

Information Sheet

Growth Long-term Action Research Studies (LARS)



**Research-inspired
Policy and Practice
Learning in Ethiopia
and the Nile Region
(RiPPLE)** is a DFID-
funded Research
Programme Consortium
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Background

The RiPPLE project has initiated a LARS on Growth focusing on how investments in water and sanitation services can contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor growth, where barriers are and what linkages to other sectors need to be developed for this to happen. The second LARS on Access focuses on key processes through which investments in WASH by governments and donors are transformed into services for people.

Objective

The Growth LARS has 4 sub-LARS, focusing each on a specific issues identified in previous RiPPLE phases and through LPAs. Action research is undertaken in collaboration with government and non-government implementing agencies, so as to support them to improve and adjust, if necessary, their ways of working to make best use of water resources, identify ways of addressing barriers encountered, and identify opportunities for replicating positive institutional and implementation arrangements beyond the study areas.

Main research questions

The Growth LARS focuses on four main sub-LARS:

1. **Household Water Economy Assessment (HWEA)**: The objective of the HWEA sub-LARS is to provide an information system and analytical tools to assess water access of different wealth groups at household level within different livelihood zones. Findings and recommendations should contribute to support government and donors in policy, planning and implementing activities towards increasing water security and support households to adapt to climate change impacts.
2. **Climate change adaptation (CC)**: The objective of the CC sub-LARS is to identify which interventions and investments in the water sector enhance adaptation to the impacts of climate variability and change and facilitate the uptake of the findings at local, national and international levels. It will use HWEA baseline data for scenario development aiming at assessing the effectiveness of interventions.
3. **Income Diversification (ID)**: The objective of this sub-LARS is to assess the role of water investments (particularly irrigation) in increasing the resilience of small-scale farmers through income diversification in different agro-ecological settings. It will closely collaborate with the HWEA, CC and Equity sub-LARS.
4. **Equity in Growth**: This sub-LARS addresses how equitable access to multiple water use can be stimulated and facilitated. It will provide information for service providers to plan and provide equitable access to productive water at Wereda level. Besides forging close links to the other sub-LARS within the Growth LARS, the Equity sub-LARS will complement findings from the Wereda Inventory sub-LARS of the Access LARS.

Activities

The HWEA, CC and ID sub-LARS action research has been launched in Oromiya region and the Equity sub-LARS activities were launched in SNNPR. The first phase until April 2009 is concentrating on data collection and analysis, while scenario modelling and testing innovation as well as cross-regional and cross-agency learning will be the focus after April 2009.