

**COLLECTIVE ACTION IN PUBLIC IRRIGATION SYSTEMS: DO THEY WORK? A
SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF 202 CASES OF PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT
IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA**

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ABSTRACT

Irrigation management transfer and participatory irrigation management (IMT/PIM) have remained buzz words in the irrigation sector for around 30 years now. However, in spite of years of implementation and hundreds of documented case studies, evidence of impact of IMT/PIM has at best remained sketchy. The purpose of this paper is to fill in some of the gaps left in the previous reviews through a systematic review of 202 case studies of IMT/PIM from 43 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Based on a composite index developed for measuring success majority of cases (64% in Asia, 70% in Africa and 52% in Latin America) were deemed to be failure. It was found that successful cooperative action in large scale public irrigation systems takes place under a set of very context specific and process intensive conditions - conditions that are difficult and costly, if not impossible to replicate elsewhere.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Review of IMT/PIM, Asia, Africa, Latin America