

Evolving Participatory Process of River Basin Management in Thailand

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1994

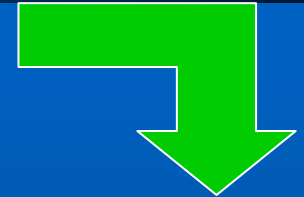
Government study to prepare strategic plan for water management in Chao-Phya River



1998

Sub-committee to organize Chao-Phya River Basin Committee (RBC) was organized

Two workshops



Delineation of RBC Activities:

- information/database
- policy & planning
- regulation
- technical
- public relations & coordination
- conflict resolution
- monitoring & evaluation

Series of consultation meetings



April 1999

Establishment of 3 RBCs in Upper Ping, Lower Ping, and Pasak Sub-Basins

Organizational set-up dominated by government officials

Little progress as Government officials could not devote much time

1999

ADB loan agreement to manage agriculture & water sector in Upper Ping & Lower Ping Sub-basins

World Bank study to strengthen capability of Pasak Sub-Basin Committee



Smaller sub-basin units created in each RBC



2002

Guidelines for:

- selection of representatives and composition of working groups
- performance indicators
- operations



Scaled down RBC tasks and created working groups:

- preparation of basin plans
- collection of baseline data & maintain basin info
- conduct public relations & awareness-raising campaigns

Workshops/
consultation
meetings



2001



Re-organization of RBCs to include more stakeholders, NGOs, and academicians

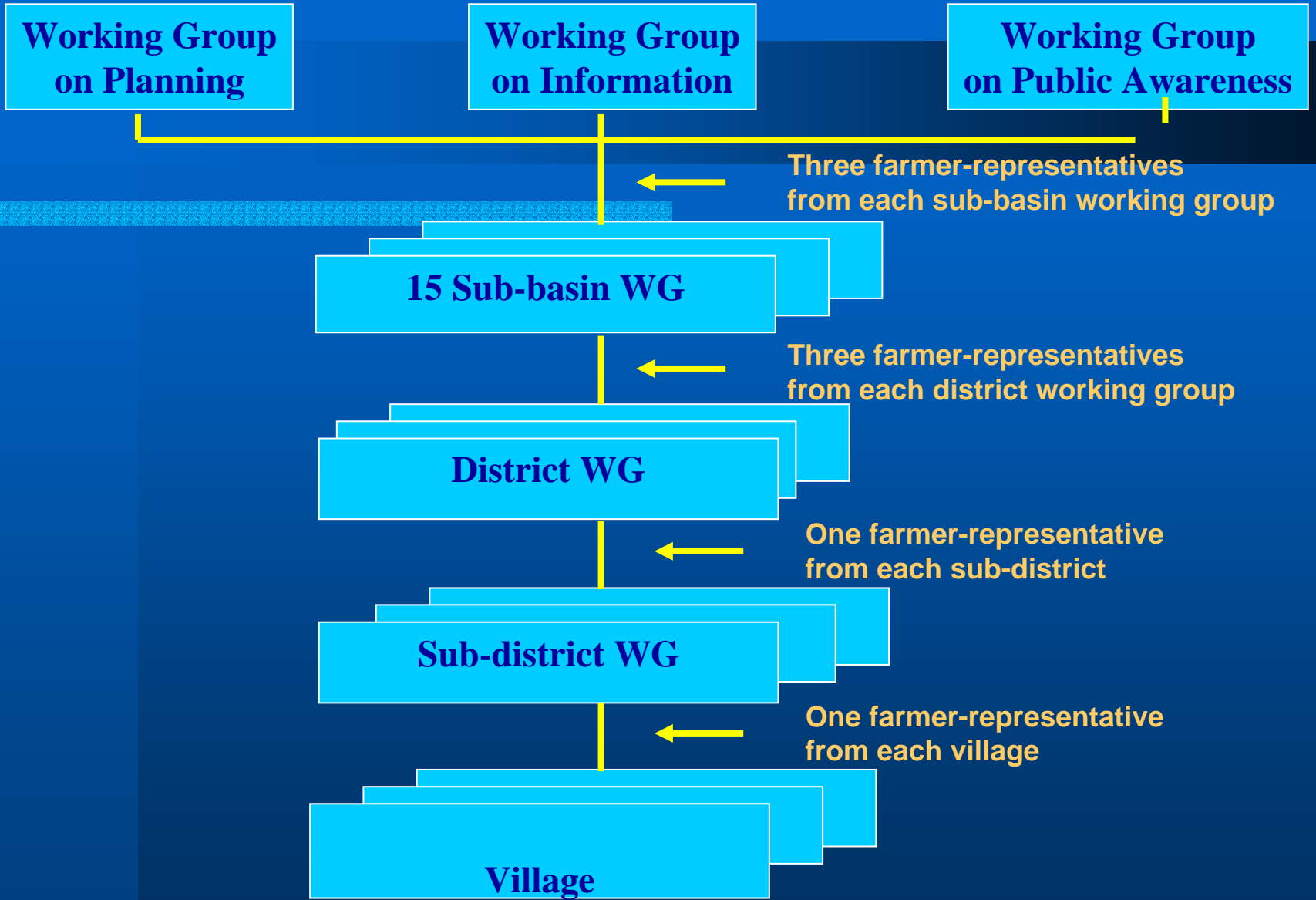
Analysis of Evolving Process

- **DORMANCY.** Initial stage was characterized by top-down type of meetings and operations by government agencies and ONWRC. Diversity of members without any real driver and with little inputs from stakeholders resulted to little progress.
- **TURNING POINT.** WB and ADB studies identified flaws in the existing set-up and catalyzed operations and efforts

- **EVOLVING.** Establishment of participatory working groups made local stakeholders to realize their importance in planning and decision-making processes

- Clear role of consultants as “Facilitators” to draw local ideas and community-defined structures for operations encouraged local commitment and responsibility for river basin management

- **Participatory, grassroots involvement enhances identification and development of locally appropriate models for river basin management**



Selection of representatives for participation in working groups at various levels of Upper Ping

Composition of Working Groups at Various Levels

1. Composition at sub-district, district and sub-basin levels

1.1 Sub-District Working Group

- one farmer-representative from each village
- sub-district chief
- chairman of Tambon Administrative Organization
- sub-district community development worker
- sub-district agricultural extension worker
- District Officer responsible for each sub-district
- Respected local person e.g, teacher or monk

1.2 District Working Group

- one farmer-representative from each sub-district working group
- district community development worker
- district agricultural extension worker
- representative of local administration
- district officer responsible for planning
- Respected local person e.g, teacher, retired official, or monk
- representatives from commercial and industrial sectors

1.3 Sub-Basin Working Group

- three farmer-representatives from each district
- district officers responsible for planning
- district community development workers
- district agricultural extension workers
- representative of local administration
- respected local person (e.g., teacher, retired official, or monk)
- representatives from commercial and industrial sectors

2. The district selects three representatives from the district working group to work with the three RBC working groups, i.e. one for each working group (planning, information, public relation and awareness raising)

2. Farmer representatives in the three RBC working groups select from among themselves 15 members to work in the river basin committee (RBC).

Composition of River Basin Committees

MODEL 1 (suitable for larger basins and high degree of competition for water)

Government officials	18
Stakeholders	18
Academicians and NGO	6

MODEL 2 (suitable for smaller basins and low degree of competition for water)

Government officials	15
Stakeholders	15
Academicians and NGO	3

Applied IWRM principles

Enabling Tools:

- political decision to establish RBCs
- provision of budget to support RBCs
- external support through WB and ADB programs

Applied IWRM principles

Institutional Enhancement Tools:

- decentralization of authority within RBCs
- evolution of process by allowing active involvement of NGOs
- involvement of stakeholders from the lowest level

Applied IWRM principles

Management Tools:

- **technical support from experts (e.g., managing workshops and designing programs)**
- **technical support to gather and use relevant data and information**
- **capacity building activities**