



THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA (EC IFAS)

THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FOR CENTRAL ASIA (UNRCCA)



UNRCCA

FAO/TURKEY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

PROJECT "MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MECHANISM ON INTEGRATED USE OF WATER RESOURCES IN CENTRAL ASIA THROUGH APPLYING A SCENARIO APPROACH"

○ **FAO/Turkey Partnership Programme**

Project “Mutually acceptable mechanism on integrated use of water resources in Central Asia through applying a Scenario Approach”

Project background

The Government of Turkey, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and FAO, concluded in mid 2006 an Agreement whereby an FAO/Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) was set up. The primary objective of the FTPP as described in the Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA) is to provide a substantive financial and operational framework for active cooperation in the areas of food security and rural poverty reduction in the Central Asian countries.

The Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, in their Joint Statement made at the IFAS Summit of April 28, 2009 in Almaty, indicated the future work activities of the IFAS and once again confirmed their interest in development of mutually acceptable mechanism on integrated use of water resources and environmental protection in Central Asia taking into account the interests of all states of the Region.

Management of the shared regional water resources in the Aral Sea basin is a highly complex political process that involves numerous players across the socio-economic spectrum. This complexity is steadily rising because of climate change, economic development and demographic trends, and the consequent increasing pressure on scarce water resources. Multi-vector water policies of the region and competition for water resources at the sectoral level (agriculture, energy, industry, municipal water supply and environmental protection) are key risks in this environment that can delay progress towards shared development of the Aral Sea basin water resources potential.

Scenario thinking has proven an effective mechanism for building a comprehensive logical structure in various areas. This approach is also applicable for investigating possible perspective development trends in water-energy-agriculture and -environment sectors. It encourages a cross-sectoral perspective, and creates mutual understanding and alignment of views among participating parties. Scenario thinking aims to achieve process gains that are associated with rapid learning processes – both individually and collectively – when engaging into systematic thinking about the future, in a structured and multi-stakeholder process.



In this regard, the Project “Mutually acceptable mechanism on integrated use of water resources in Central Asia through applying a Scenario Approach”, being implemented in the framework of FAO/Turkey Partnership Programme and Executive Committee of IFAS, fully corresponds to the Joint Statement of the Heads of Central Asian states-founders of IFAS and also to the forth direction of the Aral Sea Basin Program-3 for the period of 2011-2015 (ASBP-3).

Development objective

The main objective of the Project is to make contribution towards strengthening regional cooperation and promote sustainable natural resource management through enhanced mutual understanding and improved decision making.

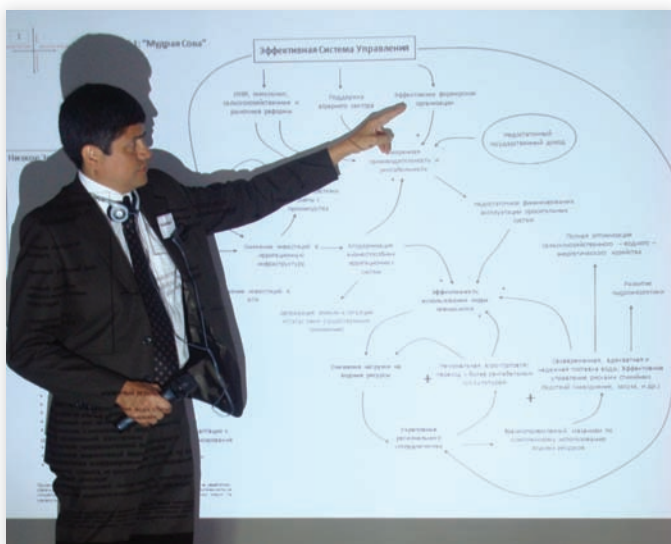
This projects aims to develop a comprehensive scenario set for the Aral Sea basin. The relevant analysis on water-energy-agriculture-environment logical structure and their interrelations will be conducted by using a scenario approach. The project outputs include: new insights gained and shared options developed through a shared learning process and better understanding of the dynamics of the situation and the inter-sectoral relationships. It will result in enhanced capacity to prioritize and time policy interventions, and translate them into timely action.



Scenarios

Scenarios are stories about the way the world might turn out tomorrow, stories that can help us recognize and adapt to changing aspects of our present environment. A tool for ordering one's perceptions about alternative future environments in which one's decisions might be played out.

Scenarios do not predict what will happen, but identify what might happen...



Scenarios should reflect:

- starting conditions / existing trends
- predetermined elements
- potential discontinuities
- driving forces for change
- critical uncertainties
- alternative futures / logics
- outcomes

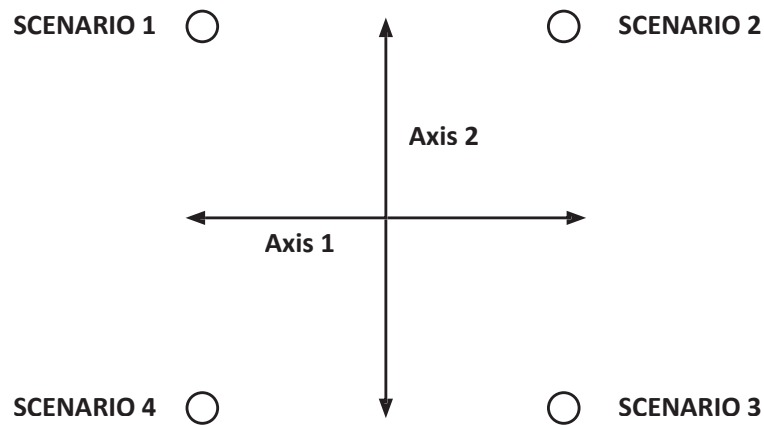
Requirements of good scenarios:

- relevant
- plausible
- challenging
- consistent
- novel

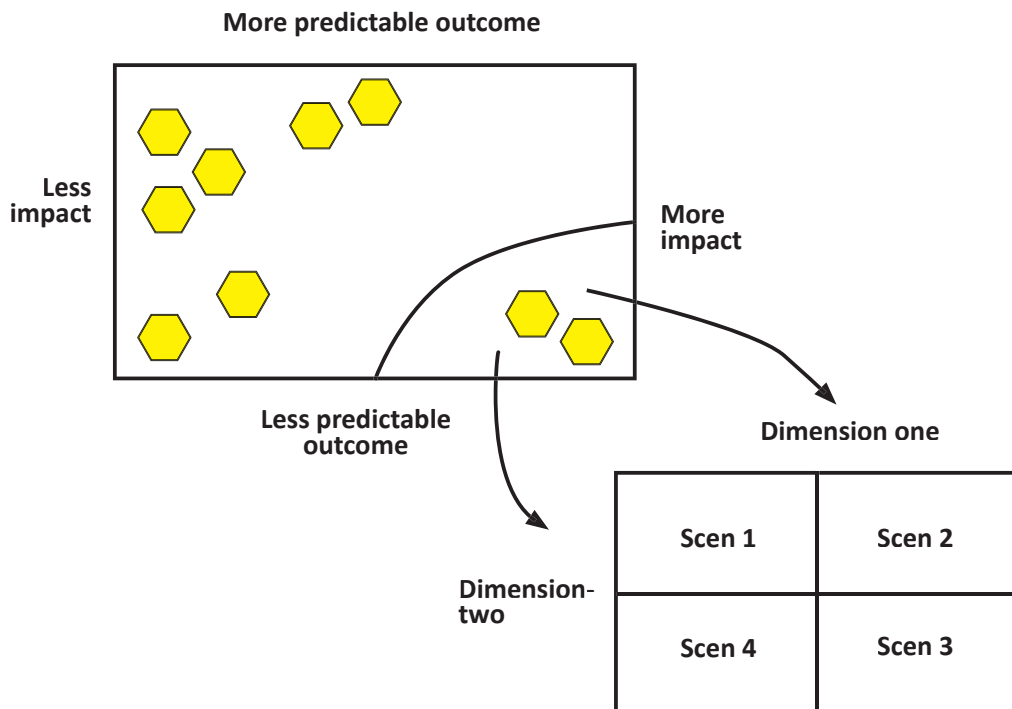
On the method

The approach we use is a so called “deductive approach”. In this approach we try to find two fundamental (less predictable and more impact) uncertain factors and combine them in a rectangular “Scenario Framework”, which results in 4 possible scenario spaces (quadrants).

Scenario space



Scenario design



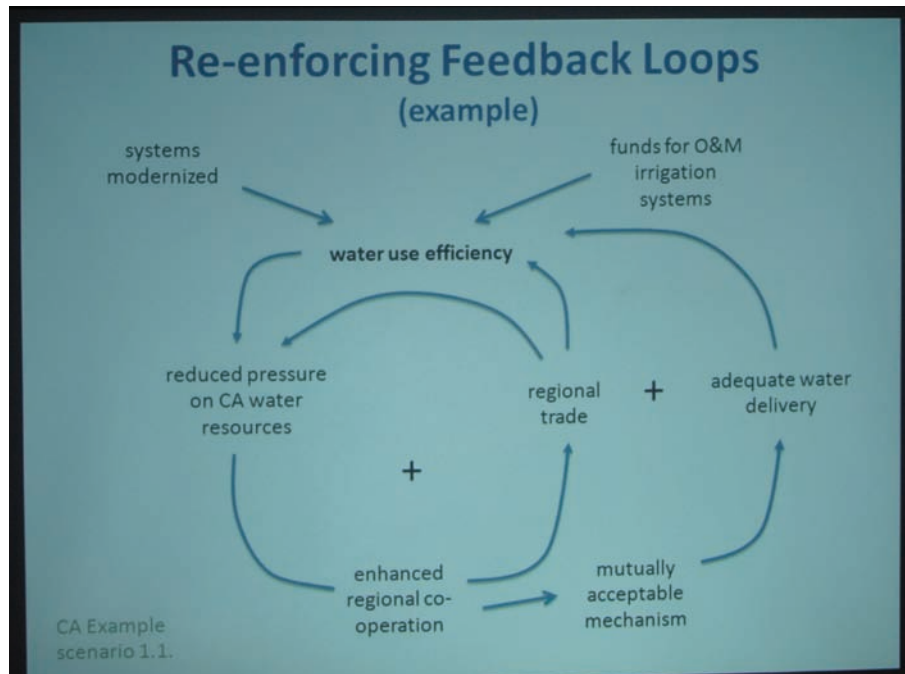
The First regional workshop in the framework of the Project was held in Ankara on **2-4 May 2012**. The workshop was attended by experts of Central Asia and Afghanistan from respective ministries and agencies, regional and non-governmental organizations. The workshop discussed and identified key predetermined and uncertain factors and driving forces affecting the water resources management of the Aral Sea basin. Based on joint discussions a draft scenario frame has been developed. The workshop served as a basis for building first scenario set towards the development of mutually acceptable mechanism on integrated use of water resources in Central Asia.



From May to June 2012, based on the outcomes of the workshop, EC IFAS specialists and FAO international experts conducted the first research phase to gain new insights on dynamics and inter-sectoral relations with regard to the use and protection of shared water resources of the region.

The Second expert regional workshop was held on **July 11-13, 2012** in Ankara. During the workshop, national and regional experts developed a first generation story maps consisting of initial conditions, driving forces and end states. The main factors hampering integrated water resources management (IWRM) in the Central Asia region and proposals for achieving the consensus on the rational use of water and energy resources, improving economic situation and enhancing regional cooperation have also been considered and identified by the workshop participants.

On **23-24 August, 2012*** Ankara hosted the Third regional workshop, where participants discussed and agreed upon a scenario set from pessimistic to optimistic, according to which the water related issues - joint use of water and protection of shared water resources could be developed in Central Asia.



In general, the development of a comprehensive set of scenarios for the Aral Sea basin to enhance regional cooperation will serve as a tool to improve decision-making in developing a mutually acceptable mechanism on integrated use of water resources and environmental protection in Central Asia taking into account the interests of all states of the Region. Project participants will acquire the necessary skills for the future use of the proposed scenario approach to improve decision-making at national and regional levels.

The Scenario Process

- PREPARATION
 - interviews, understanding the problem
 - process design
 - setting the scenario agenda
- SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT (interactive, iterative)
 - predetermined and uncertainties
 - scenario framework
 - analysis, research
 - logics and narratives
 - validation
- DEVELOPING SCENARIO COMMUNICATION PACKAGE
 - scenario booklet and presentations
 - video
 - planning the dissemination process
- SCENARIO USE (“WHAT IF”)
 - capacity building
 - conference
 - various national and regional workshops

**For further information please
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