

# MEDA Water

## Application of Benchmarking to Projects Monitoring

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# What is Benchmarking ?

- Benchmarking can be defined as...
  - a systematic process
  - for securing continual improvement
  - through comparison with relevant and achievable internal or external norms and standards

# What does it mean for MEDA Water Projects ?

- To improve the performance of actions as measured against their goals and objectives
- Benchmarking implies comparison
  - either internally with initial stated and desired future targets
  - or externally against other projects of the programme
- Through both improving performance and comparison, benchmarking differs from performance assessment or verification

# What should be benchmarked ?

## ■ Efficiency

- How well the various activities transformed the available resources into the intended results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness

## ■ Effectiveness

- How far the project's results were used or their potential benefits were realised

## ■ Sustainability

- Whether the positive outcomes of the project are likely to continue after external funding ends and whether its longer-term impact on the wider development process can also be sustained

## ■ Impact

- The extent to which the benefits received by the target beneficiaries had a wider overall effect on larger numbers of people in the sector, region or country

# Examples of benchmarking indicators (1)

Benchmarked Criteria	Examples in the irrigation sector
Efficiency	% of project deliverables / % of resources used
Effectiveness	% of irrigated surface where water demand reduced by 10%
Sustainability	Irrigation fee recovery rate
Impact	% of farmers aware of new standards in wastewater reuse

## Examples of benchmarking indicators (2)

Benchmarked Criteria	Several proposed ISIIMM Indicators
Efficiency	% of project deliverables / % of resources used (financial, human, elapsed time)
Effectiveness	<p>Number of local, national and regional institutions strengthened or created</p> <p>Number of local beneficiaries participating in project meetings</p> <p>Actions to improve irrigation water quality taken over by farmers</p>
Sustainability	<p>% of professionals involved in the project remaining in the irrigation sector after project completion</p> <p><i>Farmer-operated management structure</i></p>
Impact	<p>Number of national programmes setup as a result of the project</p> <p>% of farmers of a command area aware of actions setup by the project</p> <p>Number of website hits and of newsletter copies disseminated</p>

# Project-based Benchmarking Indicators

- Based on the projects work programmes and logical framework matrices, a list of benchmarking indicators will be
  - prepared by RMSU in collaboration with projects in a participatory process
  - validated with the EC
- Projects will then be invited to develop their own benchmarking process
  - not as an external monitoring tool ☹️
  - but as an internal improvement mechanism 😊

# Benchmarking record and feedback

## ■ RMSU will

- keep a record of benchmarking indicators communicated bi-annually by projects
- prepare syntheses for
  - assessing the general progress of the programme in the different vertical areas of action and horizontal domains
  - providing projects with feedback





Thank you for your attention