

National WASH Learning forum



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About learning

Government, NGOs and Private operators met on the 12th October 2009 to learn about good water practices in Uganda. The focus was on integrated water resources management, and operation and maintenance of water supply systems and services.

What we did:

The forum guest speaker Dr Calist (DWRM) emphasized the need to capture all that happens at grassroots level and share that with national level for learning and reforms in policy and strategy.

This aspect of learning is welcomed by MWE since it is a learning sector.

PRESENTATION OF CASES ON IWRM

We had three very interesting cases on IWRM. We learnt about the 'dilemma' of the Katosi people at the landing site, where water and sanitation are serious issues, from a IWRM side. On one hand water is available but not with a good quality, and the poor sanitation situation pollutes the environment and the water. In solving this dilemma, the Katosi woman development project has demonstrated to be able to manage human waste disposal and sustainable water management. The solutions were found in sustainable technologies such as ecosan and rainwater harvesting.



The IWRM project by PROTOS and JESE deals with the entire water chain, from the source to the consumption and all the water pollution risks included. The project brings



the government policies and guidelines to the Lake George basin management organization, and also the basin-based learning platform involving all stakeholders.

This project links the national level with the micro level (village) and they meet at the basin or meso level. JESE gave us a flavour of the solutions on ecosan.

This top-down and bottom-up approach to planning is helping making IWRM principles a reality in communities around lakeshores.

INTERVIEWS ON IWRM and Learning

Lieven Peeters (PROTOS): The Lake George IWRM project is a pilot project in Uganda and thus a learning experience for the implementers. The directorate has really got involved a lot i.e. making studies, giving information, partnership and capacity building. DWRM has also supported financially (50%) through workshops and trainings for sustainability

Mr Mubiru Joseph: IWRM is a good initiative if we are to handle man's holistic activities

Dr Callist Tindimugaya (DWRM): this National Learning Forum is a good intervention and it gives opportunities for both local and national level. Already now it has also helped me to realise that a lot is being done in IWRM and is not shared to the wider community.

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Outcomes on IWRM

In five World Cafés we analysed the key factors such as participatory approaches at community level; multi-stakeholder platforms; value of data, research and pilot projects; sustainability of basin; lack of resources and capacities. The methodology was appreciated and we got good results from this analysis.

PRESENTATION OF CASES ON O&M

Five interesting cases were presented: O&M (TSU3); Hand Pump Mechanic Association (SNV Arua); Community management (TSU5); MIS on water (WaterAid)



INTERVIEWS ON O&M

The cases presented were an eye opener especially those that were very unique like formation of Associations from user committees.

Mr Mubiru noted that there are approaches that have been piloted and appear to have good results but have not been shared i.e. MIS in Masindi.

Again five World Cafés were created and participants moved from one to the other to discuss the issues they wanted. The main areas in the Cafés were: Local management structures; HP mechanics and other functional associations; MIS and M&E; Learning Platforms; support from (Parish) politicians and S/C staff. There were very lively discussions and a lot of enthusiasm in the groups.

Recommendations

- Need to document all those good practices by those in pump mechanic associations and information be availed to resource center for wider sharing with other sector players.
- Active use of existing platforms to share existing information
- We need to task NETWAS to document more further the case of HPMS and can be accessed by others
- IWRM need to be simplified and understanding of people at lower level planning unit and when developed into simpler languages.

Thank you for the great day on learning



Solomon Kyeyune, Nat Learning Coordinator, NETWAS