



Monday 12th October 2015
Gender, Agricultural Water and ‘Big Data’:
Practical Steps and Forward Thinking under the SDGs

Purpose: To assess and respond to the global (and local) challenge of data, gender equality and agricultural water development as the global community moves forward with implementation of the SDGs.

Core questions: What can the water, gender and agriculture communities do better through data management and use to track progress in achieving water, food security and gender targets? How can ‘big data’ (and ‘smart data’) be utilized more effectively? What potential role is there for the development of a single global report on gender and water in agriculture to assist in measuring progress in this vital area?

Background: The 17 SDGs have just been launched by the global community. They include a strong focus on gender and development (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>), a welcome emphasis which reflects the growing sense that unlocking gender equality is central to the achievement of all other development goals and objectives, including more inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the achievement of social justice.

One major challenge — but also a huge opportunity — is how the development community can bring to bear the power of data to assess, monitor and evaluate more effectively progress in key areas such as food security and agricultural development. – and identify where and when things are not working so well.

This includes the potential use of ‘Big Data’, defined as ‘very large data sets that can reveal patterns, trends, and associations, especially relating to human behaviour and interactions’, as well as potential ways of employing ‘crowd-sourcing’ to support innovation and grassroots influencing.

The meeting will examine gender, water and data issues using a core focus on agricultural water management. It will build on the experience of data use in the WLE-led 4 Basin Gender Profiles project (4BGP) which, over a period of two years, has addressed ways of mining, presenting and using data in the Ganges, Mekong, Nile and Volta basins. See:

<http://maps.vista-info.net/gis/htm/IWMIBasinMaps/>

The meeting build on the collective and experience and knowledge of assembled participants to interrogate two key questions:

1. How can we develop and use large data sets to address more effectively issues of gender and development in water resources management and use (with a strong focus on water use in agriculture)?; and
2. What existing and new platforms, networks and processes – including global reporting – are needed to take the agenda forward and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

Participants will be involved in both plenary sessions and group work throughout the day.

Draft Agenda		
09.00-09.30	Introductions	Dr Alan Nicol (Chair)
09.30-10.00	First Keynote	Invited dignitary
10.00-10.30	Second Keynote	Invited dignitary
10.30-11.00	Tea Break	
11.00-11.30	The 4 Basin Gender Profiles Work	Dr Alan Nicol
11.30-12.30	Plenary Facilitated Discussion	How to address the key questions?
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.00	Experiences from participants in other regions	WFWP facilitated discussion
14.00-15.00	Group work: 6 groups address the core question and propose solutions: How to support the SDGs	IWMI/WFWP facilitated discussion
15.00-15.30	Feedback and discussion	IWMI/WFWP facilitated discussion
15.30-16.00	Tea break	
16.00-16.30	Closing session and wrap up	Invited remarks from participants and invited dignitaries

For further information, please contact:

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