

# Moving from data to improving irrigation services – Irrigation Benchmarking for Irrigation Professionals



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IWMI is a  
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RESEARCH  
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Ecosystems

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# Benchmarking - What, Why, and How

- Irrigation Benchmarking
- Improving irrigation services
- Moving from data to improving irrigation services
- Transformational Change



Photo: Hamish John Appelby / IWMI



Photo: Fraser Sugden/IWMI

# Irrigation benchmarking is

- **a process of comparative analysis of the performance that allows scheme managers to understand the service, financial and other aspects of their system's performance compared to:**
  - similar irrigation schemes
  - performance in previous seasons
  - defined performance objectives

# Improving irrigation services



- Farmers invest in irrigated agriculture when Irrigation Services are predictable

Positive outcomes

# Improving irrigation services

- Farmers also invest in irrigation when formal services are UNPREDICTABLE



Photo: Harshvardhan / IWMI

# Moving from data to improving irrigation services



Photo: Faseeh Shams / IWMI



Photo: Ian Makin



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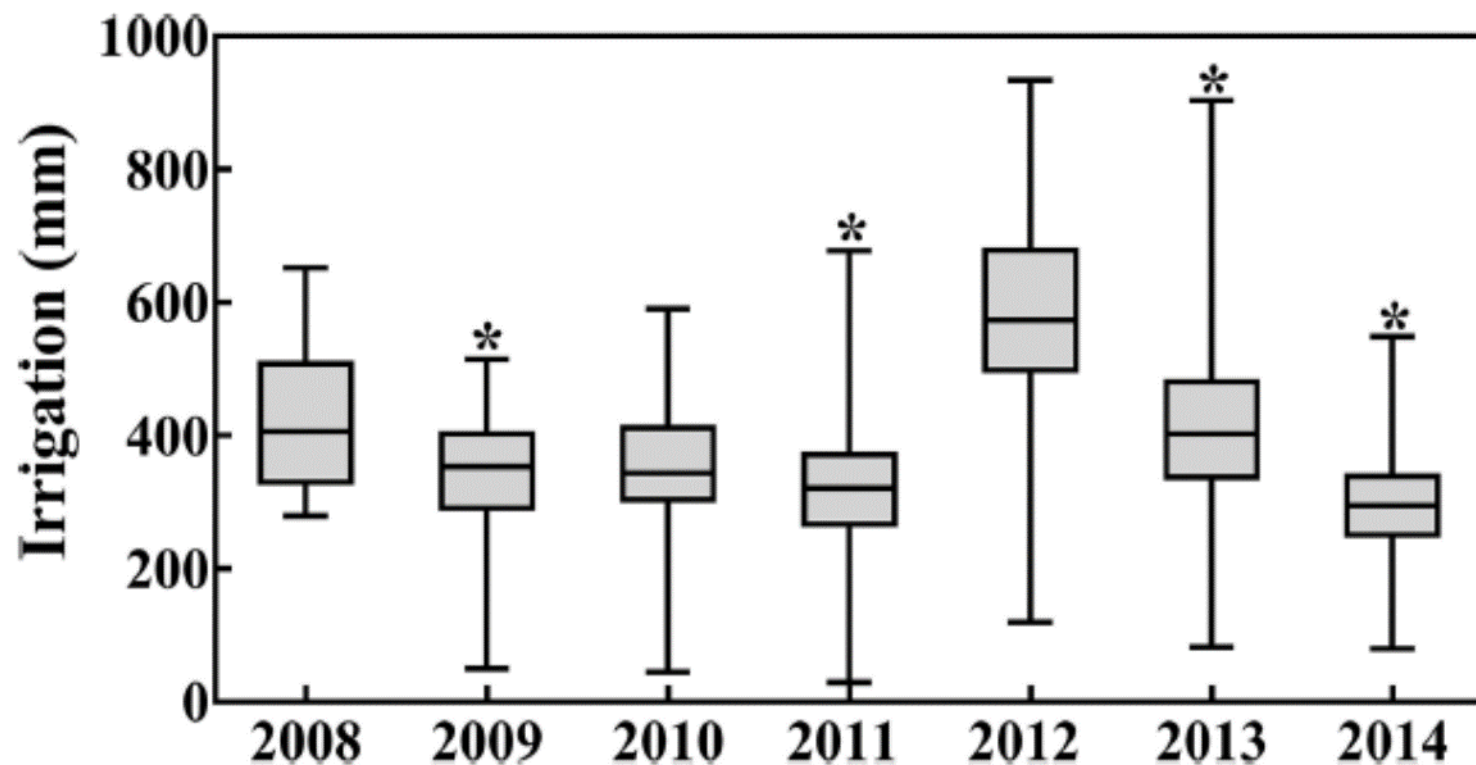


Photo: Rubicon Water



# Moving from data to improving irrigation services

Much data collected never becomes information to help understand performance and to improve management or service delivery



Source: Gibson et al. 2017. Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. 21 1051-1062. doi: 10.5194/hess-21-1051-2017

# Irrigation performance requires Asset management

IWMI Systematic Asset Management System



Irrigation Schemes

Configuration

User Management

Acc

▼ Irrigation Scheme

Admin Area

Country

Sri Lanka

Region

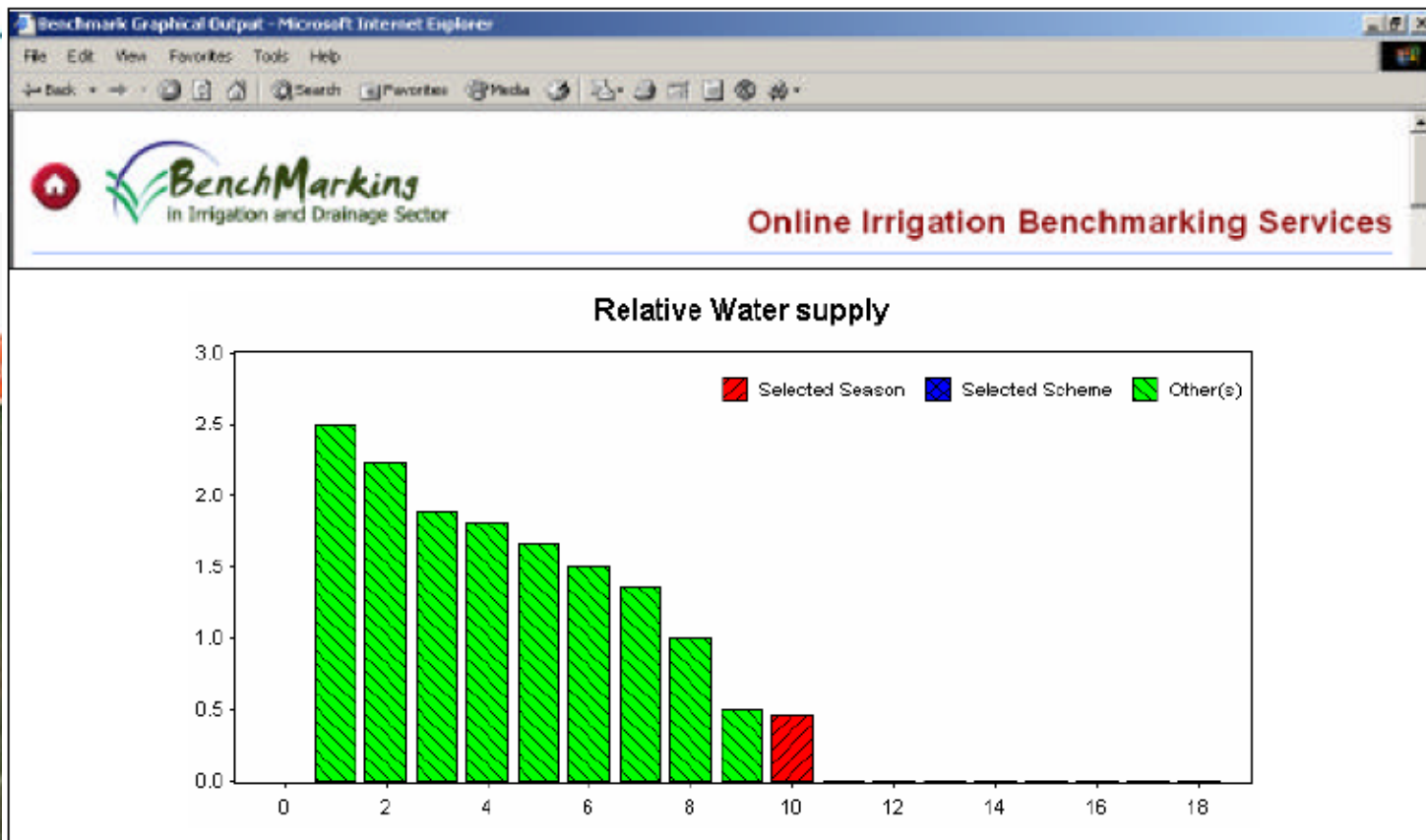
Puttalam

Division

Inginimitiya

Irrigation Scheme

Inginimitiya





# A new agenda for reform of irrigation services

- Asset management and Performance **benchmarking alone will NOT improve performance**
- Irrigation agencies must become “service oriented” organizations, with:
  - Well defined strategic plans and objectives
  - Commitment to excellence in service delivery
  - Effective user participation
  - Effective water and environment polices
- Organizational reform requires senior champions of change.

# Thank you



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