

# Cambodia's Leading Independent Development Policy Research Institute (CDRI)

# Governance Framework for irrigation water management: "The importance of coordination between FWUC and local authorities, review of experiences"

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# THE CONTENT

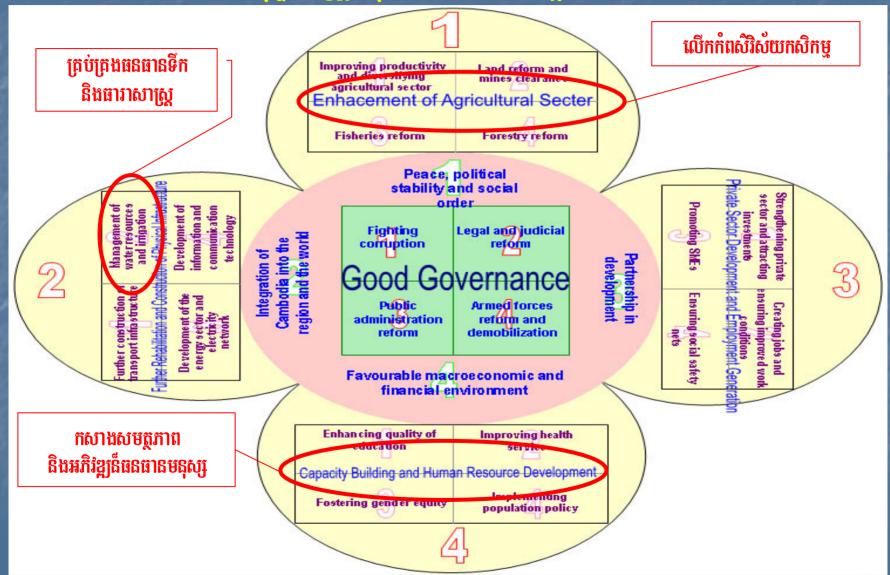
- 1. Background
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#### 1. BACKGROUND:

- More than 80% of Cambodia population are farmer
- Agricultural sector is given high priority for providing national food security and promoting economic growth.
- Water is a key element for increasing agricultural production.
- Key National visions:
  - To expand irrigated area and implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in water resources management.

# 1. BACKGROUND (Cont.):

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#### 2. RESEARCH GOAL:

To improve the use and governance of water resources for increased agricultural production through generating knowledge on irrigation management and guidance for water allocation.

# 3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- The implement of IWRM concepts including PIMD, IMT, FWUCs, etc. for enhancing irrigated water management are still limited, at local levels due Coordination, Conflict Management and Participation issues.
- Then "To what extent does the practice of irrigation governance match with the above concepts?"
  - The research precisely focuses on:

"What are the current arrangements for collective action and coordination around water at the local level?"

# 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES:

#### Literature Reviews:

Examine the structures and practices in existing governance arrangements in the context of irrigation and catchment

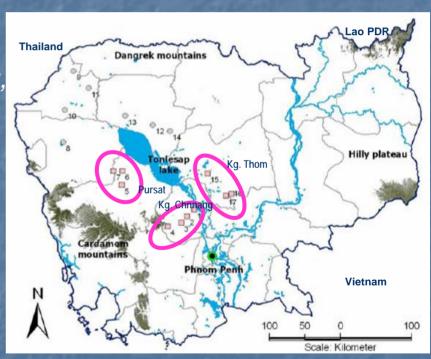
management of different players.

#### Site Selection:

Irrigation Schemes in Kg. Chnnang, Kg. Thom and Pursat provinces were chosen pilot sites (based on Social Assessment conducted in 2007).

### Analytical Framework:

Multi-scalar, Case study and Interpretive approach.



#### 5. FINDINGS:

The current arrangements for collective action and coordination around water at the local level:

Water Law (art.4): The implementation of the IWRM shall be carried out jointly and within a cooperation framework of all relevant agencies.

# FWUC (Cir. 01):

- Use the irrigation sustainably and efficiently under financial and technical backstopping of the Govt of Cambodia;
- Reduce the Govt responsibility and increase gradually farmer benefit and responsibility; and
- Reduce the Govt expenses on O & M of irrigation system.

(Reach Kram 2001): Law on Khum/Sangkat Administrative Management:

Art.41: A Khum/Sangkat administration shall have roles to uphold and support good governance by using all available resources.

Village Chief: Implement duties to ensure security, public order and social and economic development in the village.

Khum/Sangkat Administration: To promote social and economic development and upgrade the living standard of the citizens.

- Mol Prakas 1994: Roles, Responsibilities and Organizational Structure of Provincial and Municipal Administrations.
- Chief of Srok and Khan: To exercise his function as the administrative police and judicial police; To reconcile civil disputes, impose sanctions on petty offenses, etc.
- Provincial and Municipal Administrations: To sanction and recommend;
  To coordinate and monitor activities of provincial and municipal
  officials; To issue licenses for commercial, handicraft and business
  activities according to the laws; etc

# Challenges Facing FWUC operated without close Coordination of Local Authorities (Problems):

- Limited coordination for water management at scheme and at catchment levels,
- Lack of formal FWUC recognition/registration,
- Little incentives in seeking coordination and support,
- Limited collaboration among farmer for collective works,
- Enforcement of law could not be applied,
  - Little Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) had been collected,
  - Lack of networking,
  - Hard to get techniques and leadership/management skill;
  - Cannot solve water issues;
  - FWUC is not strong enough and lack of external supports, etc.

Benefits received by FWUC operated with close Coordination of Local Authorities (Possible Solutions)

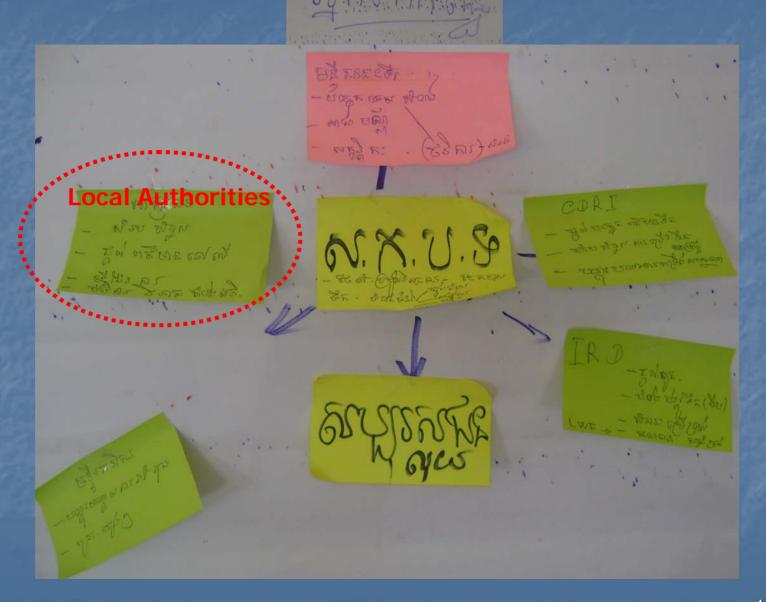
- 1. Empowering FWUC in water management activities;
- 2. Facilitating and strengthening stakeholder coordination;
- 3. Enhancing the reporting and dissemination of information;
- 4. Increasing public participation;
- 5. Improving Planning/decision Making Activities;
- 6. Strengthening administration and law enforcement works;
- 7. Coordinating with Development project;
- 8. Establishing coordinating/supporting committees;
- 9. Improving FWUC and local authorities capacity; and
- 10. Creating good partnership.

#### 6. DISCUSSIONS:

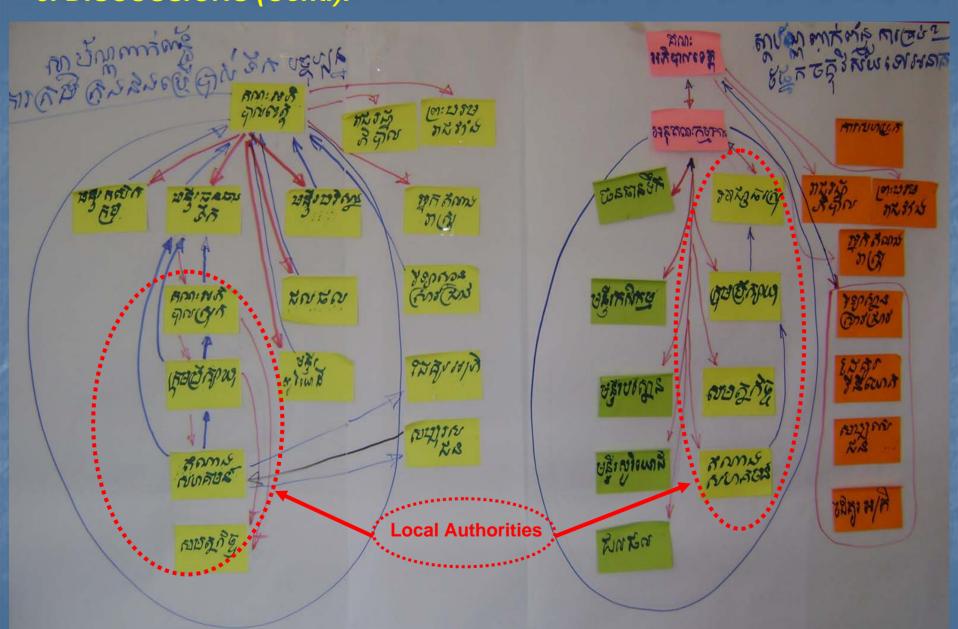
#### Lesson learned:

- Flexibilities and best practices for creating collective action;
- Recognition and empowerment of FWUC;
- Technical and financial support for O&M;
- Capacity building;
- Proper implementation of integrated approach in water management;
- The improvement of ISF collection mechanism; and
- Building up close coort. and comt. between FWUC, local authorities, and others.

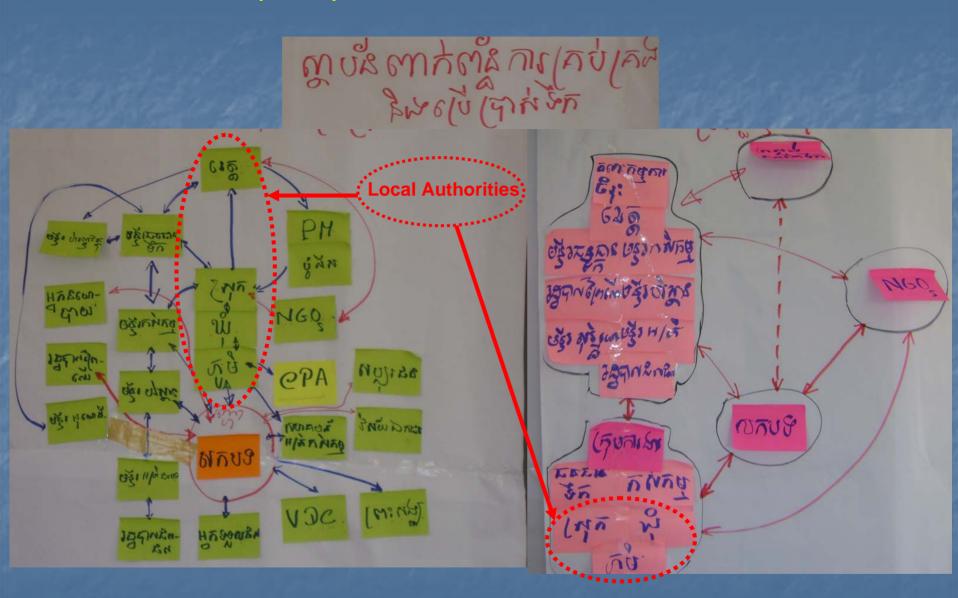
# 6. DISCUSSIONS (Cont.):



# 5. DISCUSSIONS (Cont.):



# 6. DISCUSSIONS (Cont.):



#### 7. CONCLUSION

- IWRM needs to be technically implemented in the most appropriated manner;
- Efficient irrigation management should be applied inconformity with the physical, economic, social and environmental value of water resources;
- Stakeholders involvement in water resources allocation is vital important;
- The governance of Irrigation needs the collective action and coordination for O & M of the schemes, the clear role and responsibility of concerned stakeholders; the equity and transparency of water allocation between/within schemes, the self-financing and user pays (ISF), and
- The coordination role among FWUC and local authorities is great important in the context of Governance Framework for irrigation water management.



THANKS YOU!