

■ SANDEC

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries (SANDEC) in Switzerland aims to assist in developing appropriate and sustainable water and sanitation concepts and technologies adapted to the different physical and socio-economic conditions prevailing in developing countries.

The site contains links to on-going SANDEC research and development projects, notably on roughing filter technology, solar water distillation, management of sludges from on-site sanitation and municipal solid waste management in developing countries.

<http://www.sandec.ch/>

■ International Water Management Institute

IWMI, formerly known as the International Irrigation Management Institute, is a research centre on irrigation management. It maintains a network of national research centres and a series of thematic research programmes covering topics such as sustainable management of water delivery and disposal; improvement of public irrigation organizations; sector and local level management of irrigated agriculture; environment and health; choice and use of technology; and gender issues.

The site includes a library catalogue, newsletters, research reports and summary data from meteorological stations world-wide.

<http://www.cgiar.org/iwmi/>

■ Pan American Information Network on Environmental Health (Repidisca)

Repidisca disseminates information on environmental health and epidemiology, sanitary and environmental engineering, water supply, wastewater, solid waste, hazardous waste and occupational health. Repidisca operates in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The site contains links to biographical databases (85,000 records), an institutional directory on environmental health, thesaurus and an 'information bank' including dissemination sheets, news and publications catalogues.

<http://www.cepis.org.pe/enwww/infotecn.html>

■ International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement

Research, publication and documentation organization working on land and water resources (specifically irrigation and drainage). Information services include the DRAIN database on current research, institutions, and experts; and a question and answer service.

<http://www.ilri.nl/index.html>

Compiled by Darren Saywell, WEDC

- through the villagers themselves with the assistance of the social mobilization teams;
- at the level of the implementation unit, which will measure the success of the project by comparing the results with the overall targets.

Such an evaluation ('structured') will take place perhaps halfway through the project, but in reality it takes place continuously, as the annual investment programme is compared with actual achievements.

Since a significant impact is not expected to appear until a year or more after completion of RWSS installations, a structured monitoring and evaluation exercise has not yet taken place. A recent survey, however, showed that in at least one village primary school, attendance by girls has more than doubled since the village received a new water supply system about a year ago

Issues and lessons two years on

Although planners expect PAGER to take two to three years to really hit 'cruising speed', the project is perceived to be on the right track. A critical factor in the project's overall success appears to be the unconditional commitment by the government at all levels to embark on this community-based, demand-responsive approach. The government has made available significant support in terms of staff and equipment — including staff compensation for intensive field work, vehicles, computers, water-testing kits, instruction materials, and most importantly, training for the MPTs — as well as an adequate budget for investment and engineering studies.

Other factors include well-staffed and trained MPTs, who are highly motivated and willing to repeat visits and messages to villagers as often as it takes to make them 'stick', and active World Bank support in the coaching of government officials at all levels, supervision and monitoring, and above all, flexibility in adjusting processes to realities.

about the author

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