

Efficiency-oriented water management

From panaceas to actual solutions

12-13 October 2017

Conference Room

Isola di S. Giorgio Maggiore, Venice



Motivation and objective

Coupled with human-induced climate change, increasing population and changing distributions of wealth and consumption boost competition for water and constrains supply for agriculture –the largest user and that concentrating the marginal uses of the resource (IPCC, 2014). In this scenario providing safe, secure and profitable food production while restoring/ensuring the good ecological status of water bodies necessitates higher agricultural productivity. Efficiency-oriented water management, through new technologies and/or water reallocation to more productive uses, creates welfare enhancing opportunities that can be used to address these challenges, and has become a critical target in sustainable development –substantiated in SDG 6.4 (UN, 2015). However, much evidence shows that efficiency centric approaches often lead to water overuse in agriculture, the depletion and pollution of water bodies and degraded riverine and related ecosystems. Sensible and conscientious governance, supported by holistic water resources research (including economic analysis), are necessary to make these opportunities work for individual farmers and society alike (OECD, 2015).

This workshop will examine how economic analysis and instruments can help realize the full potential of efficiency centric catalysts, including but not limited to water markets and subsidies for irrigation modernization. The workshop will leverage on the expertise of leading water researchers from Australia, the US and Europe to identify those factors enabling and preventing successful performance and explore transferability. Discussions are expected to lead to a position paper on the issue. This workshop aspires to be the first one in a series of events that aim to understand the welfare tradeoffs that occur between users from rebalancing their share of available resources.

References

- IPCC, 2014. IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (No. WGII). Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Geneva (Switzerland).
- OECD, 2015. Water Resources Allocation: Sharing risks and opportunities, OECD Studies on Water. OECD Publishing.
- UN, 2015. Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Report), Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. United Nations.

Agenda – Day 1

09:30 – 10:00 *Registration*

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome address**

Carlo Carraro (Ca' Foscari University of Venice and ICCG)

10:15 – 10:30 **Day 1 objectives**

C. Dionisio Pérez-Blanco (CMCC & FEEM)

10:30 – 11:15 **Keynote address – Efficiency-oriented interventions in irrigation management: do they conserve water? ([live broadcast](#))**

Susanne Scheierling (World Bank)

11:15 – 11:45 *Morning tea*

11:45 – 13:15 **Morning session: irrigation modernization and economic instruments – insights from international experience**

Elena López-Gunn (University of Leeds), Chris Perry (independent researcher), David Adamson (University of Adelaide), Claudia Muresan (EC - DG AGRI). Chaired by D. Rey (Cranfield University)

13:15 – 14:15 *Lunch*

14.15 – 15:40 **Round table – Irrigation modernization: empty promises?**

Julio Berbel (University of Cordoba), Chris Perry (independent researcher), C. Mario Gómez (University of Alcalá). Moderated by C. Dionisio Pérez-Blanco (CMCC & FEEM)

15:40 – 16:00 *Afternoon tea*

16:00 – 17:30 **Afternoon session: policy modeling**

Alex Mayer (Michigan Technological University), Elco Koks (ECI – University of Oxford), Julio Berbel (University of Cordoba), Carlo Giupponi (Ca' Foscari University of Venice). Chaired by Jaroslav Mysiak (CMCC & FEEM)

17:30 – 17:40 **Wrap-up of day 1**

20:00 – 22:00 *Dinner*

Agenda – Day 2

09:00 – 09:15 **Synopsis of Day 1 and Day 2 objectives**

C. Dionisio Pérez-Blanco (CMCC & FEEM)

09:15 – 10:00 **Keynote address – Water reallocation: risks and opportunities ([live broadcast](#))**

Guillaume Gruère (OECD)

10:00 – 10:30 *Morning tea*

10:30 – 11:45 **Morning session: water exchanges**

Nina Graveline (French Geological Survey), A. Hrast-Essenfelder (Ca' Foscari University Of Venice & CMCC), Catarina Roseta-Palma (ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Michael Gilmont (ECI – University of Oxford). Chaired by Silvia Santato (CMCC & FEEM)

11:45 – 13:00 **Round table – Water trading and the environment: from private to societal gains**

D. Rey (Cranfield University), David Adamson (University of Adelaide), Alvar Escrivà-Bou (Public Policy Institute of California), Francesco Bosello (CMCC & FEEM). Moderated by C. Dionisio Pérez-Blanco (CMCC & FEEM)

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 15:15 **Joint keynote address – The future of efficiency centric water management: what research is needed, what policies will be delivered ([live broadcast](#))**

Susanne Scheierling (World Bank), Guillaume Gruère (OECD), Riccardo Biancalani (FAO)

15:15 – 15:30 **Wrap-up of the workshop – passing on the torch**

Jaroslav Mysiak and C. Dionisio Pérez Blanco, (CMCC & FEEM)