

***Institutional Strengthening of Irrigation Entities Sub-Activity*** is a part of the **Water to Market Activity**.

#### Objective

Help farmers acquire the skills, confidence, and sense of ownership that would enable them to take over from Government the bulk of responsibility for managing the irrigation system and for making it sustainable by reliably funding the cost of its O&M.

To that end the proposed task will build on achievements in on-going organizational reforms (started in 2001) through training and technical assistance interventions aimed at developing institutional and technical capabilities in water management entities to (i) ensure reliable and timely water delivery, (ii) promote greater ownership of the water delivery system by water users, and (iii) create a basis for technical and financial sustainability of the irrigation system.

Areas of activities:

1. Strengthening of the Water Users Associations – Training and Technical Assistance Support to enhance the organization, management and effectiveness of WUAs through streamlined and transparent procedures, more representative management, greater membership participation, and more inclusive membership.
2. Clarifying the allocation of responsibilities between WUAs and WSA in conformity with the reform program initiated under the World-bank financed IDP, and strengthening the WSA to enable it to perform its functions as a manager of the O&M process for the irrigation infrastructure and a source of support for WUAs.
3. Developing institutional and legal guidelines for Establishment of Federations of Water Users Associations and establishing a demonstration Federation.
4. Developing a basis for the development of a Professional Irrigation Association and building its operational capacity.
5. Drafting the Law on Irrigation.
6. Development of an Activity M&E Plan to track performance of the interventions

#### Outcome

A critical outcome expected from the proposed institutional improvements and the rehabilitation of the physical infrastructure should be transfer of the financial liability for system O&M from the Government to water users. The MCA Program includes specific *targets* for O&M cost recovery over the program period (an increase of 25 percentage points by 2011: from 46% in 2006 to 70%)