



The AgWater Solutions project

is helping to unlock the potential of smallholder farming through agricultural water management (AWM) solutions. These include technologies and methods, as well as supporting policies, institutions and business models. Partnerships are key to the success of the project. As such, the project seeks to engage a range of people in a 'dialogue' process to discuss and vet project findings and to help design successful approaches for the wider adoption of promising AWM solutions.

The purpose of the dialogue process in 2011, is to strengthen stakeholder engagement by maintaining a continuous conversation with all parties interested in smallholder Agricultural Water Management. The spring-board for dialogue is the body of research, consultations and analysis completed so far. By discussing findings with as many relevant people as possible, the project can be confident that the final proposals will be robust, comprehensive and geographically appropriate.



Further, **discussions with stakeholders** have a direct influence on how research findings are used. In particular, resolutions on how to implement solutions to the problems identified throughout the process are honed and refined through dialogue. In this way, we can be confident that research garnered in the field can be translated into practical results.

DIALOGUE OVERVIEW

Carrying out dialogues in each of the project countries has a **valuable role in sharing information and ideas internationally**. Often, suggestions raised in one situation will be found to have practical lessons and application in another. The country level dialogue process incorporates, where appropriate, discussions, workshops (national and local), technical seminars, fairs, campaigns and targeted use of rural radio and press. It is also used to enhance exchange of information across countries, through national partner involvement in AWM supported events and international fora.

Specific elements of the dialogue process

include:

- Individual informal meetings.
- National, sub-national consultations and virtual discussions to vet the project analysis and emerging AWM solutions.
- Technical sessions in country, or at international events to discuss specific solutions and get feedback.
- Delivery meetings, including final policy dialogues, to present and discuss AWM solutions, financing and players.
- Monitoring and documentation of the dialogue process, learning and stakeholders engagement.

In practice, the dialogue is a process of continuous conversation fed regularly by findings from project partners, facilitated by a National Facilitator, supported by the National Focal Point, a champion of the project at governmental level, and a Project Ambassador linking the project to the regional and international level.

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