



## ***Module 2: Preparing an enabling environment for the establishment of WUAs: strategic planning and the implementation plan***

### **1. Goal**

Participants will have an improved understanding of the importance of a proper planning process for the establishment of WUAs and the main issues that should be resolved.

### **2. Learning Objectives**

1. Understanding that the strategic planning should be participatory with a good representation of main stakeholders in the decision making bodies
2. Familiarization with the main issues to be resolved at the planning level.
3. Gain knowledge about the actions that need to be taken to create an enabling environment during implementation. In particular, the restructuring of the Irrigation agency, the legal changes and the new capacities that need to be built.

### **3. Key messages.**

1. The planning process should be participatory and concerned water users should have a major decision role. It is important to select the most relevant stakeholders
2. Communication is a fundamental component of any IMT/PIM programme and should be planned in detail.
3. The PIM/IMT processes should be coordinated by a decision making body where the main stakeholders are represented.
4. The main issues to be resolved for promoting the necessary enabling environment for the establishment of WUAs include:
  - a. How the irrigation sector will be financed and, in particular, how the O&M and rehabilitation cost will be financed in the future ?
  - b. Is rehabilitation of irrigation systems a precondition for establishing the WUAs
  - c. At what hydraulic level should management be transferred?
  - d. What services should be transferred?
  - e. What type of water users' organization should be selected?
  - f. What legal changes are required?
5. PIM/IMT is a learning process where specific actions, targets and deadlines can only be worked out in the process of implementation. Answers to some of the above issues may be tested during implementation.
6. The PIM/IMT Plan should be comprehensive and include:
  - i) policy changes required (i.e. organizational mandates, subsidies, etc.);
  - ii) legal changes required (i.e. water and land rights, status and powers of WUAs, means for conflict resolution, etc.);
  - iii) agency restructuring (i.e. reorganization, disposition of staff, training, etc.);
  - iv) arrangement for provision of new support services (i.e. technical advice, credit, dispute resolution, etc.);
  - v) Communication strategy
  - vi) creation and development of WUAs;
  - vii) capacity building plan
  - viii) strategy for the improvement of irrigation infrastructure.
7. The PIM/IMT processes often require restructuring of the irrigation agency as some responsibilities are transferred to the WUAs. Restructuring may include changes in the following elements:
  - i) mission and roles of the organization;
  - ii) governance and mode of financing;
  - iii) Internal accountability arrangements.
8. For some of the new roles of the irrigation agency, capacity building may be required.



9. Legal changes are generally essential to provide WUAs with a legal status. However in some countries the legislation covering the organizations for the private sector may be ample enough to accommodate the new WUAs or requires minor modifications.

#### **4. References**

Vermillion, D.L and Sagardoy, J. A, 1999. Transfer of irrigation management Services. Guidelines.FAO Irrigation and drainage Paper No. 58, Rome. Can be downloaded from [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

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