

Observations on WUA establishment in South Africa

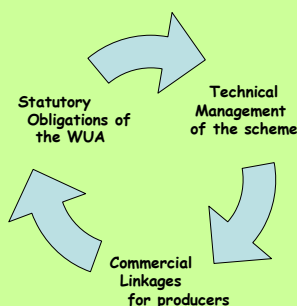
Felicity Chancellor
for

ICID.UK 19 October, 2007

The present situation

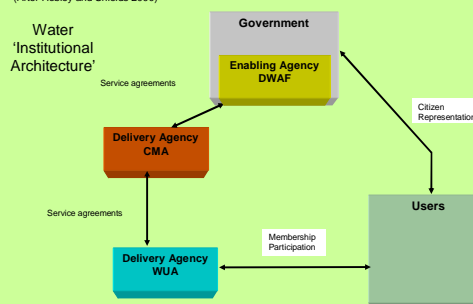
- WUA must be established according to the National Water Act.
- Irrigation Management Transfer must go ahead and depends on institutional and commercial viability.
- Irrigation Boards, to convert to WUA, must incorporate new users- often spatially difficult
- Smallholder irrigation currently underperforms; only about 15-20% of smallholders farm profitably on a regular basis.

What successful irrigators must achieve

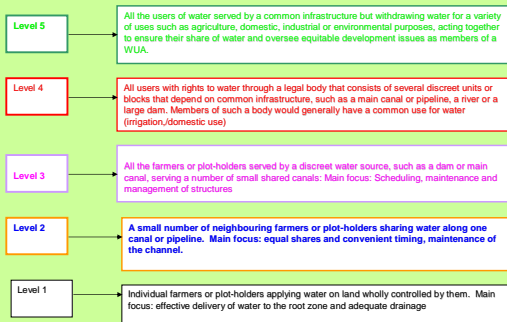


The framework water-users face

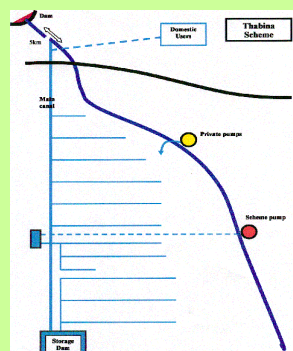
(After Hobley and Shields 2000)



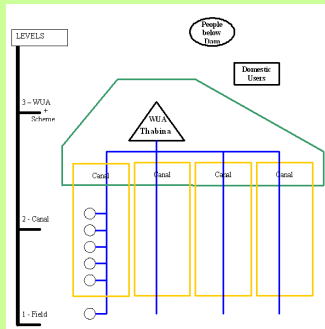
Management levels conceptualised



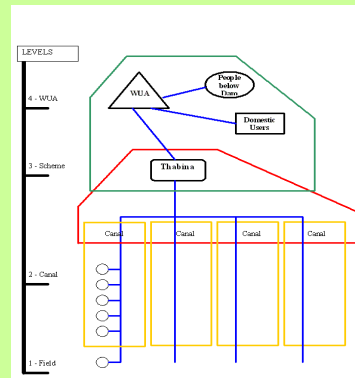
Thabina scheme



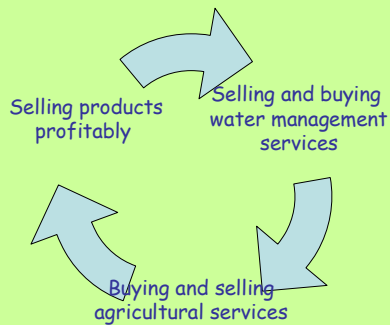
Institutions for smallholder irrigators



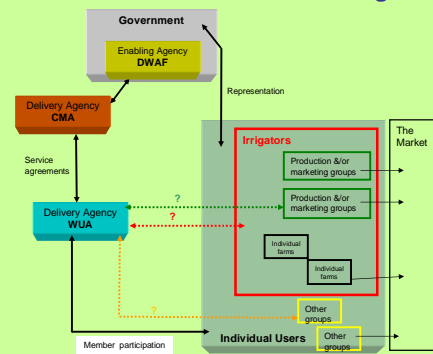
Institutions for smallholder irrigators



Where do the markets fit in ?



Institutions for smallholder irrigators



Where has the process got to?

- Revitalisation programme addresses performance, technical skills and marketing
- Irrigation Management Transfer process is stuck
- A mechanism by which a WUA could interact with groups is unclear
- Irrigators and DWAF are frustrated by lack of progress

What still needs to be done?

- It must be understood that frustration of irrigators is a threat to future sustainability/credibility of WUA
- The appropriate legal entity for IMT must be clarified.
- The interaction between WUA and individuals, legal bodies and groups must urgently be explored further.

Thank you for
listening