



Water for Food & Ecosystem

Results of the Electronic Forum

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by

Dr. Gerardo van Halsema (FAO)



Objectives & Methods

- To provide informed recommendations to this conference on the advancement of sustainable water management for food and ecosystems, based on experiences and good practices
- Compilation of a Case-Database (78 cases)
- Electronic Discussion (1 week per theme)
- 170 participants
- 6 Cases to conference



Theme 1: Fostering Implementation; Know How for action.

- Knowledge generation on water for food and ecosystems
- Advancing new production & management systems in agriculture & ecosystems
- How to merge into a common management system?
- How to mobilize stakeholder participation:
 - o knowledge generation
 - o knowledge sharing



Theme 1: Conclusions & Recommendations

Knowledge:

- participatory knowledge generation and management that is problem oriented, (balance needs and affordability)
- informed priority setting:
 - invest in knowing and in monitoring those elements/aspects that can be effectively achieved;
- progressive plans/strategies:
 - learning as a continuous process



Theme 1: Conclusions & Recommendations

Water for food and ecosystems:

Change perspective from sectoral and single objective problem solving to multiple purpose knowledge & management system:

- o rice + fish/shrimp + coastal management
- o merging traditionally segregated knowledge domains into a common knowledge body and common management strategy, serving multiple purposes
- o more collecting and sharing of good experiences in this field are needed to further advance this important aspect



Theme 1: Conclusions & Recommendations

Stakeholder Processes:

- rich body of experiences on dialogue and consultation processes
- from generating common views → execute common actions:
 - o participation in knowledge gathering & monitoring;
 - o dissemination of expert knowledge → empowerment of stakeholders
 - o capacity building of stakeholders for learning
 - o knowledge generation and dissemination should be local problem, and action driven



Theme 2: The “New” Economy

How to assess the value of water? :

- A “new economy” has to mix economic principles with government regulation to safeguard vulnerable uses in the public interest
 - Water is a complex good, neither purely public nor purely private good
- Methods for water valuation that were discussed
 - “Standardized” valuation procedures: water accounting, water poverty index...
 - Participatory valuation approaches (case)
 - Right-based approaches
 - Translating basic needs back into flow requirements (more or less other way around)
 - Contingent valuation



Theme 2: How to incorporate values into management practices?

- Local level
 - Cost-effective improvements in local water productivity (“more value per drop”)
- Catchment / river basin level
 - Payment for environmental services
 - Rights based approaches
- International / global level
 - Virtual water trade
 - Global markets for water related services (as for carbon markets and green water credits) ?



Theme 2: Main Findings

- Gap between valuation in theory and practice
 - Little experiences with use in actual decision making and stakeholder processes
- Uncertainty in valuation
 - Limitations in data and methodologies exclude possibility of knowing values with complete accuracy
- The appropriate role of markets and charging
 - Various tools discussed for reflecting values in management, but little on water markets and charges
 - Hard to solve water problems that are essentially political in nature through water markets and pricing



Theme 2: Recommendations

- Stakeholder-oriented valuation
 - Put stakeholder values more central and use participatory processes
- Adaptive valuation
 - A continuous learning-by-doing process
- Markets and charging useful tools but only under certain conditions
- Not only *water* markets and charging
 - Also use established (agricultural) markets in which water is part of the production chain



Theme 3: The Enabling Environment **(Institutions, governance & policies)**

- Which institutional arrangements effectively enable stakeholders to manage water resources and accommodate the diverse uses and users of water?
 - Achieving collaborative and adaptive water management away from the command & control administration of centralized water management



Theme 3: The changing role of the State

- enabling collaborative, adaptive and transparent water management for food and ecosystems
- from administrative management and service provider to policy maker, regulator and institutional enabler
 - strengthening the regulation capacity through appropriate legislation (establishing and enforcing the rules of the game)
 - concentrate on coordination to ensure coherency and consistency
 - stimulating decentralization of management, administration and service provision, to local water users, municipalities, NGOs and private sector



Theme 3: Local & Middle level institutions

- Institutional change requires a change in focus from output/effects orientation towards the initiation of a change process
- Water management arrangements should build as much as possible on existing local institutions and arrangements
- Focus on establishment of middle-layer institutions, that are built upon the subsidiarity principle of local level institutions,
 - o perform bridging functions between local and national level institutions:
 - o implement regulation and coherency functions of the state;
 - o inform and guide policy makers on policy requirements



Theme 3: Poverty Policies

- effectively combating poverty requires pro-poor policies as a regulation function:
 - water rights based approach that guarantees a minimum level of access
 - explicit programmes that target enhancing the productivity and livelihoods of the poor derived from water