

## CAPACITY BUILDING

*“Increasing the ability of scientists to carry out integrated research on water and food with a basin perspective”*

The CPWF capacity building initiative seeks to strengthen the integrative research skills of its partners and other stakeholders to identify, investigate, analyze and answer applied water and food questions within the basin context. CPWF capacity building adds to the portfolio of integrated water resource management capacity building projects, by targeting the agricultural sector - the principle user of water resources and one of the most promising paths out of poverty.

### DEVELOPING SKILL SETS

Targeting diverse groups of stakeholders – from national agricultural research and extension programs (NARES), university scientists and post-graduate students, to non government organizations (NGOs), local farmers, fishers, and communities - skill development falls into one of three categories:

#### Scientific Mentorship

Informal activities such as advising; network building; scientific conference attendance and/or presentation opportunities; interdisciplinary research planning and management.

#### Specialized Skill Training

Improvement of technical skills associated with particular analytical tasks related to the research project, including; genetic breeding techniques; modeling & decision support systems; statistics; geographic information systems, survey design, participatory methodologies, water accounting; and poverty assessment.

#### Action Research Methodologies

Application of tools which seek to initiate change while producing research outputs; on farm-experimentation, and working with communities to test how innovations can make a difference in the food security, livelihoods and environments of the poor.





### **Integration across disciplines**

As part of its inclusive investigatory methodology, CPWF project “Enhancing Multi-scale Mekong Water Governance” supports ## research fellowships in the Mekong river basin within six thematic modules: fisheries, floods, irrigation, hydropower, watersheds, and water works. Participants in the fellowship program build their findings into a holistic study of social learning which drive the process of multi-stakeholder governance and its formation.

### **Integration across stakeholder groups**

The CPWF’s Groundwater Governance in Indo-Gangetic and Yellow River Basins project is a research program that combines classroom and field based research training for scientists, water professionals and media specialists to address the pertinent ground water issues and knowledge gaps in South Asia and China. By targeting people involved in groundwater use at various levels, the course fosters interdisciplinary understanding, debate and partnership

### **Integration across countries, regions, and languages**

Lea Konate, an economics major, is one of 20 students tasked by the CPWF African Models for Transboundary Governance project, to collect data on indigenous methods for water management. Along with students enrolled in plant biology and water engineering programs, she participated in the design of a common survey instrument that will be used on field sites in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. Ms. Konate not only has the opportunity to work with students outside her country but also in an English medium (she is Francophone).

### **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIELD – BASED LEARNING**

Research projects contribute to institutional capacity building by providing funds to conduct research activities that bring NARES scientists and their implementing partners to farmers’ fields. This is particularly the case in many African countries, where research and extension budgets are limited, and adequate supplies of petrol for field activities curtails development of technologies and innovations designed to meet farmers’ needs.

### **CPWF capacity building strategy**

The CPWF takes advantage of existing resources within the Program’s research portfolio, the research priorities of the countries and regions in which it works, and the research and training infrastructure that exists in the benchmark basins. This alignment is the key to ensuring that the impacts of capacity building activities are sustained, adapted, and expanded upon by our partners.

Consultative stakeholder workshops are helping to identify areas and partnerships where CPWF can add value to ongoing programs and institutions by offering CPWF research theme curricula and integrative post graduate education opportunities. For more information please see our website [www.waterandfood.org](http://www.waterandfood.org) 

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