



**International E-mail Conference on
Irrigation Management Transfer**
June – October 2001

WUA Legislation Country Profiles: PHILIPPINES

Constitutional framework Water resources management is a responsibility of the national Government.

1. Name of organization

Irrigation Association, IA.

2. Purpose

Management of irrigation systems.

3. Legal status and capacity

IAs are non-profit, no-stock associations. They have the status of legal entities and enter into binding agreements with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

4. Establishment

In order to promote both participation of farmers and the establishment of IAs, NIA has developed a cadre of Community Organizers, COs. These are hired by NIA and promote the organization of farmers. Procedure for establishment: IAs must register with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

5. Membership

Voluntary.

5.1 Eligibility criteria

Membership is for the “tiller of the soil”.

5.2 Rights and duties of members

Members have to pay an initial fee and then an annual “contribution”.

6. Internal structure

No specific provision.

7. Functions, Powers and Rights

7.1 Functions

Duties and responsibilities of IAs are negotiated and defined in contractual agreements between each IA and NIA which specify mutual obligations of the parties. Contracts can be for maintenance contracts, collection of contributions and system turnover to IAs.

Delivery of irrigation water, operation and maintenance of canals.

Dispute settlement. By implication, IAs are called to solve disputes among their members.

NIA is responsible for assisting IAs in this task.

Others. When irrigation systems are turned over to IAs, each IA is responsible for maintenance and minor repair works as well as for delivering irrigation water and collecting irrigation service fees (ISF).

7.2 Powers

Levying and collection of assessments. IAs collect an initial membership fee and annual “contributions”. IAs can collect the government irrigation service fee.

Imposition of fines. No specific provision.

Others. IAs do not have law enforcement power.

7.3 Rights

Water rights. IAs can be granted water rights. While applying for a water permit, IAs are exempted from payment of the filing fee that must accompany each application.

Rights in the infrastructure. Rights to use irrigation infrastructure can be turned over to IAs.

Rights of way. No specific provision.

8. Financing

Sources of income. Revenue from the collection of the initial membership fee and annual “contributions”.

9. Government role

The Institutional Development Department (IDD) is the government division responsible for organizing farmers as IAs.

IAs register with the Government.

NIA is responsible for providing IAs with technical and managerial training.

NIA is, in any case, responsible for rehabilitation and major repairs to the irrigation system.

10. Dissolution

No specific provision.

11. Federation of Associations

No specific provision.

References

Literature

Rabi, Namika **Participatory Irrigation Management in the Philippines: National Irrigation Systems.** Available on the Internet in the World Bank online library at URL http://www.inpim.org/Library/rab_phil.pdf (September 2001)