

## Concept Note - Regional workshop on strengthening regional capacity for irrigation revitalization and agriculture water governance

(TCP 3304-capacity building regional pillar)

### Background

Irrigated agriculture is essential to the achievement of human development and environmental targets in the Asia Pacific. But in transforming economies, the agriculture and irrigation sectors will need to become more innovative, adaptative and forward-looking. In that context capacities need to be continuously updated.

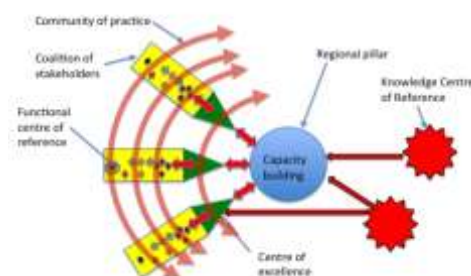
Revitalizing Irrigation and Agricultural Water Governance in Asia Pacific (this Initiative launched by FAO and IWMI) build on the existing capacity of the various actors of the agriculture and water sectors in the Asia Pacific region so that it can move towards greater food security, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and climate change readiness.

The Asia Pacific region is rich in agricultural and water expertise and innovation. A key objective of the Initiative is to support and highlight existing and new country or basin-level initiatives that address key challenges that the region is facing with forward-looking strategies. By supporting leaders of change and by sharing their knowledge, methods, experience, practices and results it is possible to trigger a more general movement of change.

The initiative recognizes that, although they are facing similar challenges and need to address a range of common issues and questions, countries and basins in the region are highly diverse, pursue national development strategies and thus are likely to make different choices and pursue differentiated strategies. Their initiatives however can be supported by exchange experience and developing their capacity on processes and through guidelines, tools, references and communities of practice.

It is proposed to set a network of center of excellence attached to country/basin initiatives that will offer capacity building or provide technical inputs on a range of water and irrigation tools and methods. They could support the coalitions of stakeholders (community of practices) engaged in irrigation modernization and agriculture water initiatives in the various countries and basins in the region.

Figure 1 strengthening capacity building for agriculture water management transformation



### The Regional workshop

**The regional workshop is planned the 4 to 6 March 2013** in Nanjing, China, immediately following another one on modernization and with an optional field visit on the 3/3. That workshop will set the basis with details and modalities for a regional network of centres of excellence and knowledge reference centres. In addition, it will further discuss the capacity development needs in the region to support the transformation of the agriculture water management and governance and structured processes for certification of professionals in new tools, methods and competencies.

The workshop is organized as part of the regional initiative to “revitalize irrigation and agricultural water governance” (TCP/RAS/3304).

### Workshop participants

The workshop will gather up to 30 participants, representatives from the proposed network of centers of excellence, accreditation partners developing methods and tools (FAO, IWMI, IRRI, UNESCO-IHE, ADB, WB, Wageningen, etc) ; and interested promoters of such centers of excellence, including donors.

### Objectives

The regional workshop will set the basis for a regional network of reference centres certified to disseminate tools, methodologies and good practices throughout the region; and raise awareness as to the existence and availability of FAO products (such as AquaCrop, CropWat, MASSCOTE , water audit/accounting, Investment frameworks, etc.) build capacities on those tools.

In particular the workshop will discuss

- A proposal for a network of centers of excellence in irrigation modernization and agriculture water management
- A process for accreditation and criteria's for certification of reference centers for assessing new products and techniques and helping to disseminate those deemed to be of value.
- A Roadmap to answer to capacity building requirements for implementing effectively the irrigation revitalization strategy.

### Tentative program

Day 1	Review offer and demand in knowledge, tools and methods from member countries and matching offer of capacity building in the region
Day 2	Discuss and finalize proposal and criteria's for a network of centers of excellence to support the implementation of strategy of irrigation modernization and smart agriculture water governance; including new capacity building products
Day 3	Building Regional & country Roadmaps for building capacity to support the water component of the agriculture transformation process in particular

### Expected outcomes

- Agreement on the structure of a network of centers of excellence building on existing centers in the region
- Process for accreditation and criteria's *to Carry out a certification function by assessing new products or techniques and helping to disseminate those deemed to be of value*
- Action plan and timeline (regional Work plan, and country level roadmaps) for revision of methodologies, piloting, training
- Partnerships for the implementation of the next steps of the regional pillar on capacity building;

### Materials for the event

The following elements are indicated in concept note of project.

- FAO catalogue of tools and methodologies for water management in agriculture
- List of available tools, products and capacity building programs in support of irrigation modernization and water management governance existing in the region
- Detailed concept/MOU for center of excellence and FAO reference centers
- Proposal for follow up at regional level on capacity building (future plans)

### Tentative list of partners to be involved in workshop

Topic Area	Partners	Notes
Water accounting	Australia, eWater Source, AusAid	A team from Australia would be invited to visit one or more of the centres of excellence to share knowledge and train staff in new water accounting techniques. A strong and clear Initiative framework will facilitate the provision of funding for this activity (if it is shown that the audience will be wide and impact high).
Water-saving irrigation	Beijing, China I.O.T.C center	Lessons and techniques from the water-saving activities ongoing in China could be widely disseminated through the Beijing Centre of Excellence and the Initiative's Centre of Excellence Network.
Innovative water management techniques (by economic zone)	NCER, Malaysia	Managing water by economic zone
Modernization	World Bank	Has commenced work related to improving modernization effectiveness in Indonesia, Vietnam and at the regional level.
Modernization	Asian Development Bank	ADB has a high level of investment scheduled for irrigation modernization.
Crop productivity	“”	plans to invest in irrigation, particularly with regard to boosting productivity, capturing more ‘crop per drop’ and modernization of irrigation and drainage systems.
Crop yield productivity	FAO; Leuven university	
IWRM	Karnataka, India	
Policy dialogue	Global Water Partnership UNESCAP IUCN	Communities of practice and established networks utilized to conduct policy dialogues.
	IHE Delft	
	IWMI	
	India, Karnataka AC-IWRM	
	Vietnam, CTIC	
	Malaysia, MoA at MADA	