



17 JUNE
WORLD DAY
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

- Secretary-General's Message for 2016
- *“Protect Earth. Restore land. Engage people”*
- Desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change are interconnected. As a result of land degradation and climate change, the severity and frequency of droughts have been increasing, along with floods and extreme temperatures. More than 50 per cent of agricultural land is moderately or severely degraded, with 12 million hectares lost to production each year.
- The livelihoods and well-being of hundreds of millions of people are at stake. Nearly 800 million people are chronically undernourished as a direct consequence of land degradation, declining soil fertility, unsustainable water use, drought and biodiversity loss. Over the next 25 years, land degradation could reduce global food productivity by as much as 12 per cent, leading to a 30 per cent increase in world food prices.



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- Without a long-term solution, desertification and land degradation will not only affect food supply but lead to increased migration and threaten the stability of many nations and regions. This is why world leaders made land degradation neutrality one of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. That means rehabilitating at least 12 million hectares of degraded land a year.
- One important approach is sustainable, climate-smart agriculture. This will not only help communities to build resilience to climate change, it will also support mitigation by taking carbon from the atmosphere and putting it back in the soil. The transition to sustainable agriculture will also alleviate poverty and generate employment, especially among the world's poorest. By 2050, it could create some 200 million jobs across the entire food production system.
- Our theme for this year's World Day to Combat Desertification is: "Protect Earth. Restore land. Engage people." On this Day, I urge cooperation among all actors to help achieve land degradation neutrality as part of a broader effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build a future of dignity and opportunity for all.
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- *Ban Ki-moon*



Synthesis of recommendations from yesterday's workshop

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NRD - UNISS

Key slogans/keywords framing our discussion

- Understanding the combating desertification
- Land degradation neutrality
- Protect earth restore land engage people
- Water is not a **sector** but a **connector**
- Little water in dryland but water!
- Science policy interface is still critical
- Maintaining current resources may not be sufficient
- Climate is changing while we discuss...
- Another 20 ha of fertile land is consumed in Lombardy in these two days...

**Improve
communication
and information**

**Invest on
capacity building
and education**

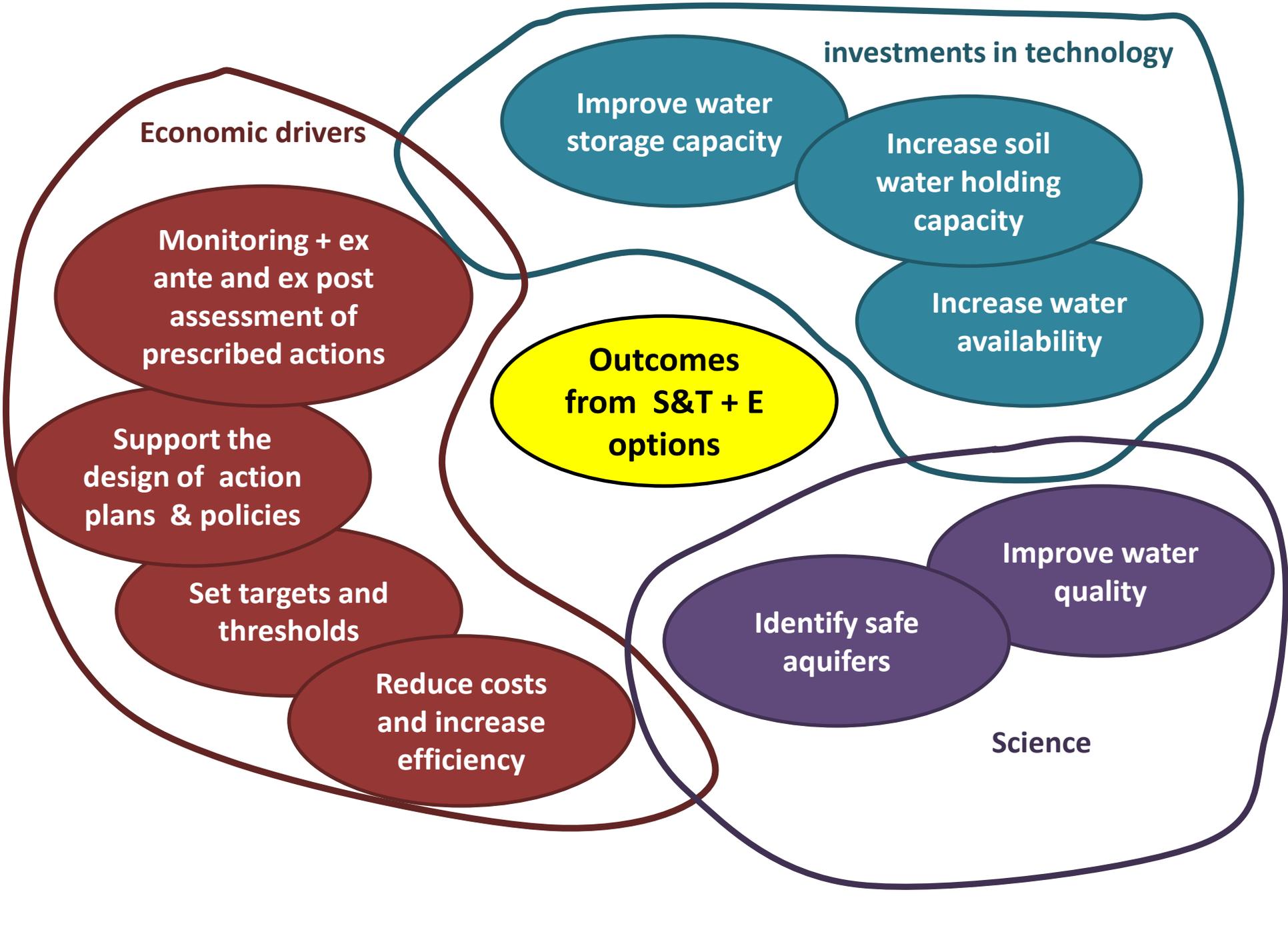
**Invest on well
designed social
learning spaces**

**Engage
stakeholders**

Options

**Economic
drivers**

**Science and
Technology**



Economic drivers

Monitoring + ex ante and ex post assessment of prescribed actions

Support the design of action plans & policies

Set targets and thresholds

Reduce costs and increase efficiency

investments in technology

Improve water storage capacity

Increase soil water holding capacity

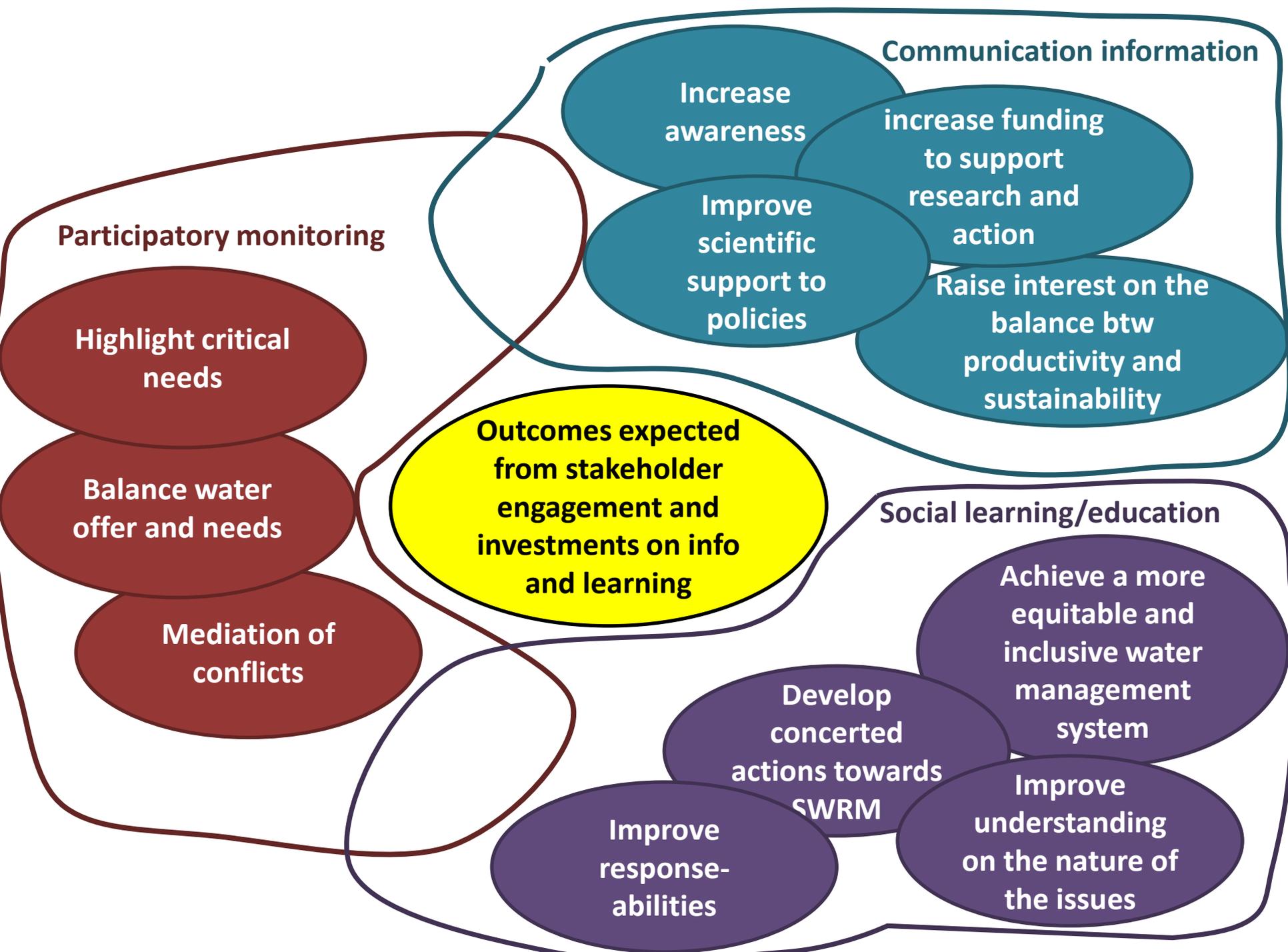
Increase water availability

Outcomes from S&T + E options

Identify safe aquifers

Improve water quality

Science



Participatory monitoring

Highlight critical needs

Balance water offer and needs

Mediation of conflicts

Outcomes expected from stakeholder engagement and investments on info and learning

Communication information

Increase awareness

increase funding to support research and action

Improve scientific support to policies

Raise interest on the balance btw productivity and sustainability

Social learning/education

Achieve a more equitable and inclusive water management system

Develop concerted actions towards SWRM

Improve understanding on the nature of the issues

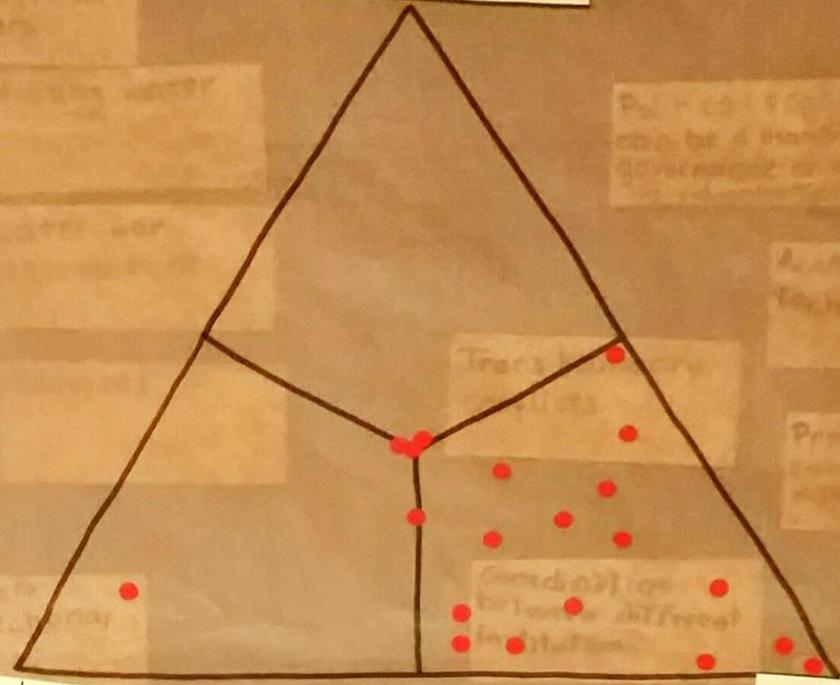
Improve response-abilities

Most obstacles in implementing effective water management solutions come from

lack of technical knowledge

economical constrains and uncertainties

governance



Most obstacles in implementing effective water management solutions come from

lack of technical knowledge

Scientists have to be in the middle between rural people and politicians

We need to know more about hydrologic system resilience

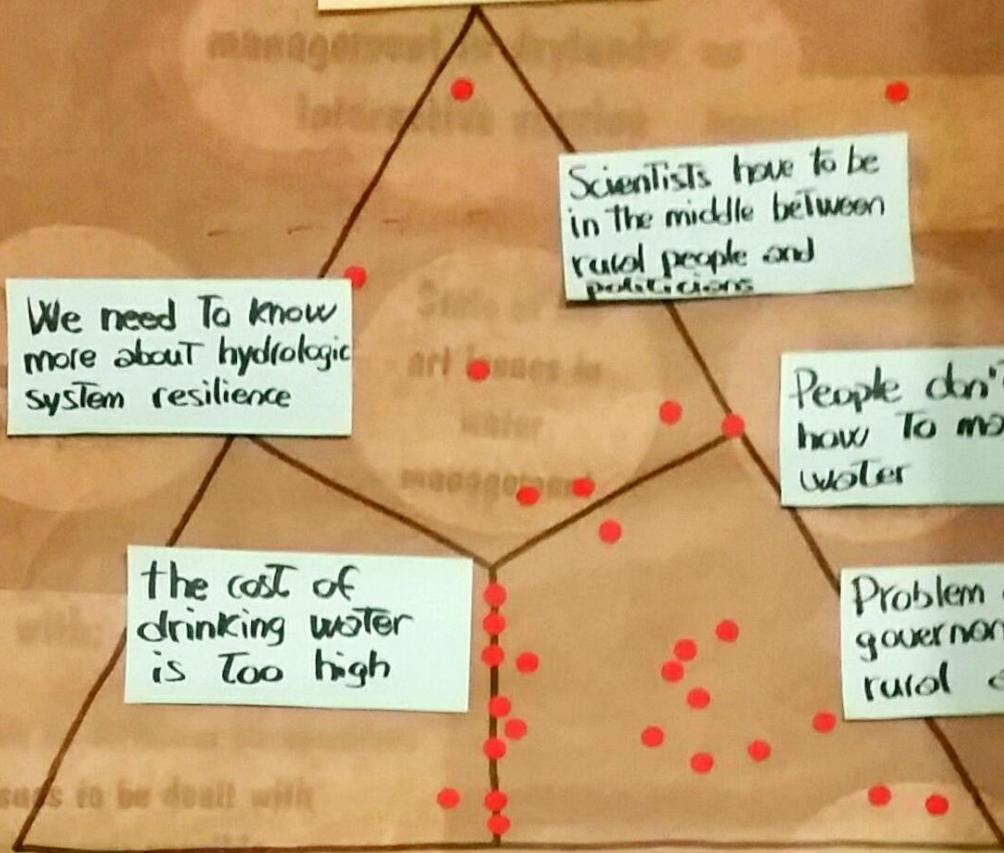
People don't know how to manage water

The cost of drinking water is too high

Problem of governance in the rural areas

economical constraints and uncertainties

governance



Conflicts

**Competition
between water
users**

**Trans-boundary
conflicts**

**Conflicts
between up and
downstream
users**

**Ecological
constraints**

**Water quality
cannot be easily
managed or
controlled**

**Short term vision
monodirectional
politics**

**Overlapping of
responsibilities
between different
governing bodies**

**Politics and
governance**

Politics and Economics

**Privatization of
water**

**Increasingly
high water price**

Obstacles

**Socio-cultural
aspects**

**Access to
technology**

R&D

Multidisciplinary
in research and
education

Collaboration btw
institutions and
organizations

Acknowledge
the values of
interdisciplinary
scientific careers

Deepen debate on
water economic
values before
setting prices

Recommendations

Increase
awareness
through mass
media

SH engagement
& networking

Develop
networks at
catchment scale

Involve
stakeholders in
research and
policy design

Develop
research
networks

Follow-up

- Project ideas and partnerships
 - Focus on S&T (eg modelling) and technology
 - water re-use, MAR, desalinization, aquifer characterization, climate change adaptation
 - District/catchment scale oriented to appreciate complexity, interdependencies, uncertainties and controversies
 - Education/Capacity building
 - Information, communication, dissemination
 - Stakeholder engagement

Follow-up

- Communication/Information
 - Engage mass media to target audience
 - Educational networks
 - Citizens and stakeholders in targeted countries
 - Policy makers
 - Write a multi-authored position paper (?)
 - Write policy briefs