



More effective and sustainable investments in water for poverty reduction

For the adoption of promising agricultural water management (AWM) solutions

National dialogue
(2015-2017)

Water management by smallholders, including all forms of informal irrigation, private, water farming, fishing, etc, has a significant potential for development which is still largely untapped. This project funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and implemented by FAO and IWMI is an opportunity to understand the conditions of success for the development of all forms of small-scale agricultural water management and to improve the efficiency and performance of the development projects.

The project is implemented in Madagascar, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Niger and Mali with the participation of the ministries of agriculture of those countries. It aims to further inform on more appropriate investments in irrigation.

The project focuses on the exchange of experiences between countries, both in the technological field and know-how, in order to promote innovation.

The "National Dialogue" coordinated by FAO helps facilitate this exchange and contribute to debates between different groups of stakeholders at regional and international level. In each country, a "National Dialogue" team is appointed with the national focal point of the project and a national dialogue facilitator. This team is supported by national and international technical advisors.



AWM stakeholder engagement

The national dialogue process promotes the engagement of various stakeholders in a critical review of the main AWM options identified during the needs assessment carried out at the beginning of the project.

Each stakeholder brings on board his experience and expertise. Each option is analysed to understand, according to the context, opportunities, constraints, possible improvements, key stakeholders to engage and actions to undertake in the short, medium and long term. These conversations are important because experience, requirements and interests are different depending on the actors involved: farmers and their communities, policy makers, practitioners, private sector, donors, foundations and researchers.

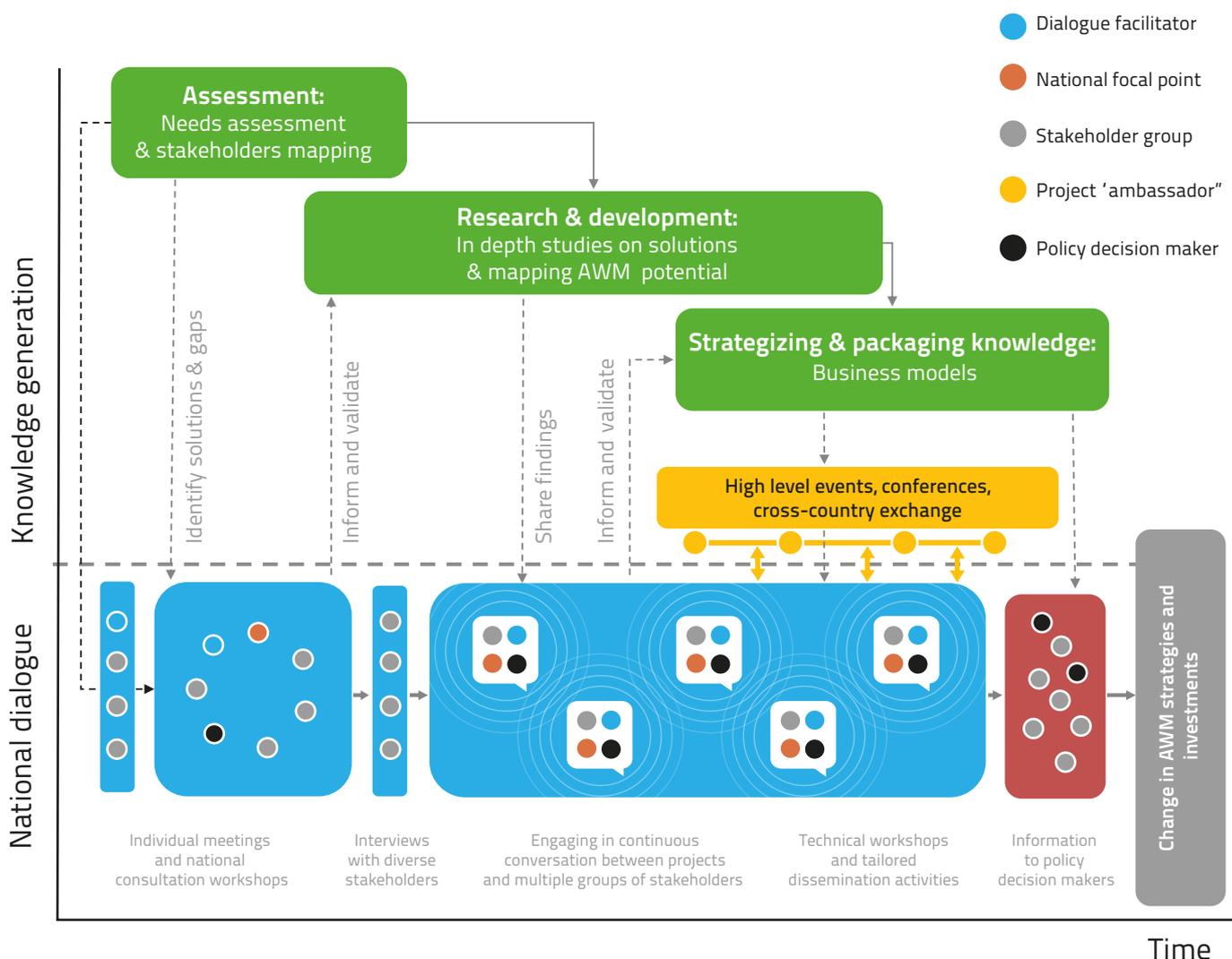


The dialogue process is based on the establishment of an informal platform for discussion between local and national parties. The dialogue is dynamic and consists of three phases:

1. The process began in 2015 and focused on a needs assessment (surveys, national consultations) and on the choice of a limited set of AWM options in each country.
2. The dialogue continues in 2016-2017 with the analysis of the main AWM options identified as a priority, in order to understand the real potential and conditions for success. It aims to map the most suitable areas, involving an increasing number of stakeholders in the reflection. This process helps develop synergies and collaborations between all actors and is accompanied by a regular communication.
3. The results will allow to build business models for some of the AWM solutions, to inform policy makers and to influence strategies focused on AWM development, particularly for the most vulnerable rural people. Furthermore, results will be used in the debates on AWM investment at national, regional and international levels.



The national dialogue process



In practice, the process of national dialogue is articulated in a detailed plan prepared by each country, based on targets related to the development of AWM solutions. The plan is constantly reviewed and adapted throughout its implementation.

In conclusion, the national dialogue process aims to consult, discuss, validate possible AWM options for smallholders and to identify gaps in order to suggest funding priorities at national level. Exchanges between countries will identify common issues and specifications in order to leverage AWM investments.

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