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Increased water efficiency and food production (WAPRO) in key commodity value chains through multi-stakeholder partnerships applying a push-pull-policy strategy

Context:

There is international global consensus among policy and development stakeholders that addressing water issues is a key for achieving sustainable development. The World Economic Forum 2015 Global Risk report (WEF 2014) identified water crisis by far as the most challenging global risk among many other global challenges. Meanwhile also the private sector identifies the water footprint of their products and its corresponding supply chain as relevant risk factor (WWF 2014). Addressing the productivity of water used in agriculture has been identified by relevant scientific publications as one of the key leverage points for improving global food security (West et al 2014). Since the water productivity of cotton and rice production in the target countries is well below optimal levels the project aims to close the gap towards attainable water productivity and address the prevailing political and institutional realities of irrigation that prevent farmers from making best use of the available water. The project outlined with the document at hand addresses the water productivity of the key commodities rice and cotton exemplary in four Asian countries, which are relevant to water scarcity and the production of these commodities alike. The project strives to unfold synergies between Governments, Development NGOs and the private sector to realize an innovative combination of improved irrigation water productivity and food security.

Goal:

Enhanced farming income and increased water productivity for 45'000 farmer families embedded in participatory local water governance schemes and their corresponding regulatory and market frameworks.

Donor:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Partners:

- ☞ HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- ☞ Nature Bio Foods (NBF)
- ☞ Water users group

Objectives of the project:

To improve water use efficiency of rice by firstly promoting effective water use as well as better agronomic approaches and, secondly by involving the private sector as well as platforms such as the SRP (Sustainable Rice Platform) and AWS (Alliance for Water Stewardship). **The project duration is from June 2015 to May 2018.**

Interventions:

1. Campaign on efficient water management practices
2. Stewardship process to bring changes in policies
3. Influence the corporate strategies to create a pull for the product and support for water saving
4. International discussion on knowledge sharing and outreach regarding PUSH-PULL-POLICY

Achievements:

The project is launched in August 2015 and is an ongoing assignment.

For more details contact info@intercooperation.org.in