

# The Water User Association in Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Scheme

Key messages from this experience

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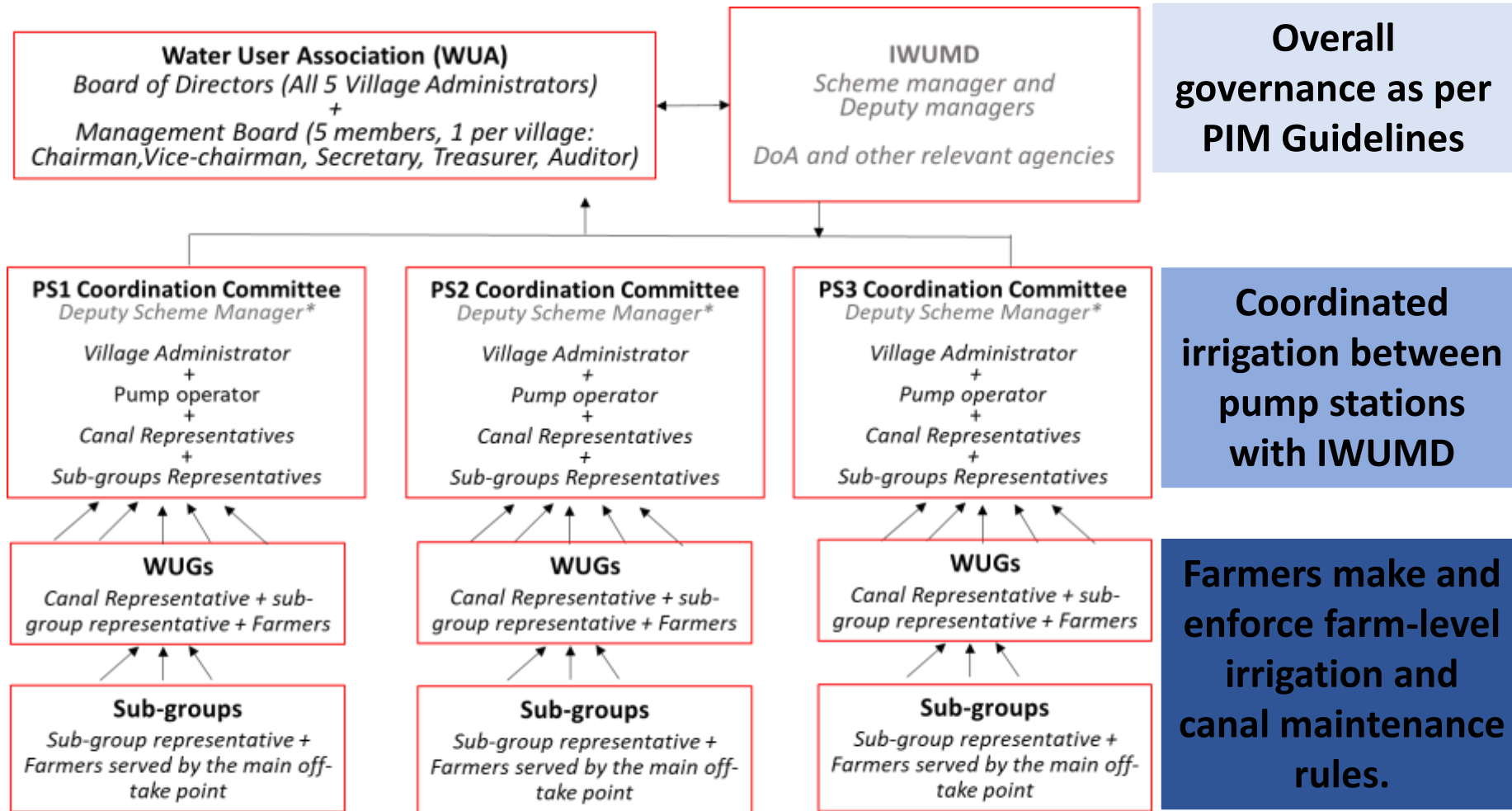


# WUAs: What and Why?

- An umbrella term for different organizational forms.
  - Water users sharing a common irrigation source.
- Intended to
  - a) Improve irrigation performance through farmer participation in scheme management
    - Enough good quality water at the right time
  - b) Reduce financial and administrative burdens for government – farmers manage secondary and tertiary canals, collect irrigation fees
- Globally, WUAs since the late 1970s - mixed results.
- Many studies have looked at why. One main reason is poor implementation:
  - Lack of participatory process - farmers not empowered and trained to make and enforce decisions.



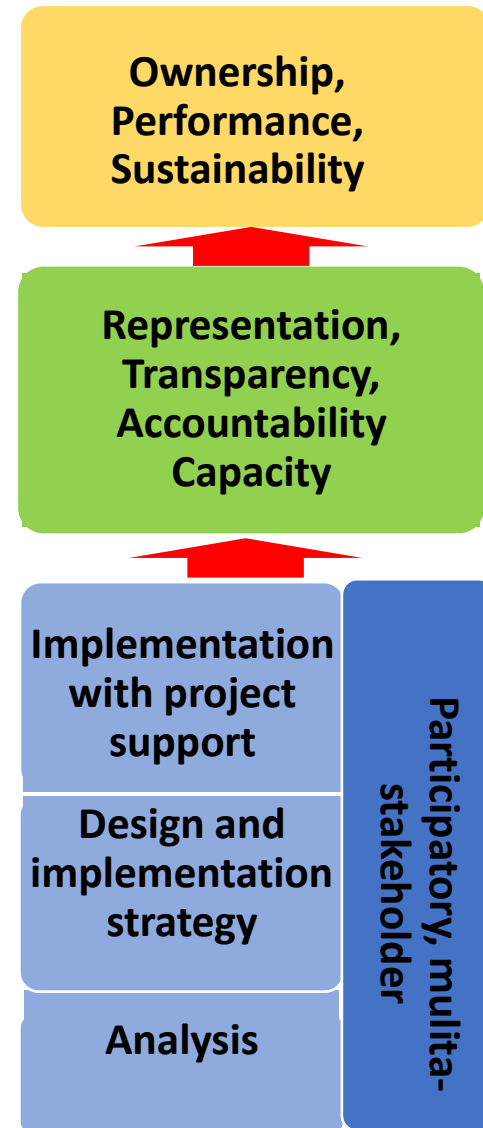
# Multi-layer Structure of the WUA in Pyawt Ywar



\* The deputy scheme manager is not a member of the WUA but sits in the PSCC

# WUAs: How?

- To incentivise farmers and other water users, they must:
  - a) Feel the WUA meets their needs
  - b) Feel they were involved in creating it (ownership)
  - c) Have the capacities to manage it
- How? It is about the process!
  - Follow good governance principles: transparency, equity, accountability, inclusion, respect
  - Understand context – physical + social
  - Bottom-up: Involve stakeholders in each stage, help them to make their own rules and elect their own representatives.
  - Training to support performance of new roles.
- **Challenging:** attitudes, histories, funding, TIME



# WUAs: Achieving their full potential

- Need more than water to optimize scheme performance and improve income and livelihoods
- Good agricultural practices + strong market linkages
  - High value crops e.g. chilli, bitter gourd
  - Lower water demand = lower energy demand = less conflicts during dry season (low water & energy supplies)
- Use WUA to achieve these broader goals
  - WUA + IWUMD = harmonised pumping, maintenance
  - WUA + DoA = better planned cropping, knowledge, yields
  - WUA + markets = prices (collective negotiation), income
  - Equitable distribution of benefits – inclusive membership, transparent decisions, access to inputs, markets.
- But schemes are not islands: need an enabling environment
  - Roads, communication, market centres, finance = investments in regional development.
  - Water, agriculture, land use policies & rules - e.g. land use rules could allow flexibility in what crop is grown.



# Resources online

All material developed under this project are available at:

<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/2019/04/people-power/>

