

REPORT
Main achievements
for Component “Policy improvements and changes at national level”

«IWRM-Fergana» Project Components fulfilled activities according to approved Work Plan and Terms of Reference.

New NCSG composition was assigned and approved. Thus, NCSG is composed of representatives from interested ministries and departments. NCSG Meeting and Round Table with participation of stakeholders was conducted on May 25, in Fergana. Draft Agreement on joint canal management between CMO and UCWU was discussed.

Due to dissemination of «IWRM-Fergana» Project results the Decree of the Cabinet of Minister for the Republic of Uzbekistan № 218-F of 4 May 2007 was issued. This Decree stipulates for studying and analyzing water system financing and current state of water use in all economic sectors, in particular, in agriculture, energy and municipal economy. Special Working Group and 5 Working Sub-Groups were formed. NCSG prepared an analytical note on optimization of water system financing and encouragement of introduction of water conserving technologies. It was submitted to MAWR. We are proposing to adopt water fees as a core tool for effective water use and encouragement for water resources saving. According to the above mentioned Decree “Main directions of water and land reclamation arrangements for 2008 – 2011” were developed.

In April 2007 in Almaty during a special session for IWRM within ICWC jubilee conference NCSG activity was presented and two presentations were made.

Experts discussed «Guideline on canal operation» prepared by «Pilot Canals» Component and «Recommendations on drainage water use for irrigation» developed by «WUA» Component and agreed by the Ministry.

NCSG elaborated “Road map for transference to IWRM principles up to 2014” with objectives divided into short-term and long-term ones and discussed it during the meeting.

More than 400 persons including leaders and different specialists took part in 4 regional workshops in Tashkent, Khoresm, Fergana and Bukhara provinces. We had success in up-scaling WUA development experience and demonstrating advantages of hydrographical principles. Such activity was concurred with reinforcement of water and agricultural reforms and, in particular, with creation of individual farms instead of shirkat farms. NCSG member took direct part in preparing draft government regulations and included IWRM principles into documents. Such process forced WUA establishment in the whole republic.

According «IWRM-Fergana» Work Plan an assistance was provided to «WUA» Component to conduct the workshop «Business planning and planning of repair and reconstruction works in WUA» with participation of farmers, WUAs and water management organizations in Fergana in December.

According to YOP for Component «Policy improvements and changes at national level» experts were assigned and their Terms of Reference were prepared to develop draft «Act on WUAs» taking into account comments and amendments, to review and agree «Recommendations on safe collector-drainage water use for irrigation» and «Manual on addressing land reclamation problems in WUA», principal provisions on transference to paid water use in the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as to review new water consumption norms in Fergana Valley (in SFC area) and irrigation schedule.

Experts assisted in reviewing and disseminating “Manual on planning and execution of repair and reconstruction works in WUA” prepared by “WUA” Component under «IWRM-Fergana» Project.

According to Terms of Reference experts reviewed new water consumption norms in Fergana Valley (in SFC area) and irrigation schedule. Experts submitted such norms to respective basin administrations. They generalized amendments and comments made and submitted them to SIC ICWC for improving.

Norms were submitted to Naryn-Karadarya, Naryn-Syrdarya, Syrdarya-Sokh and Chirchik-Akhangaran Basin Administrations by MAWR Letter № 04/29-334 of 12 November 2007. It was recommended to use such norms experimentally when preparing water use plans for 2008.

«Manual on addressing land reclamation problems in WUA» was discussed at the workshop and submitted to all Hydrogeologomeliorative Expeditions by MAWR Letter № 32-51 of 9 September 2007.

“Recommendations on safe collector-drainage water use for irrigation” were also reviewed. Comments were provided to SIC ICWC by the letter № 05/32-445 of 29.10. 2007. Recommendations were refined taking into account amendments and comments made and for the second time submitted to MAWR. Recommendations were provided to all Basin Administrations for Irrigation Systems and Hydrogeologomeliorative Expeditions by MAWR Letter № 32-66 of 17 December 2007.

Agreement on establishment of SFC Water Committee was prepared in collaboration with “Pilot Canals” Component.

Amendments and comments were provided for “Concept on water resources development for 2007-2011” elaborated within implementation of the Decree of the President for the Republic of Uzbekistan «On formation of Working Group on analyzing preparation of proposals and development of new mechanism for improving irrigated land state» of 25 June 2007.

Operation of pumping stations Bakhor, Kuva-1, Paulgan and Fayziabad and operation conditions were surveyed on-site. Experts prepared proposals for improving pumping station operation.

Assistance was provided to “TSR” Component at the beginning of its activity and to other Components in conducting workshops in Uzbekistan.

Project experts and executors took an active part in preparatory process and debriefing activity to discuss SDC External Review Mission results.

The final version of «Agreement on establishment of South-Fergana Main Canal Water Committee» was developed taking into account comments and amendments made by Working Group. This document was submitted to the parties for reviewing and signing. Then it will be submitted to General Assembly of SFMC Water Users Representatives for making approval. After approval by General Assembly of SFMC Water Users the document will be sent to MAWR of the Republic of Uzbekistan for agreeing.

Terms of Reference were prepared for experts to develop draft «Act on WUAs» and Principal Provisions on transference to paid water use in the Republic of Uzbekistan taking into account comments. A regular assistance was provided to Component Leaders in executing planned activities in Uzbekistan.

NCSG members and stakeholders provided their comments for draft «Agreement...» on joint SFC management. Parties suggested to change this document into «Agreement...» on establishment of Canal Water Committee.

The workshop was organized to discuss “Recommendations on correction of hydromodule zones and irrigation depths within «IWRM-Fergana» Project” in Fergana on January 15, 2008.