

IWMI 'Learning Alliances for Wastewater Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation' (WASPA LA) KSinR Pilot Project ~ *Mid-Project Update* ~

One of the IWMI projects (IWMI-WASPA LA), lead by Alexandra Clemett, is using a Learning Alliance approach within which to embed the research on wastewater, agriculture and poverty alleviation in order to foster more collaborative planning, research, dissemination, and adoption of research results and proposed actions. The project is designing, using and promoting a M&E system for better charting and understanding the value of this multi-stakeholder oriented approach.

IWMI-WASPA LA Pilot project update, highlights and plans:

- **Development of the Learning Alliances (LAs)** has taken place. The LAs currently include local government officials, local community representatives and some NGOs.
- **Terms of reference** for the LAs are being developed
- Development of the **Participatory Action Plans (PAPs)** has been undertaken and several rounds of discussions with LA members have been held to create final PAPs.
- **Implementation of the PAPs** has been initiated in both countries (Sri Lanka and Bangladesh).
- Project team is **documenting the process** including writing minutes of meetings and keeping field diaries. Also '**Change stories**' have been written
- Detailed **methodology for M&E** for the LAs is being developed, tested and implemented.
- **Process monitoring** is underway and includes interviews with team members and LA members and review of meeting agendas, meeting participation and meeting minutes
- Future activities will include workshops and preparation and dissemination of key outputs of the project.

Interesting lessons from the work so far include:

- Learning Alliances approach is an on-going process and requires a lot of time and energy to keep it going
- LAs and their meetings are still project (IWMI)-driven
- Once the benefit of working together begins to show, the stakeholders themselves want to take on the responsibility of the LA
- The joint development of Participatory Action Plans was positive as people felt involved in the process and could contribute their needs and ideas. Also the combination of research and action, with participation by various stakeholders, was more widely accepted as the stakeholders felt like "something is actually going to be done".
- LA development does not follow a predictable pathway. It may move at varying paces and in slightly different ways at different times in different places. No blue-print approach.
- Varying capacities, language, wealth, influence and power amongst stakeholders in the LA can be a challenge to work with.
- Good facilitation is necessary
- Funds are necessary to stimulate and support stakeholder involvement

For more information: <http://ks-cgiar.org/>