

Welcome to

A Water Policy for the Future

Consultation Workshop

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A Water Policy for the Future



Why are we here?

- ▶ To kick off the consultation process that should lead to a modern water policy for the country;
- ▶ To familiarise stakeholders with the work being done;
- ▶ We need to get stakeholders comments and to know their concerns that need to be addressed.

What are the problems to an adequate water supply?

▶ Scarce natural supply:

- climate, nature of ground, other natural characteristics;

▶ Water is easily polluted:

- country is small and difficult to isolate polluting activities;
- Soil is shallow, poor in organic content, needs fertilising;

▶ Low direct abstraction costs, easily accessible technology, absence of strong regulatory framework and insufficient monitoring led to overexploitation;

▶ Attitude change to realism (informed, controlled use).

Other sources of water

- ▶ Desalination: expensive and energy intensive;
- ▶ Treated sewage effluent:
 - Most exciting from the point of view of development;
 - Quantity being increased and quality can be improved;
 - Possibility of production near point of use and several times reuse without dedicated complex distribution network;
- ▶ Use water wisely;
- ▶ Proper exploitation of stormwater.

How do we proceed?

- ▶ We need a transition to a more logical sustainable water economy;
- ▶ We realise change cannot happen overnight. Attitudes, economic investment and social realities have been built around the existing situation.

Example of sectoral competition

- ▶ That generated between potable water and irrigation;
- ▶ Excessive and haphazard exploitation;
- ▶ Results of unilateral WSC reduction programme disappointing;

Example of sectoral competition (cont.)

▶ Dealing with the situation:

- Basis of allocation is to be examined and criteria could be:
 - Common good;
 - Social parameters
 - Technical issues
 - Economic value for water for different sectors.
- Use tools developed in other sectors could be used for good management and consistency:
 - E.g. databases of produce for evaluation of subsidies lends itself to a realistic quantitative basis for fine-tuning of policy;
- Technology harnessed to optimise use of water:
 - Water efficient irrigation;
 - Maximise reuse and substitution of better quality water by inferior sources;
- Respect of social realities:
 - Farming community;
 - Environmental enhancement.

Final remarks

- ▶ FAO's contribution to water management, especially in agriculture;
- ▶ FAO assisting in this project, both financially and through expertise, including local consultants;
- ▶ APS Bank seminar initiated this participation;
- ▶ EU Directives represent best practice. Following them is not an end in itself, but they represent what we should be doing.

Thank you



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