

Final regional workshop on the regional initiative on revitalizing irrigation and agricultural water management in Asia

At the ADB Water Week Manila, 11 March 2013

Concept Note

(TCP/RAS/3304- Development of a Regional Initiative to revitalize irrigation and agricultural water governance in Asia)

Background

Irrigated agriculture is essential to the achievement of human development and environmental targets in the Asia Pacific. These targets simply will not be met unless the sector departs from a 'business-as-usual' approach and adapts innovative, forward-looking and effective strategies. FAO and IWMI decided to launch an ambitious initiative to flag and address this at the 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit, building on previous experience and the findings of the Comprehensive Assessment on Water and Food, to encourage and equip actors in the region with the capacity to take effective action.

Revitalizing Irrigation and Agricultural Water Governance in Asia Pacific (the Initiative) 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. By supporting leaders of change and by sharing their knowledge, experience, practices and results it is possible to trigger a more general movement of change. The initiative implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific 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.

The results to be shared at the final workshop will focus on the initiative's main areas of intervention: 1) Recent development in country national agendas and new initiatives; 2) revisiting processes for irrigation modernization (towards M 2.0 and national guidelines); 3) a roadmap for capacity building with a network of centres of excellence and the objective to develop communities of practice for the revitalization of irrigation and agricultural water management at all scales; and 4) supporting dialogues.

The final workshop of the regional FAO initiative to "revitalize irrigation and agricultural water governance" will be organized in **Manila, Philippines** the **11 March 2013** at the beginning of the Asian water week (13-15/3/2013). It will review work in progress at regional and country level related to "irrigation revitalization and agriculture water governance" and will inform future plans and initiatives. It will also feed into the 12 March 2013 workshop organised on the WB-FAO-ADB regional study in irrigation management modernization in East Asia Pacific entitled "*Rinse and repeat? A refreshing agenda for irrigation modernization*".

About the workshop of FAO initiative to "revitalize irrigation and agricultural water governance"

Title: *Revitalizing irrigation –Progress and what steps*

Target group: policy makers, managers and implementers, financiers and investors and initiative partners (as much possible those already involved in the launching event or technical workshops and new and potential partners)

Objective: review progress in developing the regional initiative in the region and in participating countries, confirm immediate follow up action, propose a roadmap for further development of the initiative and its regional pillars, and advise FAO on future steps and support with partners.

Possible structure of event:

Morning – Learning from country experience in moving ahead with modernization

08.30-09.00 Introduction/Overview

09.00-10.30 Panel 1- Learning from country strategies, programmes and initiatives for revitalizing irrigation and initiatives (Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Central Asia)

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Panel 2- Learning from country strategies, programmes and initiatives for revitalizing irrigation (India, China, Vietnam)

12.00-12.30 Panel 3 – Users, managers and decision-makers: can we find a common agenda for change?

Afternoon – Planning next steps

13.30-14.00–Regional pillars on modernization, capacity building and policy dialogue: progress

14.00-15.30 –Working groups on next steps (workplan for the region, partnerships, advice to FAO)

15.30-16.00 Coffee

16.00-17.00 - Debriefing from groups and conclusions.