



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Enhanced Water-Agriculture Coordination and Cross- Sector Policy Coherence in Arab Countries

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Background: Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity



Overall Objective: Contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in the context of increasing water scarcity, through:

- Strengthened policy coherence/convergence/coordination between the water and agriculture sectors.
- Enhanced Partnership and Collaboration.
- Informed strategic water planning driven by effective water accounting, enhanced water productivity and integrated WEF nexus management approach (*WEPS Project*).
- Non-conventional water supply alternatives (wastewater reuse) SNE wastewater reuse initiative.
- Development of the Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity.

Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Policy Coherence



First meeting of the LAS Joint (Water-Agriculture) Ministerial Council (4 April 2019)

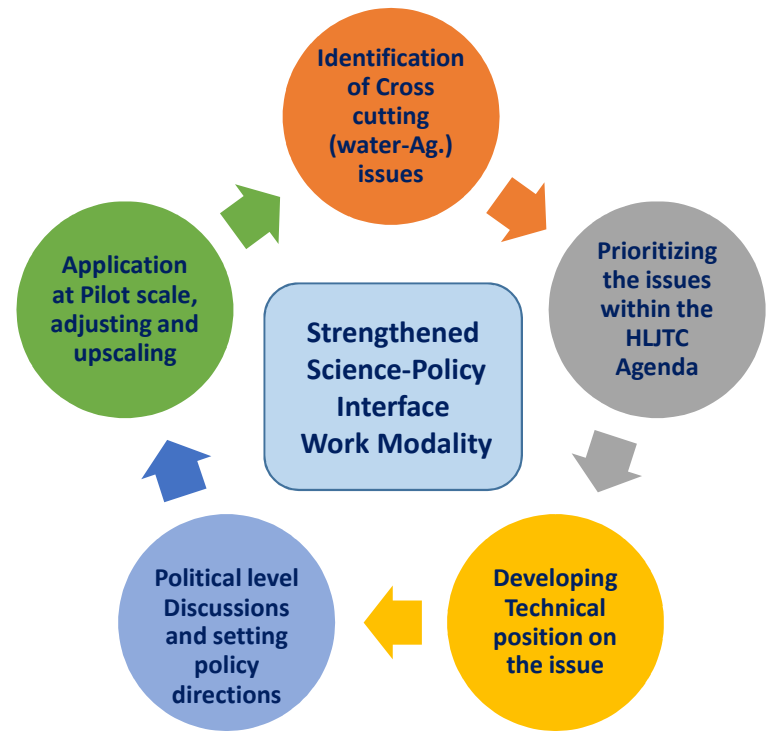
- Preparatory work to identify suitable coordination mechanism (FAO, ESCWA, AMWC and AOAD).
- First Joint Ministerial Meeting (4 April 2019)
 - Endorsed the Cairo Declaration.
 - Set joint ministerial meetings at biennial basis.
 - Established High-Level Joint Technical Committee – annual meetings.
 - Established a Joint Secretariat (Secretariat of the AMWC and AOAD).
- Work modality through strengthening the **Science-Policy Interface** on crosscutting issues.

Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Policy Coherence



First meeting of the LAS Joint (Water-Agriculture) Ministerial Council (4 April 2019)

SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE





Science-Policy Interface

Water Allocation for Agriculture – Technical Position

- Background Technical paper (Oct. 2019 – 1st HLJTC meeting)
 - **Request for Guidelines for improved allocation for agriculture**
- Draft Guidelines elaborated and presented (Oct. 2020 – 2nd HLJTC meeting)
 - **Draft subject to comments from countries**
- Revised Guidelines presented (Oct. 2021 – 3rd HLJTC meeting)
 - **Raised to the Joint ministerial meeting for endorsement**

Water Allocation for Agriculture – Policy Direction

- Final draft of the guidelines officially adopted (Jan. 2022 – Second Joint meeting of Ministers of Water and Ministers of Agriculture)
 - **Invited countries to apply guidelines at pilot scale**





Science-Policy Interface

Water Allocation for Agriculture – Piloting

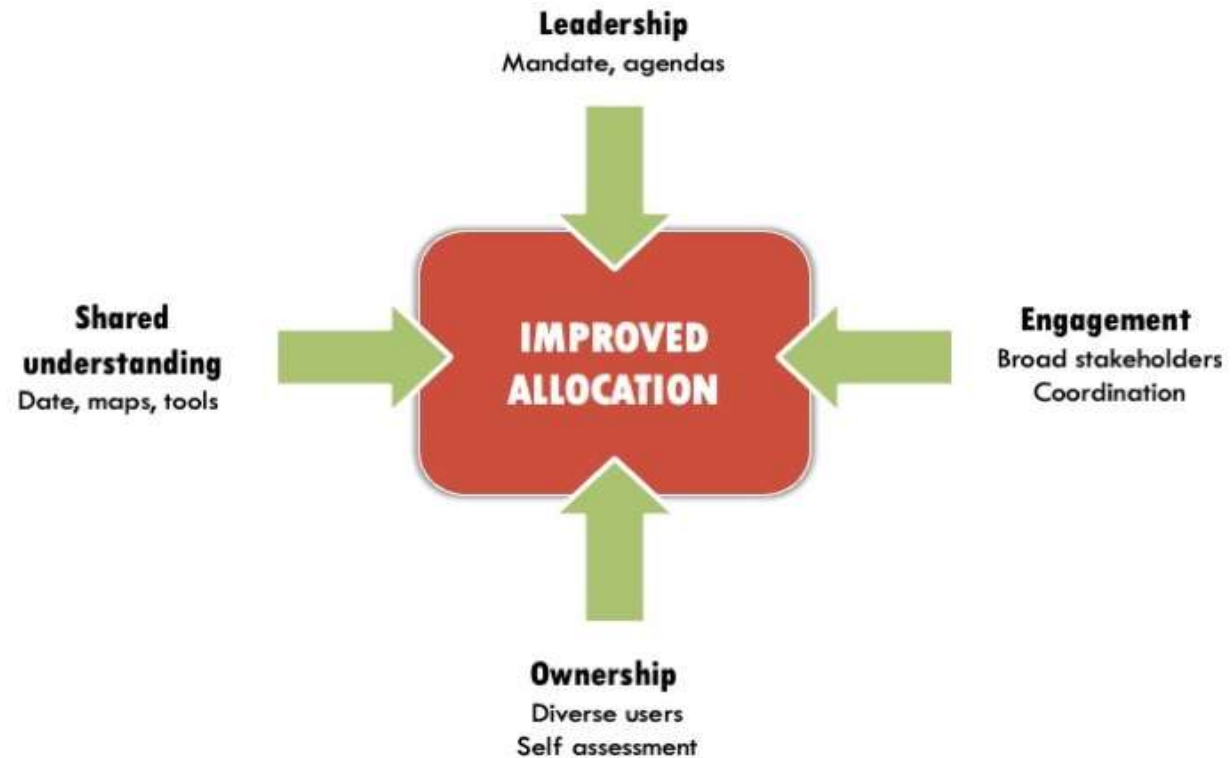
- Requests received from 4 countries (Jan. – April 2022)
 - **National core team (agriculture-water) formed**
 - **Pilot area tentatively identified**
 - **Technical support – international and national consultants**
 - **Action plan preparation (Dec. 2022)**

Water Allocation for Agriculture – Application at country level

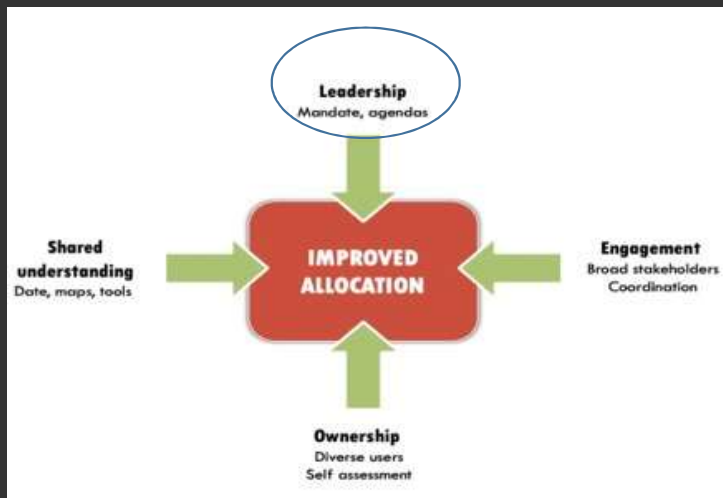
- Implementation of action plan (2023)
- Draw lessons and recommendations
- Institutionalize through developing appropriate legal and institutional frameworks
- Upscale to national scale



Getting the process to move



Create an agenda for improved water allocation



Change leaders to:

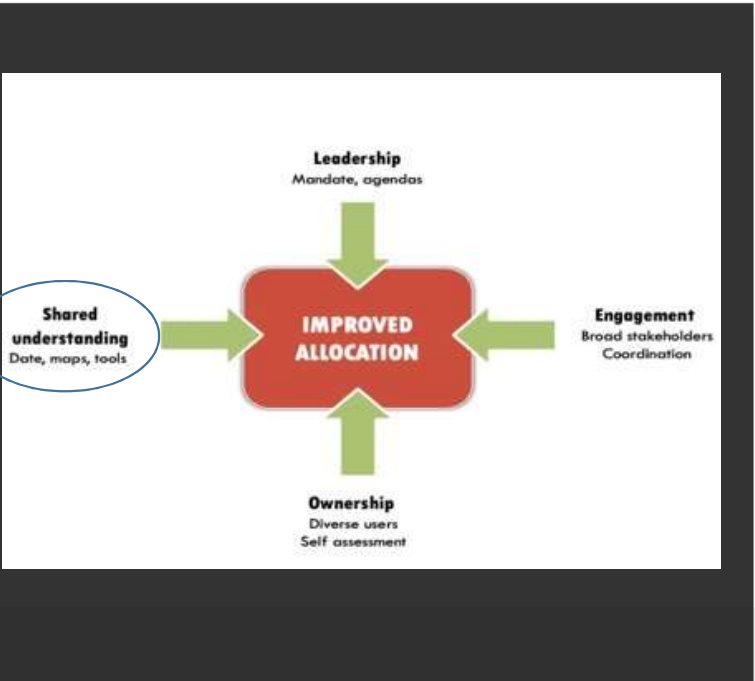
- (1) bring different stakeholders together
- (2) invest in developing the shared evidence-based understanding
- (3) give space to the diverse group of users
- (4) connect to higher level leadership and follow up processes and
- (5) give all the confidence that the process is under control

Political endorsement

Publicity

Institutionalization

Having a shared data set

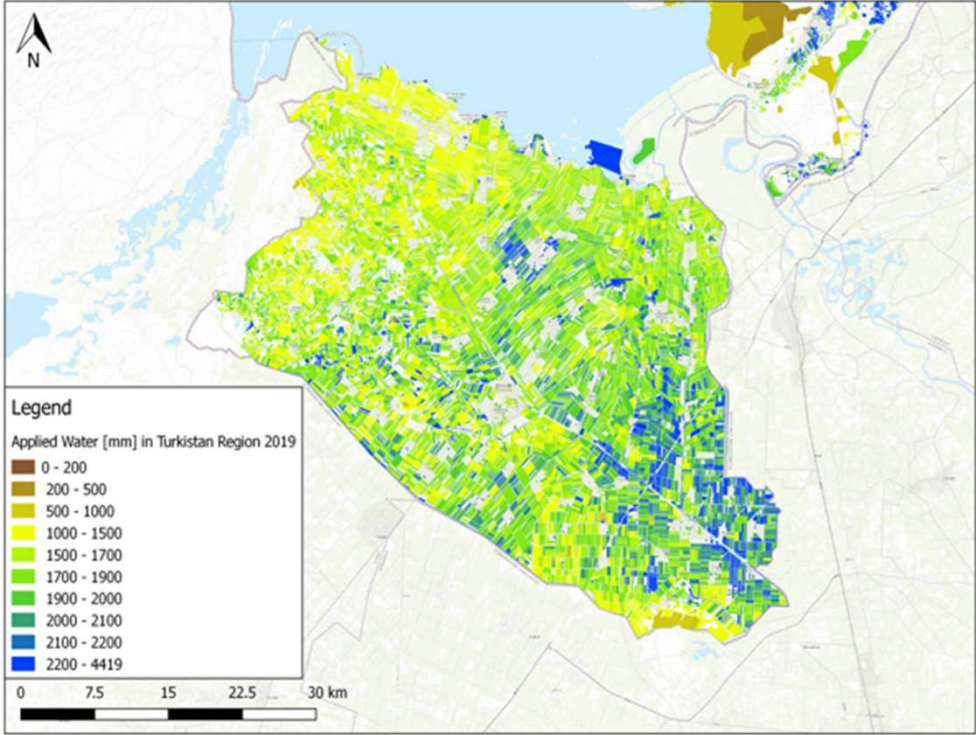


Catalytic

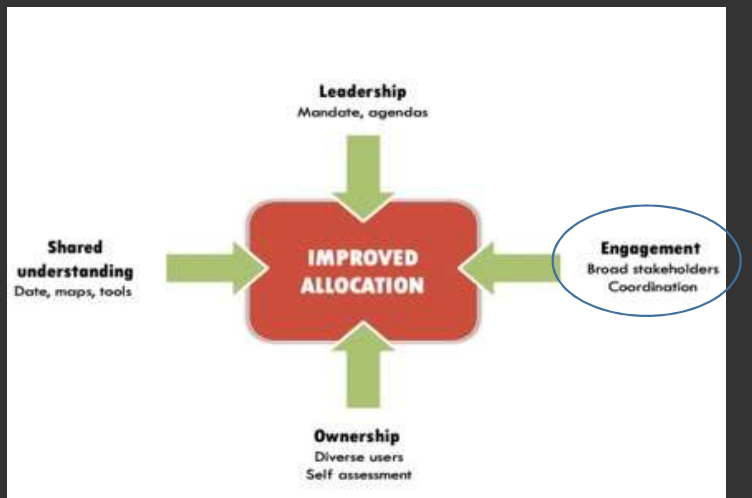
- Overview
- Discussion
- Agreement

Instruments

- SCADA
- Water Accounting Plus
- Remote sensing

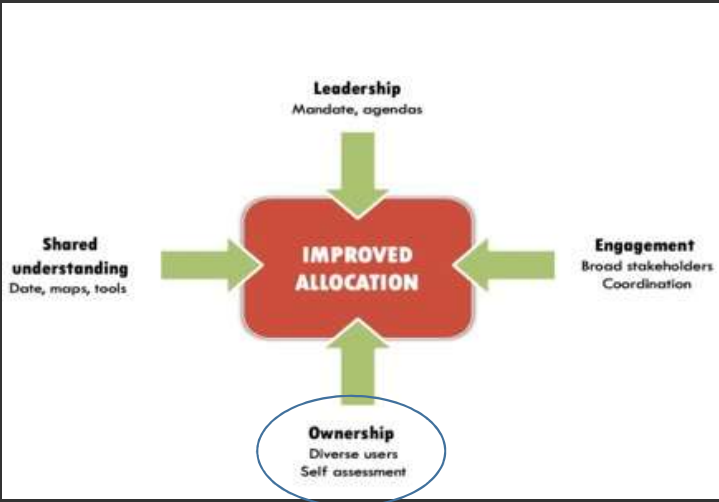


Stakeholder engagement



- Processing of get to know each other and appreciate different positions
- Reflect on different interests and positions
- Create common perception preferably by maps and data
- Create structured process with delegated subgroups
- Make use of local activists

Ownership of diverse users



Diverse users:

- Agriculture and others
- Different parts of the system

Self assessment as tool





Science-Policy Interface

Water Allocation for Agriculture – Regional level

- Draw lessons from national cases
- amend the guidelines in accordance with national results
- Approval of revised guidelines
- Call for adoption by all member countries





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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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