guidelines for the different sub groups engaged in the NWSSIP Update. The log frame approach was adopted throughout the whole exercise of the IRRI Sub Group meetings. This was launched by a series of orientation meetings and discussions with the international consultant in which the whole process of log frame preparation was discussed and agreed upon. Several modifications were made to the log frame preparation process. The objective of these modifications were to facilitate a smooth preparation of the whole planning process within the context of the log frame approach and to ensure quality and measurable indicators outcomes and outputs as well as measurable steps.

Documents prepared for discussions used to be translated into Arabic and English and sent to all members of the IRRI Sub Group before the meeting. Hard copies of the draft documents were also prepared and circulated in the weekly meetings

Minutes of each meeting used to be prepared after each meeting and sent to all sub group members by e. mail. The same minutes were prepared in hard copies for distribution.

To facilitate discussions in the Irrigation Sub Group, a small group used to meet before the weekly meetings and prepare draft documents for discussions in the weekly meetings. This approach proved useful in order to shorten the time of brainstorming and to create a basis for discussions.

To facilitate discussions the group used the data show to illustrate ideas and templates and to use the visualization method in exchange of ideas in the group.

The International consultant and the financial expert participated in several meetings of the sub group. Their inputs were quite essential to streamline discussions and to guide the group to the correct direction in the whole planning process of the sub group.

The minutes of each meeting used to be sent to the resource persons for comments before sending these documents to members of the irrigation sub group.

The comments of the resource persons were valuable in improving the quality of work of the sub group.

Several meetings were organized in the Technical Secretariat office (Ministry of Water and Environment). These meetings were important to monitor progress and to exchange ideas among national consultants (facilitators of sub groups in NWSSIP Update.

The minutes of each meeting were also documented in a special WEB site developed to serve as a forum for exchange of information among different individuals engaged in the NWSSIP Update process.

1.3 Work Program:

A total of eleven regular meetings and two extra ordinary meetings were organized at weekly intervals. The two extra ordinary meetings were organized during the week to fill a gap in the overall progress and fulfillment of the working group plan. Tuesday noontime was agreed to be the time of the weekly meetings. The venue of the meetings was the meeting hall in the Department of Irrigation in MAI.

The Deputy Minister (MAI) chaired the meetings of the irrigation sub group. In his absence, the Assistant Deputy Minister or the facilitator took over the leadership of the weekly meetings.

The agenda of the meetings of the Irrigation sub group is summarized as follows:

No	Date	Agenda of the meeting
1	5 February 08	Kick off meeting, introduction, Brief review of NWWSSIP and the working group approach, methodologies, tasks of international and local consultants
2	12 February 08	The tentative agenda of IRRI NWSSIP Update Group, Highlights on: Concepts, objectives, outcomes, outputs and inputs, Brainstorming on logical hierarchy issues Review and validate, Finalize objectives of NWSSIP Update from IRRI Perspectives
3	19 February 08	Presentation on the MTP for Sustainable Agricultural Development; Presentation on Agricultural Policies
4	26 February 08	Highlights on the IIP experiences in the formulation of WU groups and WUAs in Delta Tuban and Zabid. Presentation of the results of JAR1 and JAR2 exercise in NWSSIP.
5	4 March 08	Presentation of the experience of GSCP in the formulation of WU groups and WUAs under tube well irrigated conditions in the targeted Governorates; Presentation of the Water Action Plan (WAP);
6	11 th March 08	Highlights on Water Policies from AFPPF perspectives; Presentation and discussion of the draft results chain for IRRI NWSSIP Update;
7	17 th March 08	Presentation and discussion of the draft template of the proposed IRRI NWSSIP Update Log frame.
7 (a)	24 th March 08	Discussion and approval of the remaining issues of the draft IRRI NWSSIP Update Log frame.

8	25 th March 08	Discussion and approval of first part of the draft IRRI NWSSIP Update action plan (monitor able steps , deadlines).
8 (a)	30 th March 08	Discussion and approval of the remaining parts of the draft IRRI NWSSIP Update action plan (monitor able steps and deadlines)
9	1 st April 08	Discussion of budget estimates and sources of funding for the different activities and monitor able steps in the action plan
10	8 th April 08	Finalization of budget estimates and sources of funding for the remaining activities and monitor able steps of the action plan
11	22 nd April 08	Discussion and approval of the capacity building requirements for the targeted activities and mentionable steps

During the period 23rd of April till the 10th of May a small group was selected to fine tune the three major documents (the results chain , the log frame and the action plan) and to incorporate the comments of Mr. Chris Ward (The international consultant) and other resource persons. This was done through a series of meetings in the Department of Irrigation (MAI). The membership of the small group comprised of:

1. Eng. Abdul Karim Sabri (GDI/MAI)
2. Eng. Iskandar Thabet (GDI/MAI)
3. Mr. Anis Noman (M&E Local Consultant)
4. Eng . Abdulla Al-attab (AFPPF/ Planning Department)
5. Eng. Ali Genaid Ali (Planning Department/MAI)
6. Dr. Abdul Wahed Mukred (IRRI NWSSIP Update Group Facilitator)

The small group consulted different resource persons in MAI and IIP as well as in GSCP and AFPPF.

Section 2: Policy, strategy and the action plan

Reviewing the NWSSIP Objectives

The overall policy statement of Irrigation Sub sector as spelled out in the results chain was as follows: “Profitable, economically efficient, equitable and sustainable irrigated agriculture”.

The objectives in the NWSSIP document were found to be still applicable and valid. These are:

1. Enhancing sustainability through water resources protection;
2. Improving farmers’ income through increasing water use efficiency ;
3. Enhancing supply with emphasis on water shed management; and
4. Improving institutional performance in support of farmers.

Two additional objectives were suggested by the working group. These were:

- *Improve management of harvested water in dams, reservoirs and other water constructions to reduce pumping of underground water for irrigation.*

- *Increase/ improve productivity per unit water use through the application of appropriate technologies.*

However, these additional objectives appeared to have been incorporated in the main four former objectives mentioned in NWSSIP document, in former Objective 3 and 2 respectively.

The group suggested rephrasing and rearrangement of the above-mentioned objectives in terms of their priorities. This was mainly related to the former objective number (4) which is related to the improvement of institutional performance. The irrigation group considered the completion of the reform program in MAI is necessary in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the NWSSIP Strategy. Therefore, this objective should become number (1).

The objectives of NWSSIP Strategy Update should thus be prioritized and rephrased as follows:

1. Enhancing the institutions for a better role in realizing efficient agricultural water use (*former Objective 4*)
2. Sustainability through water resources protection and allocation (*former Objective 1*)
3. Increasing farmers income through increased water use efficiency (*former Objective 2*)
4. Enhancing resource sustainability and quality through watershed management (*former Objective 3*).

Main Points in the NWSSIP Update Action Plan, and Outstanding Issues

Restructuring of irrigation services under Objective 1 (Activity 1.1.1.1.)

On more than one occasion and throughout the working group meetings, the issue of finalization of the sector reform program was brought up. The seriousness of MAI to revive the reform program of the agriculture sector was underlined. It was agreed that the Aden Agenda, A21A and the last reform proposals supported by FAO need to be updated and integrated in a clear program with clear indicators to ensure the completion of reforms through an agreed upon time frame and with direct involvement of stakeholders and counterpart agencies.

There was a disagreement among working group members when the Ministerial Decree was about to be discussed in the Council of Ministers without being thoroughly discussed with stakeholders and counterpart agencies in the agricultural sector. The decree of MAI should have been a result of the reform program. Feedback from MAI revealed that the decree of MAI is only one step in the reform program. It might even facilitate the reform program, which needs to be followed up in the coming period. There was no objection by MAI leadership to the reform program. Measures and monitor able steps suggested in the log frame and action plan by IIRI NWSSIP Update were acceptable to the Minister and the Deputy Minister.

In particular, it was agreed that the key steps should be to identify what is the institutional and financial model that can best deliver efficiency and water saving improvements at the farm level. The institutional and financial model could be:

- a) An expanded and improved **project model** (e.g. GSCP and IIP suitably improved)
- b) A quasi-autonomous body like an **Irrigation Improvement Authority** (built on current GSCP and IIP capabilities)
- c) Delivery through the **MAI governorate offices** (e.g. GSCP and IIP capabilities absorbed into the permanent MAI system)
- d) **Any other model** that can deliver efficiency and water saving improvements at the farm level.

Therefore it is proposed that the NWSSIP Update should provide for an analysis of the above options. Actions and budget should be written into NWSSIP to allow proper analysis, discussion, decision and implementation of the best institutional and financial model for delivering efficiency and water saving improvements at the farmer level. *A high level decision on this approach is requested.*

Improving the effectiveness of AFPPF under Objective 1 (Activities 1.1.5.1 and 1.1.5.2)

The restructuring of AFFPF was a major topic in the irrigation group agenda. There appeared to be progress in shifting of AFFPF activities to water use efficiency. However, AFFPF still needs to seek assistance from a reputable consulting agency to assess its situation and to launch its restructuring program, with a view to more efficient and transparent operations. The action plan clearly defined steps to be taken in order to achieve this. The distribution of efficient irrigation techniques and allocation of funds in AFFPF budget for this purpose appeared to be not enough to realize the effective dissemination of these techniques. AFPPF should rely heavily on IIP and GSCP as well as Sana'a Basin projects and the experience of SFD in working with targeted local communities to increase their capacities and promote the formulation of water users groups and water users associations (WUAs) as a prerequisite for the successful dissemination and adoption of these efficient water techniques by targeted farmers communities. The current transfer of funds from AFFPF to the farmers' union association for modern irrigation techniques is under question and there is evidence that this approach is not serving the purpose.

It is proposed that terms of reference, with broader scope than the existing draft, be prepared for the a thoroughgoing review of the AFPPF along the above lines, that stakeholders be consulted through the PPC about the scope and financing of the review, and that independent consultants be recruited to conduct the review. *A high level decision on this approach is requested.*

Irrigation efficiency and water saving under Objective 2 (Activities 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2 etc)

The reduction of ground water mining and improving water use efficiency will be realized through the dissemination of efficient irrigation techniques and the scaling up of the irrigation advisory services (IASs). The scope of IAS will be expanded to deliver not only improved irrigation techniques but also to help farmers improve their irrigated agriculture overall (choice of crops, crop husbandry, post-harvest, marketing etc). The IASs will be supported through capacity building programs for current extension staff and the recruitment of key personnel staff in irrigation techniques to become Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) in irrigation methods, irrigation agronomy, post-harvest processing, marketing etc. The institutional location of the IAS will be decided as part of the restructuring of irrigation services (Activity 1.1.1, see above). *A high level decision on this approach is requested.*

Securing farmers water rights under Objective 2 (Activities 2.1.2.1 and 2.1.2.2)

The securing of farmers water rights will be achieved through conducting studies on traditional water rights and scaling up and scaling out the outputs of the studies on water rights conducted in the pilot areas. This will be associated with extension and communication programs aimed at increasing awareness on farmers water rights and the importance of preservation and sustaining such rights to ensure equity in the sustainable and rational utilization of water resource in irrigation.

Improving the efficiency of water harvesting under Objective 2 (Activity 2.1.4.1)

The utilization of water from current water harvesting structures will be achieved through the use of efficient irrigation techniques in the vicinity of these structures and increasing awareness of farmers on the importance of the rational use of this precious harvested water to gain more crop per drop of irrigation water.

Refocusing the research and extension agenda under Objective 3 (Activity 3.1.1.1 – 3.1.1.4)

The development of new and improved technologies in water harvesting under rainfed agriculture, supplementary irrigation and the use of efficient water savings techniques appeared to be a priority in the efforts of sustainable water resource management. The current Mid Term Plan (2006-2010) of AREA will be subjected to an intensive review with technical support from ICARDA to ensure that research activities in crop management reflect the priority of water resource management in the research agenda.

Transferring the management of some public irrigation schemes under Objective 3 (Activity 3.1.2.1 and 3.1.2.2)

The commitment to transfer the management of public irrigation schemes (secondary and tertiary flood irrigation canals) in the main wadis to beneficiaries organized in WUAs and groups was evident. This is an on going process in the current mandated areas of IIP and the targeted wadis of Hassan and Ahwar during the period 2008-2010.

Promoting WUAs under Objective 3 (Activities 3.1.4.1 - 3.1.4.5)

The role of community organizations is becoming more significant in the management of water resources in the agriculture sector. This is evident in the scaling up and scaling out of the water users groups and water users associations in the current targeted areas and the plans to expand the formulation of these organizations in new areas under both tube well and spate irrigated production systems. The scaling up and scaling out of the water users associations will rely heavily on the assessment of current water users groups and the identification of their achievements and shortcomings, based on the experiences of GSCP, IIP, CWMP etc. The recent PSIA has some very relevant analysis. One key objective will be to ensure their sustainability. This will go in parallel with the formulation of a national coordination body and the issuing of by laws to institutionalize these community organizations in the agriculture sector.

Acting on qat under Objective 3 (Activities 3.1.5.1 and 3.1.5.2)

The Qat crop has become a commodity in the agricultural statistics and the research agenda. This was evident in the establishment of a qat research unit in AREA and the approval of a government sponsored project aimed at conducting research and development on qat to create a solid data base on qat areas, problems and the use of chemicals in qat cultivation. There is a need to compile information generated so far and draw a clear Strategy and Mid Term Plan addressing qat in Yemen. The national conference on qat, which will be organized in the second half of 2008 is likely going to serve as a basis for formulation of such a strategy and a mid term plan on qat.

Adopting an integrated approach to watershed management and revising the dam programme under Objective 4 (Activities 4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2)

The issue of construction of dams and water harvesting structures was a priority in the discussions of the irrigation group. There was a consensus that construction of dams and water harvesting structures should be based on a clear strategy and action plan in a form of an approved National Master Plan prepared by resource persons and reflects an integrated approach in the selection of appropriate sites, capacities, types of water harvesting structures for irrigation purposes.

Reviving traditional approaches in natural resource management under Objective 4 (Activity 4.1.2.1 and 4.1.2.2)

Integrated Natural Resource Management approach is a priority in the context of the Yemeni environment. Yemen has a long tradition on integrated resource management approaches as well as integrated water shed management. Unfortunately, this rich traditional knowledge is subjected to intensive erosion of this endogenous knowledge. There is an urgent need to compile and preserve and utilize this rich source of information and streamline efforts in the utilization of this resource in integrated approaches of water shed management in Yemen. The assistance from international resource persons or institutions on how to compile and document this rich endogenous knowledge is a step in the right direction in the adoption of sound approached in watershed management.

Section 3: Costs and financing

This section will summarize the financial costs and the financing plan and needs from the Financial Program, which will be annexed (one page max.)

Input from Jean François still pending

Section 4: Institutional development needs and proposals

This section will present the proposed sub-sector institutional reform and strengthening plan, summarized from the annex (one page max.)

Input from Khaled Duabee still pending

Section 5: M&E.

This section will present the main points from the Performance Management Framework, which will be annexed (one page max.)

Input from Anis Noman still pending

Section 6: NWSSIP to date.

This section will summarize the main points from the Draft Report for JAR III, which will be annexed (one page max.) Input from Anis Noman and Abdul Karim and Iskandar still pending