

# International Workshop

## Water poverty and social crisis

Perspectives for research  
and action

Agadir – Morocco

12th – 15th december 2005

## Call for Papers

Research on development has addressed, separately, questions of water management and access, and questions of poverty. Each has been accompanied by much public debate. Many meetings have taken place on water, and poverty has been on the agenda of international organizations, including NGOs. However, articulation between modes of organizing water and the persistence of poverty has been relatively neglected in the social sciences. For example, India and Bangladesh in the 1990s was an era of Green Revolution and intensification of irrigation, which seemed to have no effect on the persistence of a stratum of their populations with extreme poverty.

By water poverty we mean the articulation of three dimensions concerning the relations of users and consumers of water:

- Poverty: the poverty of peasants and other users of the water, taking into account the real income and expenses of households and/or individuals.
- Access and exclusion: access without constraints, particularly financial constraints, to water of sufficient quantity and quality over the long term.
- Participation: active and effective participation in the management of the resource, and in administrative, jural, political and economic procedures of decision-making.

How can we articulate research on two essential facets of economic and social development of the South: access to water (domestic, irrigation) and the resolution of social crises?

Those who live in social crisis may not be able to exercise effective demand for water for some uses. The poor do not always have access to water for irrigation, and the water they can get is often just sufficient for domestic uses. This fact means a serious reduction in their productive capacities.. In this context one would raise questions of governance and knowledge, the absence of collective organizations, and the collapse of social capital.

The Workshop will approach the relationship between water poverty and social crises without privileging one factor over the other as explanation. It will try to identify those who are deprived of a water supply, and the constraints that exist among the poor for domestic and productive water. Using comparisons these questions will be discussed at the level of individuals, of households, of social groups, of territorial groups (urban neighborhoods, municipal territories), as well as of populations subjected to grand forms of social exclusion (as in forced migration). The workshop will also examine these matters from the supply and demand point of view.

The workshop will be a venue for a debate between researchers and NGO members (either/or research or action oriented) on the issues of water and/or poverty.

The Workshop will have two distinct time phases. The first two days will be devoted to the presentations of the «academic» contributions of the researchers. The last two days are for the presentations of the communications of the NGO members.

After the workshop a book will be published of selected papers.

Papers can be presented in French, English, or Spanish.

Proposals (a 1 page abstract) would be sent to:  
Nathalie Finot, [nathalie.finot@mpl.ird.fr](mailto:nathalie.finot@mpl.ird.fr) and Habib Ayeb, [Habib.Ayeb@ird.fr](mailto:Habib.Ayeb@ird.fr)

Deadline of reception of the proposals: May 31st 2005

Notification of acceptance: June 30th 2005

Deadline for submitting paper: October 30th 2005

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