

Emerging practices from Agricultural Water Management in Africa and the Near East

Thematic Workshop

Discussion Theme 2



Water Use
Efficiency
/Alternative
Techniques/



28 August 2017



Discussion theme 2

Water Use Efficiency



Guiding questions

1. Has a methodology such as MASSCOTE responded to the need for critical assessment of performance of irrigation management and its improvement? What are its limitations and strengths and how can it be further applied?
2. Measurement and recording of water service are pillars for scheme management and WUE enhancement. How can systems be designed to accurately plan for and execute the necessary measurements, at the right time?



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Guiding questions

3. Participation and capacity building are key to the success of improving water efficiency programmes. How can communities be involved from the design phase and held accountable for any modification in the operation of the irrigation scheme? And how can WUE measures be scaled-up from field to system to ensure that communities' expectations are met?
4. The accuracy of discharge measurements is critical for making informed decisions: how does the iMoMo Application compare to classic discharge measurement measures in terms of flexibility and accuracy?



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Guiding questions

5. How does the iMoMo technology enhance community-based decision making in water allocation?

6. Sustainability of application of a technology is critical in determining its success: what threats to the long- and medium-term sustainability of technology adoption can be identified? And how can they be prevented?

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OUTCOME OF THE PLENARY DISCUSSION



Conclusions

- A strength of MASSCOTE is its downscaled applicability/adaptability/flexibility to small scale irrigation that proved to be a case in pilot sites in assessing the performance of irrigation system and proposing improvement measures
- Downscaling MASSCOTE to small scale irrigation implied the need for more quantitative data to ensure precision of improvement measures
- Certain steps of MASSCOTE remained valid at small scale irrigation level e.g. the RAP, costing, service, orientation.



Conclusions

- Power of data is shown at different levels in the countries. Morocco for assessing delivery, Uganda for reaching equity, Burkina Faso for demonstrating inappropriate implementation of designed intervention
- Crop Water Productivity is inter-twinned to improvement of Water Use Efficiency, and measurement triggers to this linking.
- Community and relevant stakeholders should be involved already at design level to avoid case of malfunctioning of system, and to ensure the sustainability of the system



Conclusions

- The community involvement will guarantee a certain level of accountability for agreed efficiency plans. Community can act as key group to take ultimate responsibility for the management of irrigation scheme enactment of the agreed upon water use efficiency measures
- Influencing policy at a right time with results derived from the pilot is a key product of the project (e.g. Uganda currently is preparing its irrigation policy and master plan)



Conclusions

- It looks agreeable that the simplicity of the Apps of the new technology could encourage its acceptance by practitioners
- Low-cost, high-tech, non-traditional, people-centered, crowd-sourced data collection are the key elements of the new technology for canal measurement
- The scale-up of technology application at scheme level is viable subject to manage threats that may appear for the long— and medium-term sustainability