Special Issue

Using Applied Economics to Study Participatory Irrigation Institutions and their Impact in South Asia

Message from the Guest Editors

For many decades, participatory approaches, with their emphasis on farmer-centred management, have been presented as panaceas for overcoming weaknesses in irrigation systems. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) has assumed such a high status that it is regularly mandated by donors sponsoring irrigation upgrades in poor countries. However, the success of PIM is mixed, and economic analysis can help explain why PIM might work in some settings and not in others. This Special Issue focusses on PIM and aims to scrutinise its usefulness particularly in south Asia. The focus on south Asian irrigation is driven by the reality that smallholder agriculture is destined to be the mainstay for this most populous region, at least in the medium term, and finding solutions to raise agricultural productivity is a high priority. Applied economics can shed light on what drives better (or worse) performance in this setting. New Institutional Economics, Game Theory, and Behavioural Economics contributions are particularly useful and welcome.

- Participatory Irrigation Management
- Irrigation Management Transfer
- Water Economics
- New Institutional economics
- Game Theory
- Behavioural Economics

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 May 2020)

Water

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.0
CiteScore 6.7

mdpi.com/si/22359

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In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

Editor-in-Chief

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