Analysis of the roles of men and women in water use and management in low Syr Basin and opportunities for empowering them and promote more rational water uses

ICARDA-CAREC project “Valuation of Ecosystem Services for Improving Agricultural Water Management in Kazakhstan”, 07/2014-12/2015

Overall project objectives

Goal: Rational water use in the Syr Basin

Specific Objectives: To identify:

- water related ecosystem services (different water uses) used by men and women in the Basin and their respective management systems/structures
- Key drivers for changes in water use, and potential economic implications of the changes
- Appropriate strategies to promote rational use of water – including capacity building, introduction of incentive-based mechanisms to promote adoption of selected technologies

Valuation of Ecosystem Services for Improving Agricultural Water Management in Kazakhstan

Expected output/deliverable:

A comparative (upper, middle, and downstream) analytical report on :

1) water uses (agricultural and non-agricultural) by men and women in the basin, and changes in water use over time (key drivers of water use changes) and their economic implications at the household level
2) water use management systems (different associations, their compositions, roles of men and women in these associations, etc.)

3) Recommendations to promote rational water use including (but not limited to) capacity building, and introduction of incentive-based mechanisms to promote adoption of selected technologies

Research objective:

The research aims to understand:

- if a gender based constraints /challenges to access to and use of different water resources exist in studied villages? If exist…
- how existing and potential water issues affect women in comparison to men?
- If there is a need in specific empowering and CB activities along with incentive-based mechanisms for enabling women adopting a more rational use of water resources?

Besides, the research will identify availability of gender-disaggregated data on region and village level (population, age, education, agriculture, poverty, economic activity, unemployment).

The research results will be considered as a pattern and up-scaled at the policy level through discussions with policy makers in the course of the project for follow up activities of project partners.

Deliverable, data collection methods/sources and status of implementation, 1

D#1. **Info / Data needs**

1. Statistical data on territory- gender-disaggregated data on region and village level (population, age, education, agriculture, poverty, economic activity, unemployment) - --- Stat.info from local authorities - in search
2. Stakeholders – groups and relations --- separate FGDs and interviews with key water mngt bodies, assosiations and farmers – mostly done
3. Water uses (agricultural and non-agricultural) by men and women in the basin – separate FGDs, interviews in all target villages --- done
4. Changes in region: social, economic, water use over time --- separate FGDs – done

Deliverable, data collection methods/sources and status of implementation, 2

D#2. Roles of men and women in water management

- On basin level : mngt bodies and water users associations, their compositions, roles of men and women in these organizations, etc. interviews with water mngt bodies, heads of associations, farmers – mostly done
- Household level: roles of men and women in water use and related decisions – separate FGDs - – done
- Comparative analysis of the findings – who does what, what benefits do they get out of it, does the quality and quantity of water received (upstream to downstream) influence the livelihood strategies they pursue – analysis – in progress.

Deliverable, data collection methods/sources and status of implementation

D#3. Recommendations to empower women for more rational water use **– in process**

- Identification of women needs in capacity building which would promote more rational water use by women - –FGDs with women only– done
- Identification of appropriate water or time saving technologies that can be introduced in the three villages, along with appropriate mechanisms to promote their adoption – including incentive-based mechanisms – planned

Data collected to date

- Basic demographic data in the three villages (average family size, family compositions, average land holding, etc.)
- Roles of men and women in the three villages
  - First round: 3 FGDs with a total of 51 participants (13 men from Karashik, 15 men from Ikan, and 6 men and 17 women from Bugun)
  - Second round: 3 FGDs with 81 women-only groups, and 9 individual interviews (key informant interviews) with men representing water management institutions
- Different uses of water by women (agricultural and non-agricultural)
- Income generating opportunities, alternative income generating opportunities
- Access to markets, information, and credit
- General changes in the roles of men and women in all target villages
- Roles and decisions of men and women in agriculture related WRM processes
- Barriers to increased engagement of women in water use and management?
- “Time” and lack of sufficient off-farm income generating opportunities were identified as the major constraint for women’s participation in various activities (ag and non- ag related)
- Needs of women in capacity building for more rational use of water resources

Next steps:

Additional data to be collected:

- gender-disaggregated stat data (region and village level): population, age, education, agriculture, poverty, economic activity, unemployment – from local authorities
- Education levels
- Men's view of women needs in CB

Exercises to be done:

- Stakeholder mapping
- The value of water - how much do they value different sources and uses of water?
- Capacity building opportunities? trainings and meetings? (budget?)