



UNU-FLORES

Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources

ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE**



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Integrated management of water resources demand and supply in irrigated agriculture challenges and potentials

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KQ 1. Increased future pressure on water resources by irrigated agriculture?



Source: For 1960–95, Shiklomanov 2000; 1995–2050, modeling results scenarios done for the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture.

Source: Water for Food, Water for Life (IWMI, 2007)

KQ 1. Increased future pressure on water resources by irrigated agriculture?



Source: UN World Water Development Report 2009

ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE** KQ 2. Is there integrated management of water supply and demand ?

Measures

Improvement of water availability

- first choice if no economic constraints
- technical solutions
 - Dams, pumps, pipes
 - Groundwater recharge
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - desalinization

Case of Oman

Improvement of water availability

 32 groundwater recharge dams and 67 surface storage dams have been built in the last

20 years



ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE** KQ 2. Is there integrated management of water supply and demand ?

Improved water demand management

- making the most of available water
- ightarrow minimizing water use
- → maximizing the outputs per unit of water (productivity)

Case of Oman

Water demand management

- balanced in the historical falaj system
- more than 100% groundwater withdrawals of actual renewable fresh water resources in the coastal area
- "Common pool problem" (Kinzelbach, 2003)



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Water demand reduction policies

- Volumetric charging
- Limited water allocation (quotas)
- cropping restrictions

Measures

Supporting policies

- Increasing irrigation efficiency by optimal irrigation scheduling and control, irrigation methods (drip)
- Increasing water productivity
- Farmer education and capacity develop.
- Water metering



ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE** KQ 2. Is there integrated management of water supply and demand ?

Water infrastructure

- Design of
 - Dams (Volume?)
 - Well field (Capacity?)
 - Pipes (Structure?)

Integrated planning

Options for water demand management

- Water prices?
- Water quotas?
- Irrigation efficiency?
- Water productivity?
- Irrigation equipment subsidies?
- Communication of BMP's?

ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE** KQ 2. Is there integrated management of water supply and demand ?

Water infrastructure

- Operation of
 - Dams (releases?)
 - Well field (abstraction?)
 - Surface water (abstraction?)

Integrated operation over time

Options for water demand management

- Cropping pattern?
- Irrigation scheduling?
- Service and support?

ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE** KQ 5. Do we have data for monitoring and assessment of actual water supply and demand ?

Water availability

• Quantity and quality is uncertain

Case of Oman

Agricultural water demand

- Problems to estimate actual abstraction (quantity, quality)
- Problems to estimate actual water application (no water metering)
- Problems to estimate water productivity





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Case of Oman

MRMWR

- National Well Inventory Project
- Water metering campaign
- Estimations of safe yield

MAF

- Agriculture Census
- vegetation cover from satellite imagery
- estimations of crop water use (FAO 33)



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Case of Oman

MRMWR

- National Well Inventory Project (1990's)
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MAF

- Agriculture Census
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No link (spatial reference, ...) of collected data or no link at all between MRMWR and MAF

Challenges:

- Integration of monitored data
- Integrated planning of monitoring programmes
- Remote sensing (actual evapotranspiration, soil moisture)

First steps:

- Implementation of IWRM office with staff from MRMWR and MAF
- Integrated assessment of water productivity



KQ 5. Do we have data for monitoring and assessment of actual water supply and demand ?

Agricultural water demand of different agricultural subzones



Estimates based on data of the "National Well Inventory" (1993-95)

KQ 4. Do we have the models for integrated assessment of measures of water supply and demand ?

Integrated (predictive) modeling

of water availability needs

- Hydrological modeling
- Reservoir system modeling
- Groundwater modeling
- Modeling of distribution systems
- Climate modeling ...

of water demand needs

- modeling of irrigation systems
- modeling of crop response (incl. stresses)
- modeling of the economic response
- modeling of the farmers response to measures (rational, irrational)

 at a large spatial scale and a large time scale

- at a small spatial scale and small time steps
- at regional scale and larger time scale

Feedback links between the integrated models and huge data for parametrization!

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Integrated simulation based optimal management

What is best (productivity, sustainability, employment, welfare, economic effectiveness)

- on the short term?
- on the long term?

Challenges (KQ 7.)

- complexity
- uncertainty (climate, ...)
- non-linearity
- water quality

----NEXUS--

 integration of other resources/sectors



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Validation and Implementation

of (simulated) best managing practise

Principles:

- Sustainable Water Supplies
- Shared Responsibilities
- Self Governance
- Link between water users and water managers
- Sound Science
- Adaptive Management
- Informed Public

