SPATE IRRIGATION–STATUS AND SETTING UP NETWORK IN KENYA

Presentation by Kenya Spate Irrigation Network Team(Opondo, Mirriam & Ogada)
Outline of presentation

- Objectives of the presentation
- Pictorial demonstration of on-going spate irrigation activities in Kenya– Turkana and Garissa Counties
- Hosting of Spate irrigation network in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation– justification
- Initial outcome areas and planned activities
Objectives of presentation

- To share with network members on-going spate irrigation programs and activities
- To share with and learn from experiences of existing county networks
- To get feedback from network members on the planned hosting of the network and the initial planned activities
On-going spate irrigation programmes

- Turkana county
- Background information
- Turkana Rehabilitation Program
- Pictures on spate irrigation technologies implemented
Turkana county is located in the Northern side of Kenya

Rainfall is erratic and unreliable with an average of 300–400mm in in the plains falling to 150mm in arid centrals

Droughts are hard to bear during the hot season and during the rain season it is characterised by flash floods
Bare-field in Turkana
Trapezoidal bund
Sorghum plantations
Rock catchment–harvest water from rock hills
On-going spate irrigation programs

- Garissa County
- Background information
- Garissa Rehabilitation Program
- Pictures on spate irrigation
Garissa county is in North Eastern Kenya
the average rainfall annually is 435mm
It is characterised with droughts and high temperatures
The communities are pastoralists but slowly shifting to agro-pastoralism practising small scale irrigation
Bare-land at the background
Community doing excavation works
Micro-catchments
Fruit trees grown on micro-catchments
Hosting of spate irrigation in Kenya

- Proposal to host network in Ministry of Water and Irrigation– Directorate of land reclamation– in partnership with ICRAF
- Function of the Ministry of water and Irrigation include: water supply, water resources development and management, irrigation, and water storage and land reclamation
Use spate irrigation technology to reclaim degraded ASAL land in the country—accounting for 80% of the total land area.

Kenya Vision 2030, MTP II 2013–17—national development blueprint made land reclamation a flagship projects and sets a target of reclaiming 50,000 Ha of land in flood prone areas.

Spate irrigation network will therefore complement the directorate’s strategy to reclaim 50,000 Ha.
Why MoWI & land reclamation

- Mandate for land reclamation and irrigation
- Land reclamation is closer to the context
- Provides a shorter route to reach target groups and beneficiaries
Initial network expected outcomes

- Establish the status of spate irrigation – baseline survey
- Map out potential areas for spate irrigation
- Establish data base on spate irrigation stakeholders and visit
- Hold conference / forum for spate irrigation actors
Initial network outcomes

- Liaise with university of Nairobi to incorporate spate irrigation in the curriculum
- Liaise with Kenya Water Institute to include unit on spate irrigation in her diploma and certificate courses. Conduct short on spate irrigation
- Undertake research on spate irrigation
- Lobby for irrigation policy and water harvesting and storage policy to include spate irrigation
Discussion Question: What is different from your respective country?