



STATE OF ISRAEL

# **Water Users' Participation Through Regional Associations Israel 2012**

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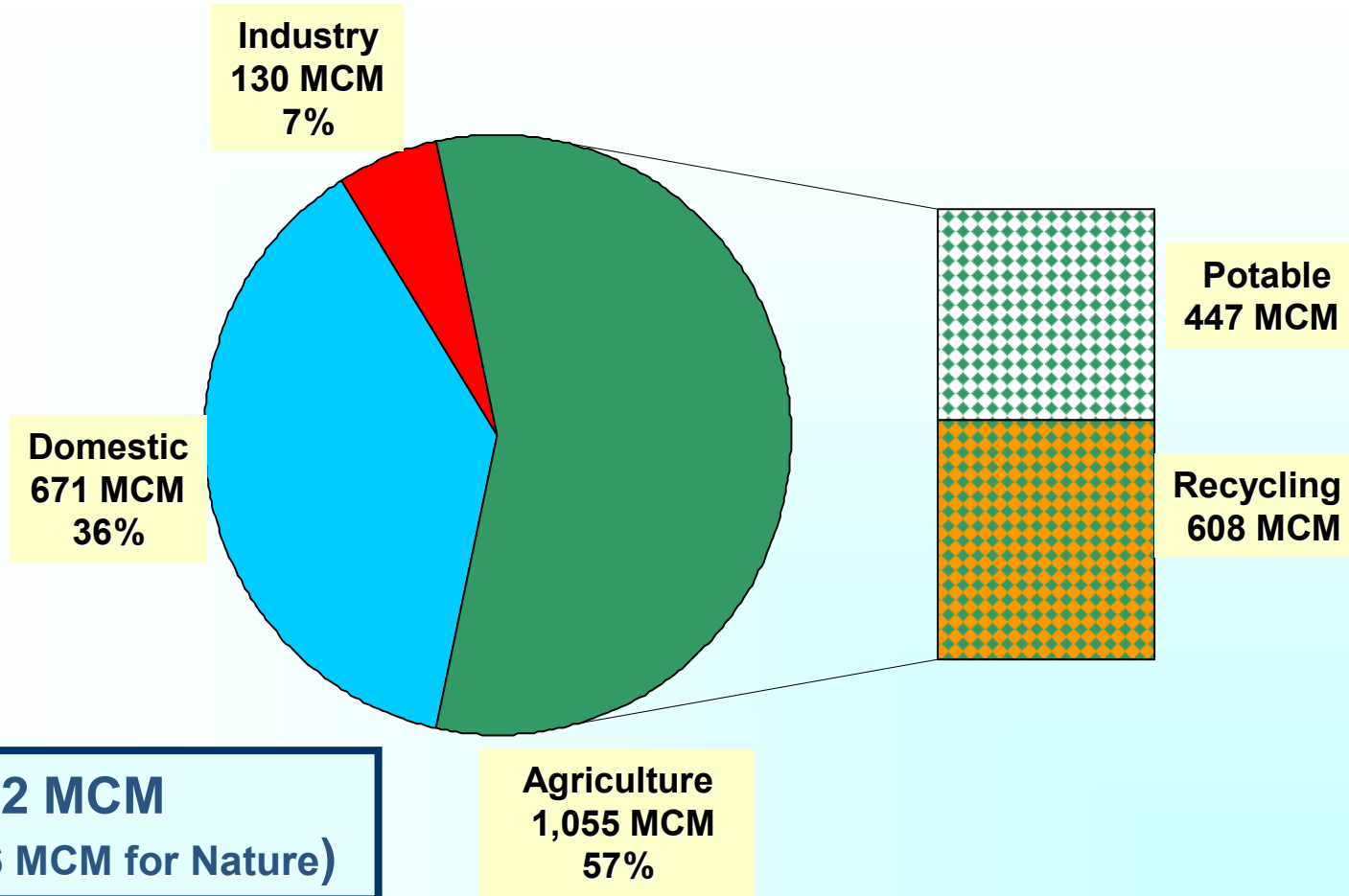
# The Israeli Governmental Water & Sewage Authority

- One central governmental authority
- Responsibility over the whole "Water Chain"
- Transfer authorities from the political level of several ministers to one professional Board.

# Water Consumption in Israel

## According to sectors

### Data for 2011



# Policy Regarding the Urban and Agricultural Water Sectors

## **Urban Sector:**

- Water is supplied by municipal water & sewage companies dedicated to these matters only
- Priority is given to the domestic sector, especially during water shortage periods
- Tariffs are set by the state

## **Agricultural Sector:**

- Water is supplied by local associations not necessarily dedicated to the water sector
- Water for agricultural usage is allocated by the state
- Tariffs are only partly set by the state

# Involvement of Agricultural Water Consumers

- Public hearing procedures during the decision processes including:
  - Annual allocations
  - Water tariffs
- Local frameworks for water consumers participation in decision making

# **Frameworks for Village & Regional Water Consumers sharing**

- Village association: includes local farmers; supplies water to its members.
- Regional association: regional association for supply management; includes several local associations.

# Methods for Enhancing the Participation of Water Consumers

- Allocation of water in a regional level – bulk quotas
- Delegating authority for water distribution to the regional associations
- Supplying tools for managing and developing the regional water resources

# Advantages \ Disadvantages

## **Advantages**

- Optimized distribution of water resources between consumers
- Economies of scale
- Capacity building for developing regional water resources
- Reducing the number of entities required to comply to the central authority regulation rules

## **Disadvantages**

- Risk of non-equal water distribution
- Concern of regional associations with managerial or financial instabilities
- Limited control on internal processes
- Reduced flexibility for the central authority



# **Successful Implementations of Regional Associations**

- Cooperation between government & regional consumers' associations in promoting the use of recycled water
- Enhancement of the use of marginal water sources
- Increased stability of water as a factor of production in the agricultural sector
- Increased consumers' satisfaction regarding water resource distribution

# Future Challenges

- Threshold requirements for the establishment of a regional association
- Balancing between governmental flexibility in water resources managing and regional water stability
- Setting the rules in order to ensure an un biased conduct (within the region)
- Determining the requirements in order to ensure the association financial and managerial stability