



ICA-CEDIA-KULEuven Conference

10 to 13 June 2009



**University of Natural Resources and
Applied Life Sciences, Vienna**

Department of Water, Atmosphere and
Environment

research for development forum

Networking in a Development Cooperation Context, with Focus on Sustainable Resource Management in Ethiopia

Loiskandl Willibald

Introduction

Sources:

- 6 framework project
→ Dissemination



<http://waterman.boku.ac.at>

- CGIAR-Project “Impact of Irrigation on Poverty & Environment in Ethiopia (**IIE**)”
→ Research
- Capacity building in universities
→ education and research

Introduction

Water plays a crucial role for **reducing poverty** and **increasing food insecurity**.

Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular have a **high potential for irrigation development and a need for a sustainable resource management**.



III: In Ethiopia, irrigation schemes have been promoted for long, yet few research activities of the impact of irrigation schemes have been conducted.

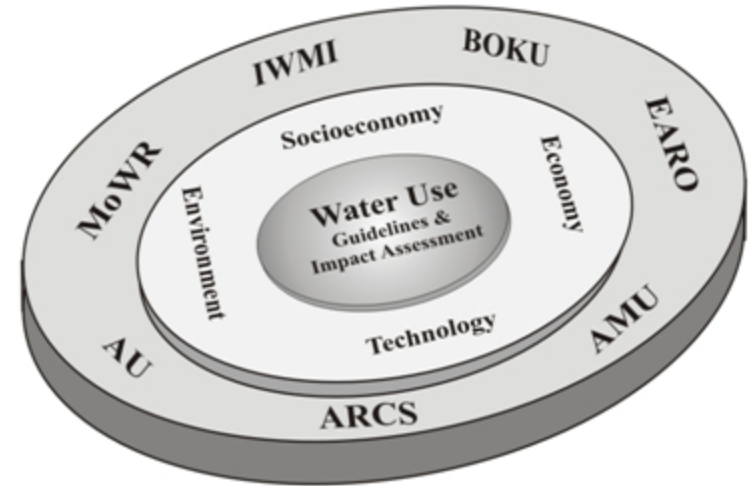
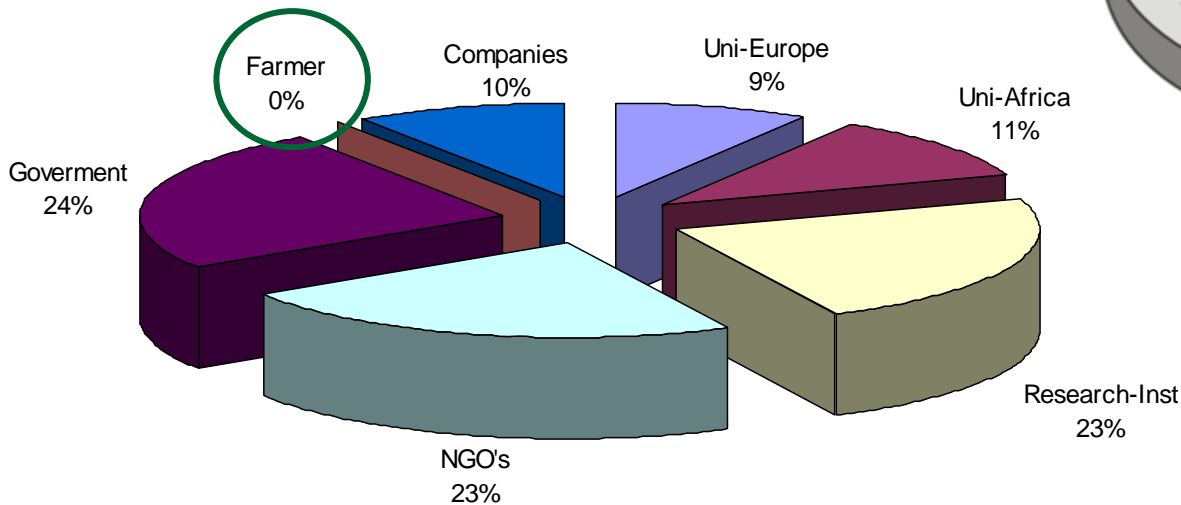
WATERMAN: Even less activities are performed on dissemination.



Dissemination of research results in semi-arid and arid ecosystems with a focus on sustainable water resource management in Ethiopia

Participant structure IIE

Impact of Irrigation on Poverty & Environment in Ethiopia

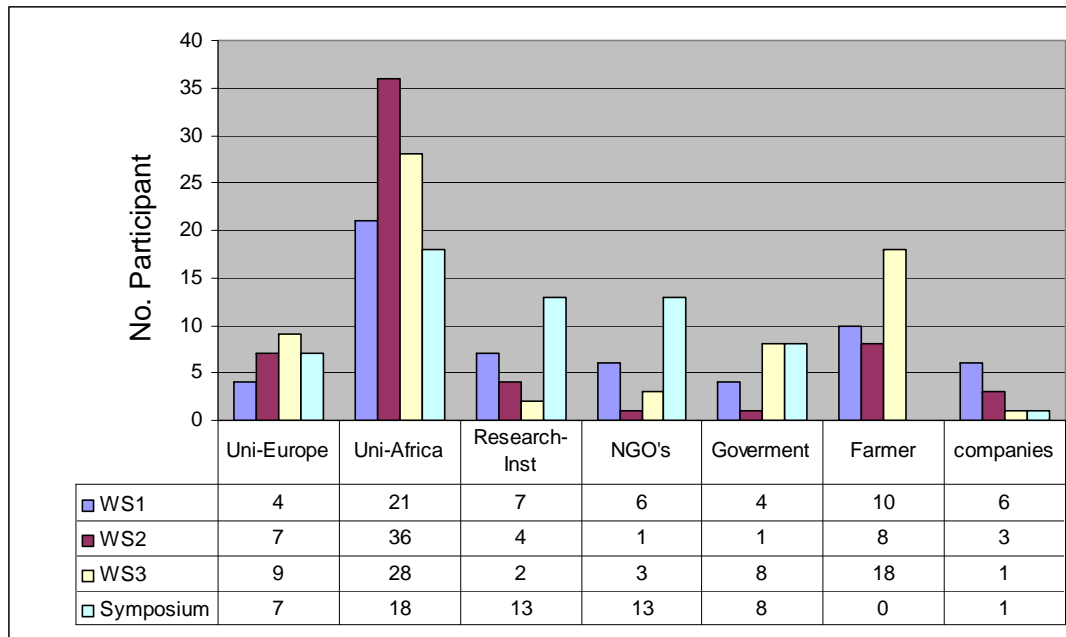
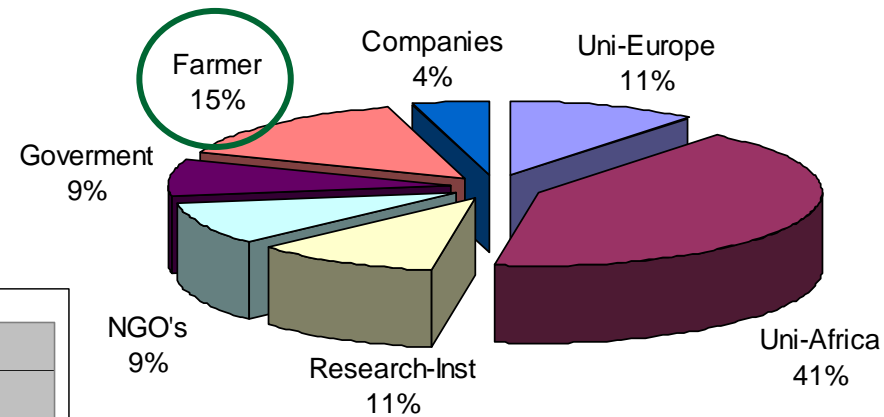


Total participant No. 126
Final Symposium



Participant structure

Waterman



Total participant No. 247

Waterman: Specific activities

- **Linking** universities in Ethiopia and connecting them with partner universities in Europe. Cluster strategy is relatively new in Sub Saharan countries.
- **Connecting** the participating universities with stakeholders (NGOs and local and regional policy makers).
- Using **modern technology** for communication.
Forster information transfer.
- Establishing **relations with** and amongst **farmers**.
To ensure end user participation and to learn with and from farmers

Waterman: Key assumptions

- Focus of research activities on knowledge generation
- The majority of research is left sitting on the shelf, in papers and journals

Knowledge is not in the right format, language or location

Research does not always respond to a need on the ground

**WATERMAN project aimed to
'bridge the gap between research publication and implementation of research
results'**

Waterman

Thinking differently about dissemination

- **Platforms** for multilevel interactions for sharing and networking
- **Identification** of applicably research results and gap analysis in a regional context
- Trying out **innovative approaches** to dissemination, explore best practices
- **Bringing together** a wide range of stakeholders.

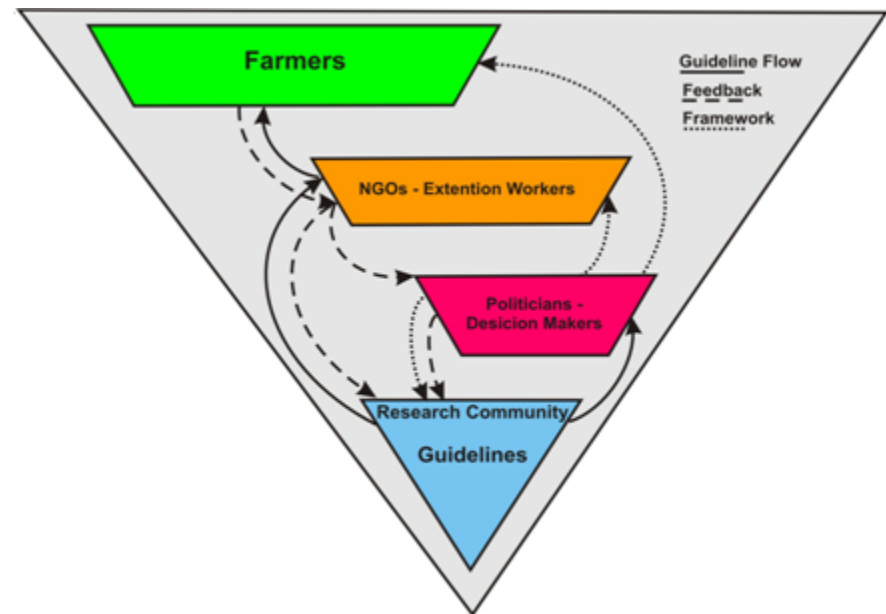
IIE: Guideline for irrigation

- Generate **information** to improve the **performance** of irrigated agriculture, enhance **benefits** by minimizing negative externalities.
- **Guide** future irrigation **investments**, fill knowledge gaps of impacts on economy, society and environment.
- Address specific **health** and **poverty** alleviation issues.
- Enhance capacity of inter-disciplinary research and its **implementation** for policy.

 **Guidelines** for assessing the impact of irrigation investment.

III: Project realisation

- **Impact analyses** of irrigation investments at a broad national scale
- **Case studies** of irrigation schemes
- **Synthesis** of the results
- Developing, testing and refining irrigation impact evaluation **methodologies** and **guidelines**





Waterman: dissemination activities

- **Networking:** <http://waterman.boku.ac.at>
- **3 Workshops** in Ethiopia focused on sharing key water research.
 - **Hawassa University**
 - **Haramaya University**
 - **Mekelle University**
- **International Symposium**
“Mobilising water research for development:
Thinking differently about dissemination”
- **Project Plan Award** competition & a special **Gender Prize**



Waterman: Workshop II

Hawassa University

Water supply and integrated water resource management

Covered Topics: Spring development techniques; Water Conservation measures; Sand filter technology

Used Dissemination Tools:

Presentation, Demonstration, Poster exhibition, **Field Visits**, **Group discussion** (World Café), **Action Planning**, **Gap analysis**



Waterman: Workshop III

Haramaya University - Soil fertility and salinity

Covered Topics: Soil Salinisation Problems in the Middle Awash, Use of organic manure to increase soil fertility and productivity, etc.

Used Dissemination Tools:

Presentation, Demonstrations - Biofertilizer, Mushroom Production; **Field Visits, Group discussion:** Scientific topics, **Ways of Dissemination and Constrains, Indigenous Knowledge.**



Waterman: Workshop IV

Mekelle University - Water management, irrigation and groundwater utilization



Covered Topics: Use of groundwater, Hand dug wells, Recharging practices for shallow hand dug wells.

Used Dissemination Tools: Presentation, Poster exhibition, **Field Visits**, Group discussion: **Dissemination formats**, Identification of **Research Demands** & Knowledge gaps, **Information needs**.



International Symposium

“Mobilising water research for development:
Thinking differently about dissemination”

Covered Topics: Use of Innovative print materials (Visual display), Innovative interactions (farmers meetings), Innovative media (Documentary, Software), Dissemination formats

Open Space: for people to hold discussions or share knowledge and experiences of their own.

Market place: for people to present examples of their dissemination methods or to do dissemination of their research results in marketplace via posters, literature, photos, websites etc.



Project plan Award

- Designed for the definition and planning of high impact, sustainable water management projects
- motivate young researchers



Source: Matula, CULS

Gender Award

“ Use Treadle Pump- Drip Irrigation Set Combination for Small Scale Vegetable Production by Women in Ethiopia “

Tigist G/Micheal & Mitslal G/slassie
Haramaya University



Conclusions

- Opportunity to see the use of various dissemination mechanisms
- Dissemination is equally important to knowledge generation
- Research needs to get into the hands of end users
- Researchers need contact with end users; Feedback from communities
- End users should set the agenda
- End users and Target Groups could be variable
- Need of consistent policy from the top
- Role of extension workers

Final project goal: **motivate** participants through **successful** project experiences and **sharing** information between stakeholders to work closer **together** for the benefit of regional **development**.



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Thank you for your attention