
Community-based water governance approaches at local level «Examples from Turkey»

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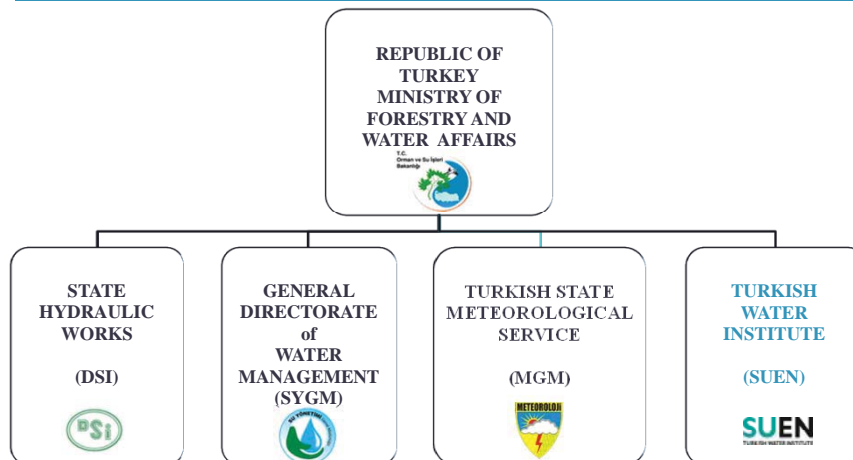
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TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE (SUEN)

- SUEN is a think tank under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs.
- Primary activities of SUEN are
 - to conduct training programs,
 - to develop and implement research projects
 - to organize international events (Istanbul International Water Forums) in collaboration with local and international partners.

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WATER AFFAIRS OF TURKEY



WHY THERE IS A NEED FOR COMMUNITY BASED WATER GOVERNANCE ?

- All effected parties should have an input on how and where to use water
- Promote a collaborative decision making process
- Greater interaction among stakeholders at local level
- Increasing transparency
- Better service and affordable O&M costs
- Enhancing self control and stronger sense of ownership
- Governments become regulatory bodies rather than investor; less financial burdens on governments
- Community cohesion and empowerment

PARTICIPATORY WATER MANAGEMENT: NOT A NEW INVENTION

- Mesopotamia was the birthplace of water regulations and participatory water management → King Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC).
- Irrigation sector is a pioneer in participatory water management through Water Users' Associations (WUAs).
- One of the first cases of modern WUAs → Klamath, California 1905.
- The World Bank has been intensively promoting the establishment of WUAs since 1980s.
- Dublin Principles (1992), Aarhus Convention (1998), and European WFD (2000). → Important legal regulations that fostered participatory water management

Community based WG in Turkey

- . River Basin Commissions
- . Water Users Associations

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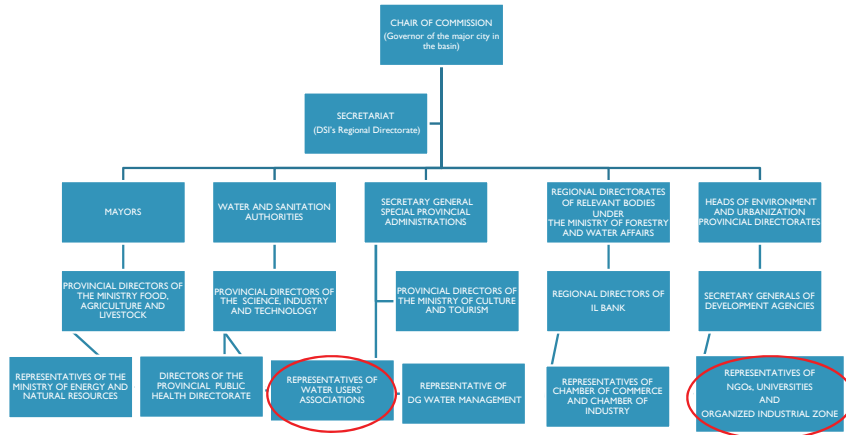
RİVER BASIN COMMISSIONS (RBC) İN TURKEY



- There are RBCs for **25** river basins in Turkey.
- RBCs bring together central institutions and local bodies including academia, NGOs and water user communities such as WUAs.

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RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS (RBC) ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEME



WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS (WUAs) IN TURKEY

- In 1960s, the State Hydraulic Works (DSI) of Turkey encouraged farmers to establish irrigator groups to conduct O&M activities in large-scale irrigation schemes
- WUAs in Turkey are non-profit organizations having the right to irrigate within their hydraulic boundary within a range of 300 ha - 35 000 ha.
- Over 200 WUAs in Turkey
- WUAs are organized according to the The Law on Irrigation Associations (2011, Law No. 6172)

WHY TURKEY NEEDED WUAs SYSTEM?

Before the establishment of WUAs

- Low ratio of billing and collection rates
- High water consumption
- No cost recovery for investment
- No interest by local farmers to protect the infrastructure

WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS (WUAs) IN TURKEY

- Main responsibilities of WUAs according to the Law No. 6172:
 - setting water tariff together with DSI
 - implementing O&M activities
 - repaying the investment costs of irrigation facilities
 - planning the crop pattern in cooperation with the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock
- Income of WUAs: water tariffs, financial penalties and donations.
- Water is not priced! O&M costs are charged to users.
- DSI provides training and monitors activities of WUAs.

WATER USERS' ASSOCIATIONS (WUAs) ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEME

Individual and Corporate Water Users

ASSEMBLY

- members elected by water users
- members for each administrative irrigation zone
- Responsibilities:
 - Monitor and check the activities of the president and the boards.
 - Accept the annual budget

GOVERNING BOARD

- members elected by the Assembly
- Responsibilities:
 - Registering new water users as members
 - Collection of fees and financial penalties
 - Preparing budget reports
 - Preparation of budget for the Assembly's approval and management of available budget

SUPERVISORY BOARD

- members elected by the Assembly
- Responsible for checking the actions of the governing board and the president to report to the assembly

PRESIDENT

- elected by the Assembly
- acts as the representative of the WUA
- proposes the budget to the assembly
- has the final word on executive decisions

TRANSFER OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES TO WUAs IN TURKEY

Year	Irrigation area to transfer (ha)	Transferred area (ha)	Increase (ha)
1992	1 478 608	62 620	-
1993	1 527 239	72 042	9 422
1994	1 561 841	267 362	195 320
1995	1 619 070	978 575	711 214
1996	1 688 861	1 190 334	211 758
1997	1 740 223	1 279 039	88 705
1998	1 809 687	1 483 931	204 892
1999	1 842 906	1 529 454	45 523
2000	1 875 104	1 618 669	89 215
2001	1 908 854	1 663 730	45 061
2002	1 942 201	1 694 736	31 006
2003	1 954 734	1 826 245	131 509
2004	1 974 127	1 860 969	34 724
2005	2 021 368	1 922 132	61 163
2006	2 077 316	1 976 094	53 962
2007	2 119 338	2 037 101	24 344
2008	2 220 000	2 090 330	53 229
2009	2 223 596	2 135 824	45 494
2010	2 258 158	2 181 738	45 914
2011	2 289 140	2 209 435	27 697
2012	2 332 523	2 240 344	30 909

CONCLUSION

- Involvement of local stakeholders in water governance process is a key element for efficient water use within countries' water management policies.
- Increasing interaction among players results in better and rapid decision making and enables the acceptance of decisions
- In irrigation sector, financial success of the process in Turkey is apparent. State expenditure for O&M decreased 80% in 15 years.
- With the establishment of WUAs all around the country, excessive use of water in irrigation decreased significantly. Accordingly, this resulted in protection of water resources and effected the soil and water quality (decrease in salinity).
- Improvement of O&M services enables the efficient use of irrigation water.

**Thank you for your
attention..**

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