



## Transfer of technology; communicating helps

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How water resources technology and knowledge can or should be transferred has been subject to a number of paradigm shifts. There were shifts between believing that water-users were ignorant to believing in the need to stimulate water-users' participation in water-system design. Participation in design is viewed to enhance water-users' competence in and willingness to maintain water resources infrastructure. However, there are many different parties involved in design, all with different interests and backgrounds. This research therefore focuses on developing a methodology with which water-users, local supporting institutions and researchers could develop a basis for common dialogue when discussing redesign of small water systems. During the development of this methodology discussions between the stakeholders showed that one obstacle towards using the water to its full potential is caused by infrastructural problems that hinder water storage and transportation. Assessment of a water resource should therefore not look only at the (potential) value of water, but also at the (potential) value of the storage and transportation infrastructure that enables use of water.

Results so far also show that redesign of water systems to enhance the productivity of water was not necessarily related to the viewed value of water by stakeholders, but to the possibility of stakeholders to invest in or to find ways to stimulate investment in the infrastructure. Thereby it was also concluded that investments in transferring understanding about use and maintenance of the infrastructure means investing in stakeholder communication that enable all stakeholders to express their views about the use of, maintenance of and investment in technology.