

Questions and Answers

Day 2: Financial Sustainability of BWCs

Speaker: Mr Ueda (WB)

Two observations from Dr Najafi:

Q1. There is a coordination working group of 32 members but there are few farmers or beneficiaries involved or represented. Experience in the Haraz project in Iran is that broader stakeholder participation is vital. The other important point is that farmer representatives must be selected by the farmers and not nominated by the government. Otherwise, farmers would not cooperate with the representatives of the committee.

Q2. Not all the stakeholders are represented in the working group. How can you ensure the representation of upstream and downstream stakeholders?

A: Response from Mr Ueda

- The committee will include the representatives from all key stakeholders. The government should not co-opt the representatives but respect their own selection. WUAs and forest cooperatives will play a key role for facilitating farmer participation and representing their interests in a collective and participatory manner. These field level activities will be carried out in parallel with the basin level activities.
- There is a need for effective information sharing between all agencies as well as stakeholders. The project will provide tools for effective communication among different stakeholders through modelling, mapping, visual materials and brochures in addition to the establishment and activation of the basin water committee.
- It is important to initiate the process of the dialogue at the basin level rather than pursuing a perfect model from the beginning. As we conduct stakeholder dialogue and monitoring and evaluation of the committee's performance, we would be able to adjust and improve the committee's responsibility and arrangements. It is crucial to take a first step now to establish a committee under the existing provincial legal framework and start stakeholders dialogue.

A. Response from Mr Sadreddini

- Basin Water Fund under the BSWC will also contribute to the soil and water conservation activities in the field and to facilitate the participation of stakeholders, particularly the poor in the upper watershed. .
- The current working group comprises 32 members. At the first meeting of the committee, it can discuss the inclusion of more stakeholders.

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