Emergence of PPPs in irrigation

Historically the public sector has subsidised the major part of irrigation project investments. Numerous collective irrigation areas particularly in Africa (Grande Hydraulique Marocaine [Large-scale Hydro in Morocco] managed by the ORMVAs [Regional Offices for Agricultural Exploitation], the Niger Office in Mali, the SAED [National Society for Development and Exploitation of Delta Land] in Senegal, etc.) have experienced profound management crises due to poor agricultural exploitation, the provision of poor quality irrigation water services and to financial imbalance (receipt of water service charges very much lower than the costs for upkeep and maintenance).

Based on these findings, new management models for irrigation systems have developed. The range of these new concepts is extremely varied, just like the variability of the irrigation projects throughout the world (size and use of the area, historical age, distribution of responsibilities between players, socio-economic profile of the irrigators, socio-cultural factors, etc.).

Nevertheless, two models may be spotlighted by the first recorded successes and the hopes that they are engendering.

Participatory Irrigation Management is typified by the willingness to transfer all or part of the responsibilities of managing the areas to organisational structures managed by the water users: association of water users, association of irrigators, Villagers' Group, etc. This model is highly developed on every continent, particularly for small and medium irrigation systems (up to several hundred hectares) and for rustic infrastructures (no pumping, no need for technical expertise for the farm) and often for small or medium agricultural communities.

For irrigation areas of a larger size and/or with a high demand for technical expertise, combined systems are sometimes put in place. The public sector manages the main infrastructures with the users managing the secondary and/or final infrastructures.

The recent development of Public-Private Partnerships in Irrigation meets different requirements in the sense that, in developing these initiatives, the public authorities seek:

- To accelerate the rate of investment in the sector by attracting private capital and/or by delegating the project management of these areas to the private sector. This model is today only properly developed in Peru and Morocco. Other countries (e.g. Brazil and Egypt) have also launched initiatives in this direction.

- To escape from the recurrent problems of the unsustainable management of large collective areas (often high consumers of annual public operating subsidies) by agreeing contracts with the private sector, which provides entrepreneurial management and an improvement in the quality of the water service.

- To create conditions favourable to the development of commercial agriculture (agro-exporter and/or food producer improving food safety), but requiring a high quality irrigation water service (in terms of continuity of service, satisfaction with the flow rate agreements, pressure, volume metering, etc.).
Public-Private Partnership in Irrigation

The expertise of the BRL Group in PPPs in Irrigation is based on double experience: i) that of a concessionaire in France and abroad and ii) that of an engineering and design office responsible for project organisation.

The BRL group: concessionaire and operator

The BRL Group is:

- The concessionaire of the largest collective irrigation area (100,000 ha) in the Languedoc Roussillon region (France) within the context of an initial contract for a concession of 75 years signed with the Languedoc Roussillon Region as granting authority. The contract is in force until 2051.

- Shareholder of the AMENSOUSS concessionaire, responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance for 30 years of the 10,000 ha citrus fruit cultivation area in Guerdane. The concession contract came into force in 2005.

- Operator within the framework of a management contract, responsible for the supervision of work and the organisation of operations and maintenance during the first 5 years of the operation of the Megech area (Ethiopia). The management contract began in 2012 for a period of 8 years.

BRLIngénierie, PPP structurer

The subsidiary, BRLIngénierie, has been operating for 10 years on initiatives for structuring PPPs in Irrigation at different times in the project cycle:

- By the performance of pre-feasibility studies for PPP projects in countries with varied economic contexts (Malawi, Albania, Tadjikistan, etc.).

- By the performance of feasibility studies providing complete services covering the legal, institutional, technical and financial aspects of the structuring. For this BRL has a stable network of legal and financial partners making it possible to operate in an integral manner in France and abroad.

- By the provision of assistance to the project management for the promotion of the project and the selection of the private partner until the end of the process formalised by the signature of the PPP contract (particularly in Morocco).

- By the provision of consultancy to the administrations of countries committed to the PPP in Irrigation process (Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica, in particular).

- By the organisation of activities promoting the emergence of PPP in Irrigation using different methods such as study trips to existing projects (Morocco, France, Brazil, etc.) in particular.
Public-Private Partnership in Irrigation

Principal references in the structuring of PPPs

- **ALBANIA**: Promotion of PPP in the public irrigation and drainage services, World Bank, (2011-12).

- **MOROCCO**: Study of the structuring and devolution of the PPP project for placing it under the delegated management of the irrigation water service for the Azemmour area, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Marine Fisheries (2010-12).

- **MOROCCO**: Study of the structuring and devolution of the PPP project for placing it under the delegated management of the irrigation water service for the Moulouya area, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Marine Fisheries (2010-12).


- **MOROCCO**: Study of the structuring and devolution of the PPP project for placing it under the delegated management of the irrigation water service for the Gharb area, Rural Engineering Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Marine Fisheries (2009-2011).

- **MALAWI**: Study of the options for setting up a public-private partnership and giving information in terms of investment in the irrigation sector in Malawi, World Bank, (2010-2011).


- **MOROCCO**: Study of the delegation of the water service for the Loukkos area, Rural Engineering Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Marine Fisheries, European Investment Bank (2006-2010).

- **TADJISKISTAN**: Options for PPPs in the public irrigation and drainage services, World Bank, (2012-13).

Consultancy for countries committed to a PPP process

- **BRAZIL**: Support for the Ministry of National Integration for the implementation of the Development Programme for 250,000 ha as a PPP (2011).

- **COSTA RICA**: Preparation of the financing dossier for the drafting of the PPP in Irrigation project with SENARA (National Groundwater, Irrigation and Drainage Service) (2010).

- **VIETNAM AND LAOS**: Organisation of study trips for administration delegations to Morocco (2010-2011).

Public-Private Partnership in Irrigation

Principales References Participatory Management

- **MALI:** Capitalisation on the experiences of the Organisations d’Entretien du RéseauTertiaire (OERT - Tertiary Network Maintenance Organisations) in the Niger Office, French Development Agency (2011)

- **FRANCE:** Aqua Domitia Project (irrigation, protection and safety of the drinking water supply, pressure reduction in natural surroundings): direction of a vast public debate on the opportunity, the objectives and the main characteristics of the project (2011)

- **FRANCE:** Creation of a new Mixed Syndicate type organisation for the project management of agricultural substitution water reserves (2011-12)

- **VIETNAM:** Support for the CPIM (Centre for Participatory Irrigation Management) in two pilot areas with development of the AUEs, French Development Agency (2008-11)

- **ETHIOPIA:** Drafting of the law concerning Water Users Associations, Ministry of Water Resources, World Bank (2009)

- **UZBEKISTAN:** Technical Assistance Project from the Rural Enterprise Support Programme, World Bank (2005-6)

- **FRANCE:** Permanent support for many Property Owner’s Associations. Authorised since the creation of BRL

- **MOZAMBIQUE:** Support for the organisation of the AUE for the D11 in the Chókwè area (1998-2004)

- **MOROCCO:** Development of a training system for AUEs, KfW (1997-2000)

- **ARMENIA:** Creation of Water Users Associations, World Bank (1995)

- **ALBANIA:** Creation of Water Users Associations, World Bank (1994-5)