



LOCAL WATER USERS' VOICES ON PERCEPTIONS OF EXOGENOUS FACTORS DRIVING WATER INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN IRINGA AND KILOMBERO DISTRICTS, TANZANIA

Devotha B. Masha

Research Scholar, Institute of Continuing Education, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro, Tanzania

ABSTRACT

Although there is substantial institutional changes in the water sector, insights into how exogenous factors influence these changes at local levels to remain insufficiently established, especially in developing countries like Tanzania. This study tries to fill this gap by examining local water users' voices on perceptions of exogenous factors that influence water institutional change. To this end, farmer-managed irrigation schemes from Iringa and Kilombero districts in Tanzania were involved as study cases. A household survey using a structured questionnaire was a major tool for data collection. An in-depth interview with key informants and document analysis carried out to supplement information from the household survey. The results indicate that three-quarter of respondents are aware of changes in water management institutions that occur over time, and only 25% are not aware. Thus, even though local water users have reported being aware of institutional changes in water sector context, it looks as those use water is eye lens blinded with news legal institutions, as they seem to turn away from water regulations and water fees. Some important exogenous factors including drought, human population pressure, irrigation infrastructure development and price changes of irrigated crops seem to influence the availability of water by reducing their amount and hence put additional pressures on rules in-use, which is a basis for institutional changes. This has important implications for institutional and structural transformation narratives. Suggesting that policy and decision makers should take into consideration the implication of exogenous factors on water governance narrates.

KEYWORDS: *Exogenous Factors, Institutional Change, Water Sector, Tanzania*

Article History

Received: 17 Apr 2019 | Revised: 08 May 2019 | Accepted: 17 May 2019
