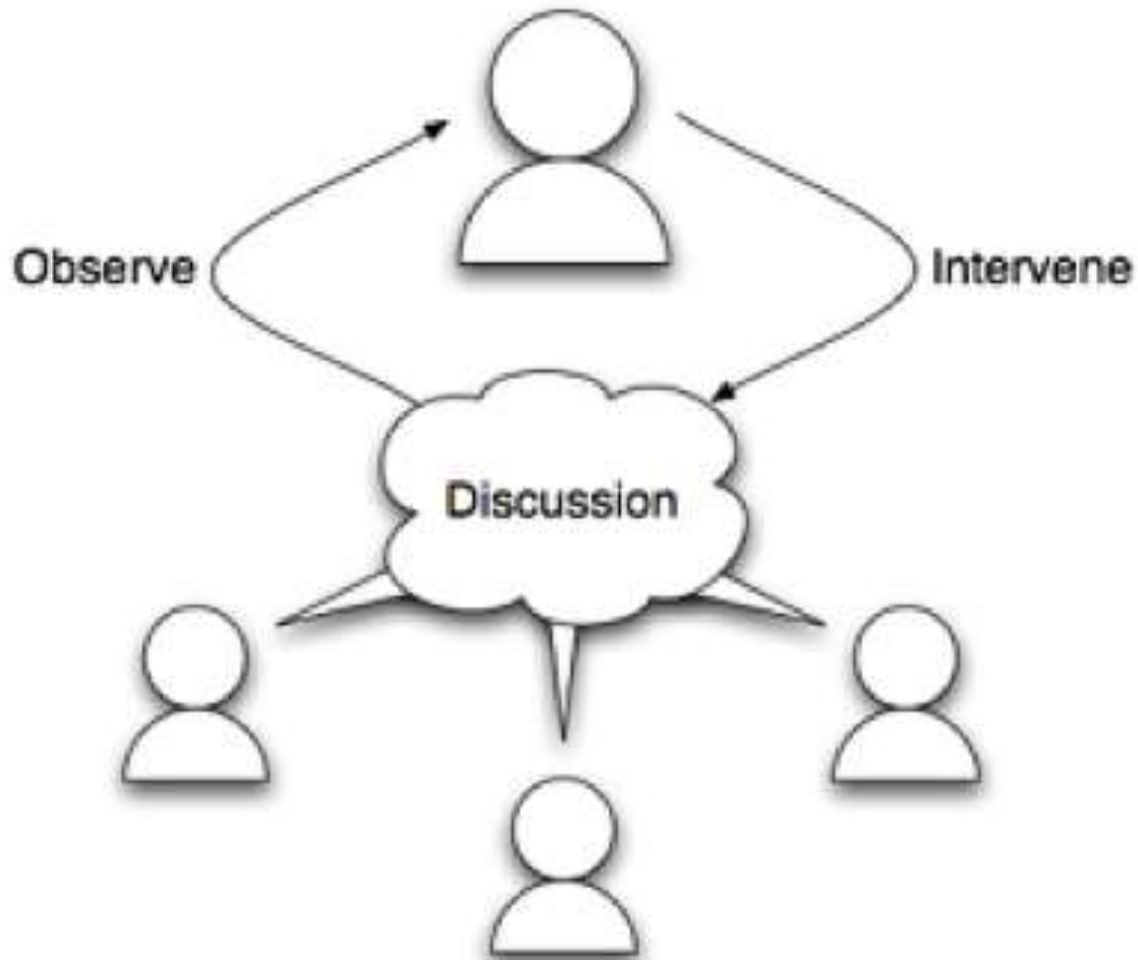


Technical Session 2:



*Managing water resources under a
changing climate*


e-discussion: workshop precursor



*e-discussion:
workshop precursor*



- Conducted during the months of August and September 2011
- 120 invitees with a stake or interest in water use
- contributed to ...appropriate policy and operational guidelines to ensure adequate supplies of “water we eat”

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- Four questions, one per nine to ten day period
 - Posed to start each thread and supplemented by “thread builder” questions
 - completion on September 23rd
 - 46 participants from **16** countries
 - **71** contributions from **6** countries

Managing water resources under a changing climate




- **Question 2:**


What are the specific requirements for managing national water resources in light of changes in the climate?


Thread builders:



- What have you done, or plan to do, differently with regard to managing the water you need/use?
- Is the legislative framework in your country promoting proper management?
- Are there policies or strategies that you will like to see implemented?

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- There were group-wide comments and shared experiences/perspectives
 - privately communicated views between professionals operating outside of the agricultural sector and the Convener.
 - Eighteen posts were associated with this thread.

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- The Discussants were really asked to deliberate on mechanisms for managing water resources at Regional, national and individual levels
 - It was agreed that the policy environment is a determinant of water management efficacy.

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- expectation being that the policy would inspire implementation
 - The policy goals of the National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy of TT
 - far-reaching legislation, geared to satisfying/managing the growing demands of all in a sustainable, efficient and effective manner.

Example of specific objectives for water resources management



- 1. To ensure sustainable development, meaning improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.
- 2. To protect and support human health.
- 3. To protect and co-manage watersheds and wetlands as sources of water.


- 4. To ensure a supply of water of sufficient quality and quantity to meet the needs of all present and future legitimate users at reasonable cost.
- 5. To ensure the fair and efficient allocation of water.
- 6. To promote conservation and wise use of water resources.
- 7. To establish financially self-sufficient integrated water resources management programme.

- 8. To establish an integrated framework for water resources management, particularly as it relates to planning and environmental management.
- 9. To maintain and enhance the quality of Trinidad and Tobago's surface, ground, and coastal waters.
- 10. To restore natural water systems in forests, rivers, wetlands, and coastal areas to restore water conservation capacity and maintain healthy ecosystems.
- 11. To protect water systems from pollution.

- 12. To prevent and minimize the impacts of flood, drought, and other water-related emergencies.
- 13. To protect and enhance the enabling environment of natural water systems
- 14. To integrate the management and development of watersheds/coastal areas.
- 15. To stimulate future economic development and private sector investment
- 16. To increase human resource and institutional capacity for water resources management.

- 17. To promote joint ownership, between Government and the people in the management of the nation's water resources.
- 18. To promote timely and reliable data to inform the design of hydrologic and hydraulic systems.
- 19. To stimulate research and development activities in water resources management.
- 20. To promote public education and awareness in support of effective Integrated Water Resources Management

- In terms of legislation and implementing organisations, 3 Jamaican examples
- Water Resources Authority,
- National Water Commission and
- National Irrigation Commission.

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- the degree of sensitivity within the agriculture community that their policy requests are not given priority.
 - Agriculture has been at the bottom of the totem pole of requests
 - slowly the attitude is changing as people realize that importing food is going to become more and more costly/difficult

Water-related policy poverty reduction strategies



- Empowering people to use water better, and targeting the right groups.
- Ensuring the right to secure access.
- Improving governance of water resources.
- Supporting the diversification of livelihoods

Leading Technocrats in a recent conference in Trinidad




hierarchy of needs, water should address the following:

- 1. Potable use – sheer necessity for life
- 2. Health and sanitation
- 3. Environmental management

Strategies, Rainwater harvesting



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- 1. How about respective governments and funding agencies embarking on a programme(s) to identify strategic locations in the various regions and assist communities be it farming or otherwise to build catchment tanks for harnessing and storing water.

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- 2. Respective governments should make it a policy for water-harnessing systems (not just storage) be included in all building plans. Buildings cannot be approved unless this requirement is fulfilled.
 - 3. An overall plan to develop desalination plants, having proper environmental controls to provide another source of water

- One of the most forceful points made was

the practicality of spending resources on Rain Water Harvesting where Genuine Farmers Live and Work and continue to produce most of the food. As opposed to Governments, IDB, World Bank and Technocrats spending significant sums to dig wells, buy pumps and pipelines then having to beg the people living in these low lying areas to farm.