Technical Report

TRAINING COURSE
ON
Water Policies and Policy Analysis
6-10 December 2015
Amman, Jordan

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
and
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Name of the project
Capacity Development for Agriculture and Water management for Iraq and Regional countries

Partners
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
National Center for Agricultural Research and extension (NCARE) - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Purpose
To enhance Capacity Development of government officials and researchers who are engaged in irrigation projects and agricultural development in Iraq and other countries.

Specific objectives of the training course on Water policy and policies analysis
Up-to-date knowledge and enhanced capacity in water policies, policy analysis and design, implementation, management, and reporting of agricultural research related to water-use efficiency, drought monitoring, and crop improvement for sustainable agricultural production.

Specific outputs
9 professionally-trained NARS partners from Iraq, 2 from Jordan and 7 from other countries: 2 from Algeria, 2 from Egypt, 2 from Somalia, 1 from Iran on Improving Water policy and policies analysis with emphasis on dry land agriculture. While 9 Iraqis, 2 Jordanians, 1 Algerian and 1 Egyptian are funded by JICA, the others are sponsored by Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Specific outcomes
Design, implement, manage, analyze and report on research and development in water policy and policies analysis and acquire up-to-date information on research and practical activities in Water policy and policies analysis in each participating country.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Water Management and the MENA Region managing water scarcity is one of the major international challenges. Governments show an increasing demand for developing and implementing broad policies to deal with the management and allocation of the limited amounts of fresh water resources in their countries. This implies effective and efficient water management, access to safe drinking water and sustainable development of the economic sectors such as agriculture.

As within the planned activities in the framework of **ICARDA-JICA** training program activities targeting Iraq, a training course on "*Water Policies and Policy Analysis*" was delivered to the Iraqi researchers with the participation of trainees from other West Asia and North African Countries (WANA) ; Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iran and Somalia.

ICARDA is considered a valued partner for MENA countries to formulate integrated water management policies. The course offers a comprehensive training programme by building and giving the opportunity of sharing the expertise and experience of ICARDA and of the participants. In a period of one week, the course provides the participants the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in water policies, water management and policy analysis activities. The course offers the opportunity to create a viable network between the leading training institutions (ICARDA, JICA and NCARE) and the participants and provide those attendees with the key personal skills to use this network to effectively manage their interests on water management and water policies activities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the above training course was the development and the enhancement of the participant's on theoretical and contextual knowledge regarding water policies and policy analysis. The course therefore was designed to ensure that participants reached the following objectives:

- Developing and reinforcing participants' knowledge and understanding of water policies and policy analysis;
- Empowering participants with the required skills to formulate and implement successful water management policies;
- Stimulate cooperation between JICA, ICARDA and the MENA countries (through participants), as well as reinforcing regional cooperation by networking and benchmarking.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The target audience for the course were National Agricultural Researchers and Technical Staff Officers in Iraq as part of the JICA training program in this country. However, other participants from WANA countries involved in water and natural resources management and agricultural policies in their respective institutions who expressed high interest and necessity for their participation were also

included in the audience. This gave an opportunity for the trainers to emphasize the importance of collaboration among policy makers and technicians to be taken into account when developing and designing harmonized strategies and policies for water management in the agriculture sector.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mr. Charles Kleinermann, Head, ICARDA Capacity Development Unit (CDU) – (c.kleinermann@cgiar.org)

Dr. Aden Aw-Hassan, Director, Social, Economic, Policy Research Program (SEPRP) (a.aw-hassan@cgiar.org)

Dr Boubaker Dhehibi, ICARDA, SEPRP, Course Coordinator (b.dhehibi@cgiar.org)

COURSE STRUCTURE

Course instruction was organized through tutorial and practical sessions, which provided participants with hands-on experience using different data sets, software packages and policies analysis framework such SWOT (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and other tools (see Annex I).

The course covered the following themes / sub-themes:

➢ **Theme I: Water policies and policy analysis: Overview, concepts and approaches**
  ➢ Agricultural and natural resources policy analysis: Basic concepts and theoretical background for policy analysis
  ➢ Instruments and institutions in policy formulation
  ➢ Agricultural water policies: different supply and management approaches
  ➢ Water pricing: As one of the economic instruments for water management

➢ **Theme II: Policies to support agricultural production**
  ➢ Input subsidy policies
  ➢ Marketing policies
  ➢ Mechanization policies
  ➢ Agricultural extension and research policies
  ➢ Case study: Agricultural water policies in Jordan

➢ **Theme III: Policies and technologies for suatainable use of water in dry areas**
  ➢ A policy option for valuing irrigation water in the dry areas
  ➢ Case study: Water valuation in Syria
  ➢ Case Study: Institutional decomposition and analysis of irrigation water sectors
  ➢ Informing water policies and governance mechanisms through effective agricultural innovation systems
  ➢ Case study: Mechanical raised-bed planting in Egypt

➢ **Theme IV: Policies of natural resources management (NRM)**
  ➢ Economic tools for policy analysis
  ➢ Macro-instruments of agricultural policies
  ➢ Water and salinity control policies in perspectives: The case of Iraq
  ➢ Policies options and strategies in NRM
  ➢ Case study: Policy and institutional options for management of salinity issues in Iraq's agricultural sector

➢ **Theme V: Gender in water policies**
  ➢ Principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and their gender implications
  ➢ Gender-responsive water management and policies

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION

The course counted with the participation of 6 countries of the region. The course was attended during the entire week by 18 participants, from whom five were women (Annex III). The part regarding the course instruction was delivered by 6 scientists from the Social, Economic, Policy and Research (SEPR) Program from ICARDA and one scientist from the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan (Annex II). Five thematic areas were covered by this training course: (i) Concepts and approaches for water policies and policy analysis; (ii) Policies to support agriculture production; (iii) Policies and technologies for sustainable use of water in dry areas; (iv) Policies of natural resources management, and (v) Gender in water policies.

The training was conducted and implemented jointly by ICARDA Social, Economic and Policy Research (SEPR) Program Scientists and ICARDA Capacity Development Unit (CDU) with the collaboration of the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan.

GROUP ASSESSMENT

Given that the main outcomes of the training were to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on water policies and policy analysis processes in dry land areas, the selection process and assessment of the trainees were made in two steps. The first step consists of the participants based on their CV's, application form, and criteria of selection requested on the invitation letters but also taking into account their understanding of basic water policies concepts, policy analysis and its application.

The post-training assessement, based on groups discussions and interactions, where participants were asked to break up into country groups and reflect on the various sessions covered in the training course. The participants were also asked to record the most relevant information from the sessions and explain how they were going to apply this information when they return to their home. Results from this exercise showed a significant increase in the participants' understanding of the basic water and agricultural policies concepts, with significant increase in the

understanding of policies analysis tools. There was a slight increase in the understanding in application of policies assessment toolsy. Generally, results from the groups discussion indicate that the average participants' understanding of all three sections is now on par.

GENERAL COURSE EVALUATION by TRAINEES

Various evaluations were carried out during the course, including a specific evaluation for each part of the course (Annex IV).

Regarding the overall methodology of the training course, most of participants qualified it as very good (6%) and good (33%), 61 % evaluated it as excellent. Participants expressed their interest in giving more opportunity to open discussions and practical exercises.

Taking into account the topic of the course, 56% of the participants considered that the delivered material was adequate, 6% considered it too low, and 38% participants considered it too high. Some of them commented that the varying experiences among participants were good, and that it would have been useful to get the experiences of local data users in terms of type of data required and challenges in accessing quality data.

The organization of the course was well perceived in general. 61% qualified it as excellent, 32% very good and 7% good.

CONCLUSION

The water policies and policy analysis course had positive responses from the participants. The satisfaction survey was returned with high scores within the scale of 1-5 (lowest to highest). Overall most participants found the course interesting and appreciated the interactive learning approach, especially the group activities and the opportunity to converse in their own language. There were also comments or requests for more training courses related to the water management topics (technical, economic and enviromental) to be conducted, including follow-up workshops and joint possible research for development collaborative projects. Throughout the course, participants were given opportunities to raise issues that they were concerned within each thematica area. Some of the main comments or issues raised were:

➢ More applied subjects which present the impact of ICARDA projects which held in other countries
➢ Understand the process on how to move from policy recommendations to policy change;
➢ New ways in design of irrigation network by using criteria in water policy and water management
➢ Advanced techniques for analysis on management approaches
➢ Increasing the field visit related to the course

End