

PROJECT GOALS

Over goal:

To contribute to poverty reduction through improved income and food security of the rural population in the pilot area depending on water resources for their livelihoods.

Objective 1: Farmers in pilot areas are able to take informed decisions on adaptation and adoption of improved techniques on efficient water use to increase water and crop productivity in view of effects of climate change.

Objective 2: Pilot WUAs have improved their governance structure and their management capacities which lead to better services for farmers.

RATIONALE

Helvetas designed the On-Farm Water Management Project SEP (the name is deduced from the Kyrgyz words for “Efficient Use of Water” – Suunu Effectivduu Paidalanuu) in 2008. Project started implementation in 2009 with pilot phase. This year is the extension of the phase I (2010-2012). The concept for the project was based on extensive studies of the current water situation in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, on-going projects and government initiatives, interviews with key resource persons and farmers. All information and recommendations were pointing in one direction: water is a key issue for farmers and a major constraint to increase yield and thus income from farm activities. At the same time allocation of water resources is uneven, overuse of water and severe water shortage co-exist along channels and even within villages. SEP was designed as poverty reduction project through income improvement and food security in the water resources dependent for livelihood areas.

BACKGROUND

In Kyrgyzstan lack of water and its inappropriate use at field level is a main obstacle for farmers to get higher yields and income from agricultural production. Over-irrigation in upstream areas and lack of water in the downstream zones coexist paradoxically, since farmers lack knowledge of real water needs of crops and water saving irrigation methods. Helvetas therefore launched SEP (SEP = “ ” – c , Kyrgyz for «Efficient Use of Water”) aiming at improving efficient water use at field level by improving irrigation practices and rain water harvesting techniques. The project facilitates linkages and improved collaboration between farmers, Water User Associations and government structures and encourages the involved stakeholders to improve their services.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SEP is collaborating with local partners who are directly working with farmers. These partners are Water User Associations (WUAs), agricultural extension service providers, government institutions and private businesses in the agricultural and water sector.

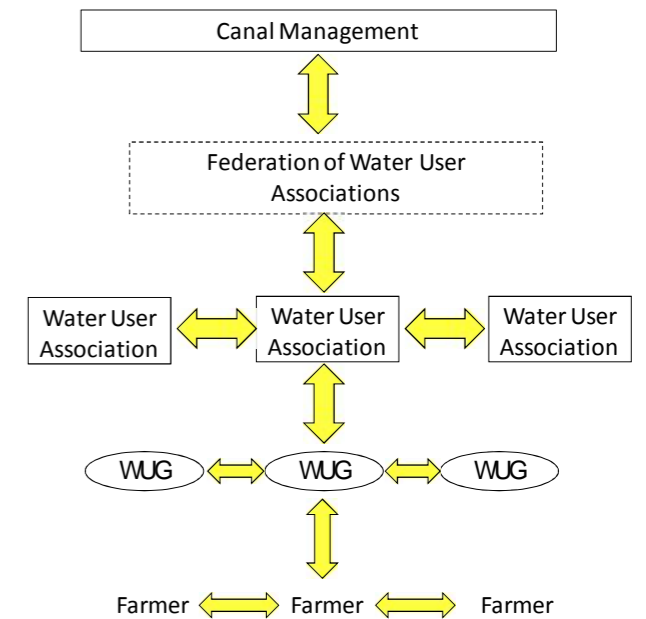
The project is adding value to existing activities of these actors by strengthening their capacities in terms of providing adapted and need based services to their clients.

Experiences from the pilot-projects are capitalized and exchanged among partners, with national and international research institutes, government institutions, universities and other water-related projects. In this way know-how about modern irrigation management techniques is updated and widely shared among all concerned stakeholders.

APPROACHES

SEP facilitates improved communication and collaboration between farmers and Water User Associations, between neighbouring Water User Associations and between Water User Associations and government institutions. The project seeks to improve linkages between the different stakeholders at all levels in order to improve the service relationships between them.

Water User Associations in pilot areas are supported in their organizational development and in their capacities to interact with farmers, neighbouring WUAs and the government. SEP contributes to a better awareness of efficient and profitable water use among farmers.



Graphic: Facilitate linkages between all actors in the irrigation water supply chain.

ACHIEVED RESULTS



The Manual “Basics of irrigation in Kyrgyzstan” was published in 2012 based on the experience of the First Phase of the project. Public Fund “Training, Advisory and Innovation Centre” (TAIC) had a mandate for developing the Manual in Russian and Kyrgyz languages. The Manual will be useful for irrigation specialists, extensionists and farmers – water users for capacity building on efficient use of land and water resources and also for productive use of on – farm irrigation systems. The manual describes about water as a global issue, the situation in Kyrgyzstan, structure and principles of irrigation, disadvantages of wrong irrigation methods, water calculation, water service fee payment etc.

35 %

of water is saved with short furrow irrigation.

453

WUA members trained in efficient use of water in 2012

>5

water saving technologies promoted.

OUTLOOK

A one-year extension of the present phase allows scaling up the achievements of Phase I, to deepen aspects related to volumetric payment of irrigation water and management of water related conflicts. Accordingly a milestone decision on the continuation of the OFWM Project may be taken in June 2013.



“We never thought that irrigation could harm the crop. We thought that the more water we give, the better it is for the plants. In our village there is water in abundance, so we were irrigating our fields without limits. Only after the trainings we started to understand that poor yields may be caused by inappropriate irrigation practices.”

Farmers from Aravan village

CONTACTS

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IN BRIEF

PROJECT DURATION:

Inception phase: 2009

Phase I: 2010-2013

PROJECT BUDGET (Phase I Extension 2013):

USD 194'000

LOCATION: Kyrgyzstan

IMPLEMENTOR: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

DONORS: Own funded (Programme credit SDC)

Main activities:

- 1) Innovative and efficient water use methods are tested and adapted in farmers' fields.
- 2) Experiences of SEP partner projects are analysed, evaluated and documented, and proven efficient water use methods are disseminated.
- 3) Additional resources for up-scaling and wider dissemination are mobilized through advocacy, policy dialogue and presentation of SEP results.
- 4) Management processes and tools of selected WUA are analysed and specific support is provided at organizational and field levels:
 - A. Capacity building of project staff and partner organization on conflict management.
 - B. Support provision to WUA (staff and members/water users/farmers) on improved management (with no violence) of water conflict situations in the WUA.



ON - FARM WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Phase I: 2013