

Flood Based Livelihoods Network

Afghanistan - Ethiopia - Kenya - Malawi - Myanmar - Pakistan - Sudan - Yemen

When floods are advantageous, not hazardous



Flood-Based Livelihoods
Network Foundation





The Flood-Based Livelihoods Network

The **FBLN** aims to improve the livelihoods of those living in flood-based areas. It exchanges experiences and good practices, initiates and supports new programs and policies and mainstreams education and training.

The FBLN consists of professionals, practitioners and farmers. At present the network has eight active country chapters: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen.

The network exchanges experiences and good practices, helps upgrade training and identifies priority fields for improvement, research and development.

The main objectives of the network are:

- Familiarizing policy makers, implementing agencies (NGOs, government departments, safety net programs), research and funding agencies; with the development scope,

experiences and practical approaches to the development of the Flood-Based Livelihood Systems (FBLS)

- Documenting good practices and initiating practical research in the field
- Disseminating experiences between countries

Furthermore, the network conducts a number of activities, namely:

- Undertaking pilot activities
- Developing programs with implementing organizations
- Preparation and dissemination of guidelines and practical notes
- Mainstreaming FBLS in higher education
- Organizing trainings
- Documentation and support of student research
- Supporting the implementation of programs
- Maintaining websites and opening access to information

F B L S



Floods, from hazardous to advantageous...

Flood-Based Livelihood Systems

FBLS are systems that make use of temporarily predictable flood water to support farming, fishery, (agro)forestry, grazing grounds, groundwater recharge, and groundwater storage.

The different categories are:

- **Sbate Irrigation**

Diversion, distribution and management of short duration flood flows from seasonal or ephemeral rivers

- **Floodplain agriculture**

Cultivation of floodplains, using either receding or rising floodwater or both

- **Inundation canal systems**

As above with high water canals guiding the floodwater

- **Flood-spreading weirs**

Using a series of weirs to manage and spread floods for rehabilitating degraded land and enhancing ground water recharge

- **Roads for water**

Water harvesting from roads for multiple use

Sbate Irrigation



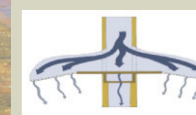
Floodplain Agriculture



Inundation Canal Systems



Flood-Spreading Weirs



Roads for Water



“ Floods are not always a hazard. They may also sustain aquatic life and riverine biodiversity, recharge aquifers, enrich soils and in some of the world’s poorest areas they are the main source of irrigation. ”

Global Water Partnership (2000) ‘Toward water security: a framework for action’

Reasons for investing in floods

- Much of potential still unharnessed, like orphans left out between rain-fed and conventional irrigated agriculture
- Floods constitute poverty pockets: lift 700 - 800 million people out of poverty and into prosperity
- Floods are significant: 15 million ha in arid and semi-arid regions in SSA, and 30 million ha worldwide
- Floods are often the only source of water
- Much scope for innovation



Impact and flood potentials

Reversing destructive nature of floods and its sediment challenge into a blessing for:

- Increased cropped area and higher yield: cereals, oil, seeds, pulses, fruit trees
- Deep-rooted crops
- Preserving biodiversity and agroforestry
- Rehabilitation of degraded lands and environments
- Providing livelihood opportunities
- Improved groundwater recharge and agricultural productivity
- Domestic and livestock water supply and improved field water management
- Mitigating climate change impact and variability

Impact

Investment opportunities



Agroforestry



**Increased crop area,
higher yields**

**Better field water
management**





Impact

Investment opportunities



Preserving biodiversity and providing livelihood

Natural species of vegetation are often valuable and additional source of income to local communities.

Oil seeds, pulses, vegetables, tree varieties, grasses, medicinal plants, etc.

Rehabilitate degraded land, improve groundwater recharge and agricul- tural productivity

Flood spreading weir
Soil bunds with porous spillways
Road floodwater management



Turning environmental threats into opportunities

Invasive species: e.g. Prosopis Julifora and Calotropis Procera.

Useful for e.g. charcoal, fodder, timber, power generation, honey and gum, bio-fuel and cotton.

The Project



Africa to Asia

Testing Adaptation in Flood-Based Resource Management

Objective:

To solidify the know-how on flood-based livelihood systems (FBLS) by upscaling the knowledge-base both geographically and content wise

Expected output:

Contribute to the building-up of practical knowledge and national and local capacity to systematically and comprehensively support the productive use of all the various types of FBLS through four main components



Project components

1



Network Establishment and Development

Strengthening country database of WUAs, newsletter, cross-country farmer knowledge sharing, tailor-made training to selected farmer groups/WUAs, development and dissemination of knowledge products in local languages.

2



Knowledge Development and Solution Management

Developing practical notes and other communication products on cross-country relevant research themes (water governance and conflict mitigation, management of soil moisture and fertility, improvement of water diversion and distribution efficiency), conducting solution-oriented research programmes and developing guidelines.

3



Capacity Building

Consolidating existing MSc programmes, leadership programme, internship programme, regional courses and establishing farmer learning centres.

4



Investment Support

Support to investment programmes and policies: writing of proposals.



TURNING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

● Solidifying the know-how on managing and using floods efficiently and network strengthening to promote the productive side of floods, giving FBLS the attention it deserves

● Contributing positively to the livelihoods and wellbeing of many people

● Result: more attention for understanding, improving and developing FBLS all over the world and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth in the agricultural and livestock sectors, as well as fisheries and agro-forestry





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META
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