Future vision of the FBLN Network

Working with the network development plan and the non-profit business model canvas
Spate Irrigation Network started in 2004

www.spate-irrigation.org

Familiarize policy makers, implementing agencies, research and educational institutions, donors with development scope, experiences & practical approaches to spate irrigation development
The mission was to promote stability and socio-economic development in areas that depend on flood based farming. In many cases these are areas where insecurity is high.

The Spate Irrigation Network Foundation was set up to strengthen the network of farmers and other stakeholders in flood based irrigation areas and to support exchange of good economic and social practices, and resolving issues of water distribution and rights.
At the start

The Challenge
Spate Irrigation “largely” dismissed as unreliable systems merely supporting subsistence farming

The Methods
Establishing a network
Create platform for knowledge and experience sharing
Document success stories

The approach
Working in partnership with varied stakeholders “Agents of Change”
Next phase

**The Challenge**
Develop technical know-how to strengthen FBFS
Identify future leaders to take up FBFS in their countries

**The Methods**
Solutions oriented scientific research
Institutionalizing flood-based farming and livelihoods
Creating platform for knowledge and experience sharing

**The approach**
Working in partnership with varied stakeholders “Agents of Change”
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<th>Activities</th>
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<td>Network development</td>
<td>900 members – mainly professionals</td>
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<td>Four country networks</td>
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<td>New generation of professionals</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>Practical Notes – translated (20)</td>
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<td>Country. Regional overview papers (14)</td>
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<td>Capacity building</td>
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<td>Mekelle University Short Course</td>
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<td>Policy support</td>
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<td>Country Policies in 3 countries</td>
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<td>Thematic support: prosopis program</td>
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Knowledge sharing among farmers and policy makers

2012: Sudan; 2013: Yemen
Knowledge products: Videos and notes in other languages
Regular short course on FBFS in the region

Regular Short Course
Sustainable Development of Flood-based Farming Systems in Arid and Semi-arid Regions

Minelle University, Ethiopia

Started in 2013
- (35 participants)

2014
- (47 participants)

2015
- (52 Participants)

Demand driven and relevant
This short course was initiated in 2013 in Mekele following an extensive field research in the arid landscapes of Ethiopia in 2012. The varied stakeholders consulted justified the need for the short course as follows:
- Acute shortage of flood-based farming system (FBFS) designers, managers and researchers.
- Limited participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of FBFS.
- Lack of capacity in train-able approach for the development of FBFS.

50 engineers and managers benefitted from the August 2013 pilot course conducted by local and international experts. They appreciated the quality of content, delivery and organization of the modules including the interactive group discussions and content rich field visits. They recommended that the course be offered on annual basis and up-scaled into regional (Woreda) level.

Key learning objectives
- Produce professional leaders with a broader understanding of participatory and train-able approach and specific skills to design and manage FBFS.
- Course delivery
- It follows practical approach where key experts present their case studies and share their best practices for extensive discussion with the participants. It is tailored at generating new ideas and practical dilemma of a technical, economic, environmental, social and managerial nature.

Course duration
- In 2014: 11 - 23 August
- Registration fee
- 600 USD

Location
- Mekele University
- PO Box 231, Mekele
- Tigray, Ethiopia

Course content – six modules with clear focus

**Module 1**: Introduction to flood-based farming systems
- prerequisite
- module 2: Participatory planning, implementation and monitoring
- prerequisite
- module 3: Land and water management challenges on command area development
- prerequisite
- module 4: Water rights and basin management
- prerequisite
- module 5: Floodplain management
- prerequisite
- module 6: Floodplain management
- prerequisite

On-site to bright minds and water systems, gain practical know-how through observation and discussion with real experts – farmers, site engineers, managers and extension agents.
Network strengthening

In 2016, we have gone from four to eight countries, and from spate irrigation network to flood-based livelihoods network

Flood-based livelihoods are unique in each country, and therefore there is a strong country ownership with regard to content and focus.
Network development plan

Become a facilitator of horizontal learning among farmer networks in flood areas.

Encourage farmer experimentation and exchange of best practices to make flood-based livelihoods thrive. Exchange can take place through fairs, competitions and awards.

Exchange takes place predominately within countries, and to a lesser extent between countries.
Farmer network development methods

Promote good practices through farmer networks to foster co-innovation processes in which farmer groups play a strong role.

Horizontal learning: Exchange among groups of peers with similar interests and challenges, to create self-evolving institutions where farmers keep exchanging.

1. **Farmer learning centres**: farmers who are the owner and inventor of good practices provide training to others.
2. **Farmer research groups**: strengthen farmers’ capacity as innovators of agricultural solutions and link local research with the work of universities.
Business Model Canvas

Transforming the Flood-Based Livelihoods Network into a farmer-centred network for exchange and learning.

Using the business model canvas to target our actions, sharpen our approach and make most efficient use of resources.
Business Model Canvas: example from Pakistan

**Partners**
- Research institutions and universities
  - Hydraulics Research Centre
  - Agricultural Research Corporation of Kassala State
  - Kassala University
  - Khartoum University
  - Gezira University

**Civil society**
- MuslimAid

**Government**
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Gash Agricultural Scheme
- Water User Associations

**Key activities**
- FBFS Network established and strengthened
  - Promote network development by actively involving WUAs.
  - Provision of training in horizontal learning to WUAs and farmer leaders.
- Knowledge development and solution management
  - Undertake solution-oriented research, such as on the application of optimal Crop Water Requirements (CWR), and guidelines creation;
  - Provision of practical support to WUAs, such as on milk churners, and the sharing of breeds and seeds.
- Capacity building
  - Active collaboration with selected universities to integrate FBFS as part of the curriculum.
  - Support to investment programmes and policies
  - Explore options for the formulation of investment programmes by the government that are well-informed in terms of improved FBFS methods.

**Value proposition**
- Comprehensive understanding of the local situation in the key FBFS areas in Sudan, and making this knowledge useful to WUAs and their constituencies;
- Knowledge on good practices and improved techniques related to FBFS management are delivered to WUAs;
- Contribution to capacity building in direct cooperation with universities and WUAs;
- Various non-competitive services are provided to WUAs.
- Increased visibility for FBFS and related issues, as well as the SpN Sudan Chapter and its members (WUAs and farmer leaders).

**Customer relationships**
- Promote self-evolving institutions and horizontal learning at the local level;
- Tailor-made approach on knowledge exchange adopted towards WUAs, based on an assessment of their specific, local needs;
- Undertake joint activities with WUAs to ensure that farmers gain adequate knowledge about improved FBFS management and good practices from other regions and countries.

**Customer segments**
- Value created for:
  - Water User Associations that operate in FBFS areas
  - Policy makers and decision makers in the field of land and water management
  - Gash Agricultural Scheme, and the Ministry of Agriculture through nominated contact persons.

**Beneficiaries**
- 40,000 farmers located in the Gash Agricultural Scheme, and farmers operating in other FBFS areas in Sudan including the Tokar delta and Khor Abu Habil;
- Local markets (indirectly);
- Communities in the Gash River basin, Tokar delta and Khor Abu Habil (indirectly).
Assignment on network development and business model canvas

Read the Communication and Network Development Plan.

See how this plan links to the activities in your country (use your experience with farmers and the country chapter).

Try to fill out the canvas business model, using flip charts.
How to create a good PowerPoint

Create a PowerPoint of your country chapter activities.

What are the characteristics of a good powerpoint?
Do’s and Don’t for a PowerPoint

Do:

1. Organise your thoughts on paper before working with PowerPoint
2. Prepare the text part of your PowerPoint first: what is the key messages you want to convey?
3. Spell check your content
4. Divide topics in a logical order and keep a certain consistency in titles, backgrounds, colours and slide transitions.
5. Run the show together with a colleague.
6. Use appropriate images
Do’s and Don’t for a PowerPoint

Don’t:

1. Don’t work on the visual part first
2. Don’t use too many pictures or text
3. Try not to read your material directly from the screen but interact with your audience.
Camtasia: the Basics