The Spate Irrigation Network and Its Partners
Past Challenges and Achievements, and the Journey Ahead

Leadership Course in Flood-Based Farming
29 February to 11 March, 2016
Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Abraham Mehari Haile
Principal Researcher and Project Coordinator in Agricultural Water Management
MetaMeta and Spate Irrigation Network Foundation,
the Netherlands
The Spate Irrigation Network (SpN)

- Born in 2002 with a hand full of interested members

Familiarize policy makers, implementing agencies, research and educational institutions, donors with development scope, experiences & practical approaches to spate irrigation development
Phase I: 2002 to 2006

**The Challenge**
Spate Irrigation dismissed as unreliable systems merely supporting subsistence farming

**The Approach**
Build knowledge-base (document successful practices) and create platform for knowledge and experience sharing

**The Approach**
Working in partnership with varied stakeholders “Agents of Change”
The start: Make SpN Visible

1. Build website – link to major websites
2. Establish country bases
3. Don’t wait for invitations, show-up at major events with powerful messages!!
Phase 2: 2007 to 2011

The Challenge

Where is the technical know-how to develop FBFS
Where are the credible technical references

The Approach

Solutions oriented scientific research
Creating platform for knowledge-sharing

The Approach

Working in partnership with varied stakeholders “Agents of Change”
Some milestones: 2011

IFAD Large Grant:
Spate Irrigation for Rural Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation: Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen and Pakistan
Phase 3: 2011 to 2015

**The Challenge**
- Embedding Spate irrigation in national policy
- Integrate Spate Irrigation into national curricula
- Strengthen outreach to farmers

**The Approach**
- Invest into local champions
- Strengthened country knowledge centers
- Easy to read knowledge products

**The Approach**
- Working in partnership with varied stakeholders “Agents of Change”

[Logos of GIZ and IWMI]
Investing in local Champions - Stockholm 2012

Model Farmer from Ethiopia

Model practitioner from Sudan

A Pro-poor local political leader (Pakistan)
Knowledge sharing: Experts, farmers and policy makers

December 2013, Sudan
Knowledge products: Videos and brief notes in local languages
Major milestones in 2014 and 2015

August 2014

- 2015 - SPNF succeeds acquiring its first project as the lead partner
  - WLE CGIAR Harnessing Floods for Enhanced Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services
  - Operational in Sudan and Ethiopia

- 2015 – SPNF official partner in the IFAD and EC project:
  - From Africa to Asia and Back Again: Testing Adaptation in Food-based Farming Systems
  - Operational in 8 countries: Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen
Phase 4: 2015 to 2020

- From scheme to basin/landscape level - the wider ecosystem services
- Specific focus on investments and gender

- Consolidate our base in the four pioneer countries
- From 4 to 8 countries
- From spate irrigation to all FBFS: 3 to 30 million ha; 15 to 150 million beneficiaries
- Transforming SPNF into a network of Farmers
- Nurturing young talent – future leaders
- Up-scaling the spate irrigation course into a leadership course on FBFS and Water Harvesting
Phase 4: 2015 to 2020: CGIAR Harnessing floods

Un answered questions

- How do FBFS affect and are impacted by basin-wide developments?
- Who are the basin wide winners and losers of investment programmes?
- What are the specific priorities, needs and challenges of women FBFS beneficiaries?

The approach

- Solutions oriented research
- Ecosystem (micro climate approach) and gender fous
- INVEST and RIOS
- Formulating development/investment scenarios by different category of stakeholders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Groups</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 Policy shapers</td>
<td>Informed policy statements and understanding of practical opportunities of developing FBFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 practitioners and professionals</td>
<td>Enhanced skills and attitudes and access to best practices in Africa and Asia; special attention to young professionals &amp; female professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600 Male and female farmers, fishermen and livestock herders (TOT; Training of Trainers)</td>
<td>Increased knowledge on water security and productive and sustainable use of FBFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 National governments</td>
<td>Guided investments – covering entire range of activities from agricultural/pastoral improvement to governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (Inter)national partner organization</td>
<td>increased outreach and leverage – in shape of educational programs or thematic investment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 IFAD and EC development/investment programmes related to the themes/ located in the project area</td>
<td>Leadership in the development of FBFS and enhancement and support of investment portfolio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IFAD & EC FBFS programme

- Needs driven solutions oriented research - farmers and young professionals will be actively involved
- Establish farmer learning centres or strengthen existing ones
- Internship programme to nurture young talent
- Leadership course on FBFS
- Cross-country theme relevant knowledge products – practical notes, videos, etc..
- Develop investment proposals and influence their implantation
- Establishing four new FBFS country networks