



Investing in rural people

## Mainstreaming innovations and adoption processes from the CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food in IFAD's portfolio

GRANT RESULTS SHEET



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The programme demonstrated and shared approaches and tools that have potential for pro-poor impact at scale

### Goal and objectives

CPWF Phase 1 (2004-2009) covered more than 68 projects working in ten river basins. Each project produced an array of innovative ways to improve water management for food, livelihoods and the environment. Many of these project results are considered useful for a wide range of development interventions in different geographic locations around the world. But while results have been documented for researchers, they have not been made widely available. The challenge is to find a way to share and brokere this knowledge, with IFAD projects and the wider development community.

In September 2011, CPWF (the CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food) received a two-year grant from IFAD to contribute to improved food security and livelihoods of poor rural communities.

The grant was in part motivated by the cancellation of CPWF's third phase (which would have focused on dissemination) as a consequence of the then-ongoing CGIAR reform process. The programme being shortened meant that CPWF had less time than expected to connect with development partners and encourage them to test, adapt and scale up the programme's institutional and technical innovations. The grant from IFAD allowed CPWF to test its emerging research-for-development approach and to link research to development during its second phase (2010-2013).

CPWF set out to influence and collaborate with key change agents, including IFAD field staff, in order to scale up a number of its innovations. It did so by participating in and contributing to a range of events; repackaging research findings and results to make them more useful for end users; and providing follow-up funding for research projects that were identified as "quick wins" for achieving development impact.

The demonstrated and shared approaches and tools that have potential for pro-poor impact at scale with IFAD decision makers and field staff, as well as a wide range of other development professionals.



## Facts at a glance

### Grant implementing agency

International Water Management Institute (IWMI), as legal host of the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF)

### Theme

Irrigation and Water Management Practices

### Benefiting countries

**Asia:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam

**Africa:** Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe

**Latin America:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru

### Total programme cost

US\$1,643,000

IFAD contribution: US\$1,000,000

Cofinancing: US\$643,000

### Fund leveraging

CPWF: US\$65,000 and CPWF partners in-kind, e.g. staff time

### Partners

International Water Management Institute, CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food

### Effectiveness and duration

2 years, 2012-2014

### Linkages to IFAD investment projects

**Africa:** Lesotho RB-COSOP

**Asia:** China SPEAR and SGPRP, Lao People's Democratic Republic

## Beneficiaries

The programme supported innovation funds working directly with communities to scale up approaches in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Uganda and Viet Nam.

Indirect beneficiaries included the following groups:

- Development agents working at the local level, who have benefited from the knowledge-sharing experiences from workshops and access to information.
- Decision makers, who have been influenced by dialogue and discussions related to project activities.
- Academics and students, who have used the learning materials in courses and other learning activities.

## Main results

The programme developed a multi-purpose resource package from research outcomes. The package includes:

- CPWF's strategy for repackaging efforts (<http://waterandfood.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/IFAD-Repackaging-Poster.pdf>)
- Blog post: It's All About Knowledge Utilization
- Presentation: CPWF's Repackaging Effort by Michael Victor, former CPWF communications coordinator (<http://www.slideshare.net/CPWF/cpwf-repackaging-efforts>)
- CPWF water dialogue posters (<http://waterandfood.org/water-posters/>)
- CPWF outcome stories (<http://waterandfood.org/outcome-stories/>)
- CPWF sourcebook: Addressing Water, Food and Poverty Problems Together (<http://waterandfood.org/sourcebook/>)
- CPWF Andes brochure and video on benefit-sharing mechanisms ([http://mcb.condesan.org/en/learn/about\\_benefit\\_sharing\\_mechanisms/](http://mcb.condesan.org/en/learn/about_benefit_sharing_mechanisms/))
- CPWF online learning portal (<http://www.waterandfood.org>)
- Blog post: Where research meets development: A conversation on challenges and opportunities

CPWF tested innovations with potential for impact at scale through research-into-use projects and innovation fund projects, and shared its findings with the main agents of change among development practitioners.

**Research-into-use grants** were awarded to the following four research projects from CPWF Phase 1 that showed potential for future impact:

- Mekong: Companion Modeling – RIU-PN25
- Ganges: Community-based Fisheries and Flood Plain Management – RIU-PN35
- Nile: Integrated Termite and Land Degradation Management – RIU-PN37
- Volta: Shallow Ground Water Irrigation – RIU-PN65

The research-into-use grant on Community-based Fisheries and Flood Plain Management in the Ganges was made into a film in 2015 to support efforts to promote ecosystem-based planning approaches in livelihood improvement and food security in Bangladesh. The film (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzDkaAbc7Qg>) has been viewed more than 14,000 times and was used for advocacy efforts in Bangladesh to highlight the important function beels play in local development efforts. The film and subsequent engagement activities resulted in a new European Union project for more than EUR 6 million, which is being implemented to replicate the success.

An **innovation fund** was established in 2011 and eight projects of less than one year duration were awarded grants in five of the six basins CPWF works in – Ganges, Limpopo, Mekong, Nile and Volta:

- Mainstreaming gender in CPWF: Benchmarking and addressing immediate needs
- Development of a web-based decision support system for agricultural water management of small reservoirs and small water infrastructure in the Limpopo basin (<http://iwmi-tagmi.cloudapp.net/>)
- Volta storylines and scenarios: A mouthpiece for interventions to enhance livelihoods
- The wheels of innovation: local challenge funds for rainwater management interventions
- Participatory video: a novel mechanism for sharing community perceptions with decision makers
- Building provincial capacity to understand the water demand implications of socio-economic development plans in central Viet Nam
- Sharing lessons on hydropower development processes and stakeholder engagement between Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Implementing community level water management in coastal Bangladesh

CPWF organized or contributed to more than 25 events, including for example the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Remuneration of Positive Externalities (RPE)/Payments for Environmental Services (PES) held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome in September 2013, where CPWF's 10 years of experience in Peru was mainstreamed in FAO's normative work on Incentives for Ecosystem Services.

## Lessons learned

**Building on what already works.** Projects often want to support something “new” and fail to build upon success from the past. But this project leveraged the success of what had already been produced and implemented by CPWF and built upon existing partnerships and structures. This ensured that project impacts occurred within a shorter period of time and required less money.

**Flexible management to match short implementation period.** The project took an adaptive management approach and built upon the capacities and realities of what was available within CPWF. This allowed the project to capitalize on what was working or needed support. For instance, while not originally planned, the project contributed to a knowledge share fair at the 2013 WLE Mekong Forum on Water, Food and Energy attended by more than 400 people, who were able to learn from various CPWF experiences.

Insights into which strategies can link research to development—and how development can improve through the use of research were written up and, with a contribution from this grant, published in a book: Harrington LW, Fisher MJ. (eds.) 2014. *Water Scarcity, Livelihoods and Food Security, Research and innovations for Development*. Routledge: New York.

CPWF  
experience in  
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#### IFAD contact

**Audrey Nepveu**

Technical Specialist, Water and Rural Infrastructure

Email: [a.nepveu@ifad.org](mailto:a.nepveu@ifad.org), [water@ifad.org](mailto:water@ifad.org)



#### Partner contacts

**CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems/International Water Management Institute**

E-mail: [wle@cgiar.org](mailto:wle@cgiar.org)

For feedback and queries:  
[ptakmmailbox@ifad.org](mailto:ptakmmailbox@ifad.org)

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In addition, CPWF's own **partnership strategy** should be highlighted. CPWF has established strong relationships with a wide range of national and regional partners in 10 different river basins across the world. These partners, which included FANRPAN in the Limpopo river basin, CONDESAN in the Andes, the Volta Basin Authority in the Volta river basin, and many more, are entities that can continue to build on and benefit from CPWF's work.

Blog post: Taking the road less travelled: building upon lessons from CPWF

Presentation: Learnings from CPWF for WLE by WLE Director Andrew Noble

## Way forward

According to the original grant design document, CPWF's proposed exit strategy was to consist of "working closely with IWMI and other partners to design the CRP5 [= WLE] and ensure a smooth transition of CPWF into the future CRP5 governance". Indeed, CPWF did make significant contributions to the design of the CRP5 –now known as the CGIAR Research Programme on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) – which is building on lessons and initiatives originating from CPWF. WLE's partnership strategy, focal region programme and innovation fund are building directly on CPWF lessons and activities, which are thus being carried forward by WLE.

For instance, WLE's Focal Region Programme used a number of CPWF methodologies to design its programme of work. The open call bids built upon CPWF Phase 2 experience of bringing together research and development organizations. This resulted in a diverse group of partners (more than 80 new partners), which include private sector entities, NGOs, governments, academia and communities. This diversity helps WLE to deliver integrated and innovative ecosystem-based solutions to challenges related to water and land governance, infrastructure development, sustainable intensification, gender and equity, food and water security, and livelihood resilience.

Once the projects were chosen, they were brought together to develop a coherent programme approach at the regional level using an adapted version of the CPWF impact pathway and "writeshop" approaches. This success is also evidenced by the fact that the Global Resilience Partnership (US\$150 million investment), convened by the Rockefeller Foundation, USAID and SIDA, included WLE staff in a similar competitive and demand-driven approach for its own research for development calls.

Another successful adaptation was the development of the Water Smart Sourcebook by WLE and CARE, which built upon the process and success of the CPWF Sourcebook. It was launched in April 2015 (<https://wle.cgiar.org/content/launch-new-sourcebook-water-smart-agriculture-east-africa>) and has already been downloaded more than 400 times.

Finally, the knowledge and outputs generated from the projects have been placed in the CGIAR institutional repository ([cgspace.cgiar.org](http://cgspace.cgiar.org)), and a static website, linked to the WLE website, houses all of CPWF's learning.

## Knowledge-sharing approaches

A number of knowledge-sharing approaches were used, including:

- synthesis and repackaging of materials through sourcebook, outcome stories and the website
- engagement in existing events, workshops and meetings (rather than trying to organize the project's own events)
- participation in knowledge share fairs
- use of social learning approaches, such as writeshops