



## **A tool to measure adoptability and implementability of plans: The Motivation and Ability (MOTA) framework**

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Evaluation and implementation of projects in a multi-actor setting currently focusses primarily on technical and financial dimensions. However, to develop comprehensive solutions for society, there is a need to measure social dimensions, such as social adoptability and institutional implementability. To understand these dimensions, there is a need for tools that can ‘read’ the complexity of actors and interests behind specific plans or policies, such as dikes and sluice constructions. These types of projects have been initiated and developed from technical and financial perspectives, and often fail to integrate the social and institutional aspects. This delays the identification of problems and opportunities of a project.

In order to help identifying these problems, a Motivation and Ability framework (MOTA) is proposed for a quantitative assessment of the opportunities of a plan to be successfully implemented from social and institutional perspectives. The methodology is applied to three cases in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta: (1) the adoptability of livelihoods transformation in Ben Tre province, (2) the institutional enabling and constraining conditions to make it happen, and (3) the evaluation of an on-going policy to convert to fresh water crops based on a historical case of Ba Lai sluice gate. These case studies cover different stages of the policy cycle and different relevant groups of actors on a plan development. They were developed through surveys, group interviews and focus group discussions. With the information gathered, the motivation and ability scores were calculated, and further policy recommendations suggested.

The three cases show how the MOTA framework can serve as a decision-making tool that helps to determine the gaps on motivations and abilities of different stakeholders. In the cases presented, the bottlenecks of the adoptability of the projects depend heavily on an adequate initial investment strategy to enable livelihood transformation processes in the regions. Also, the framework shows the importance of alignment between national and provincial strategies is a fundamental component to steer the implementing directions, more specifically, strategies such as defining business models that enable livelihood changes would contribute to this. In general, these strategies on water infrastructure projects are related to capacity and consent building.

The results obtained have motivated the creation of a MOTA Manual which can be used by professionals in the field to assess the implementability and adoptability of plans in multi-stakeholders’ environments. This aims to create a common ground that allows interdisciplinary discussions, but moreover, a way to work on cooperative strategies in the water sector.