

# Nepal Irrigation Institution Study (NIIS)

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# Historical Perspective on NIIS

- **Lin Ostrom** and team were undertaking study on Decentralization and Local Financing in Local Infrastructure Development in Bangladesh under USAID in early 1980s.
- As a continuation of that study, USAID invited **Lin Ostrom** and Team to undertake study of Decentralization in Nepal. (Larry Schroeder, Syracuse University and Jim Thompson, ARD)

# Cont'ed

- She felt that Nepal has most centralized decentralization, hence she thought of undertaking study in other area. She was already undertaking study of Institutions of Commons
- I had opportunity to meet **Dr. Ostrom** in the seminar organized by Ministry of Local Development, Nepal and USAID Nepal in 1989.



# My meeting with Lin Ostrom

- After Seminar, Dr. George Taylor, in-charge of Forestry Program of USAID invited me at dinner where **Lin Ostrom** was also present. It was quiet dinner with intense discussion on local institutions in Nepal.
- Since 1979-80, I was working on local Institutions and local resources mobilization
- (Local Institutions and People's Participation in Public Works in Nepal published by RDC, Cornell University) Since 1980's, I started to do study on irrigation systems from management perspectives focusing more on organization and institutions.

# Patterns of Irrigation Organization, Comparative Study of 21 FMIS in Nepal

- I knew Lin only by name but personally met until she visited to Nepal.
- After long discussion at Taylor's dinner party, next morning she came to my IIMI office. I made her available a number of case studies that we (**Bob Yoder** and myself) prepared over period of time.

# Available case studies during her visit

- **Chhatis Mauja** Case study by Prachanda Pradhan
- **Robert Yoder and Ed Martin**, PhD thesis on Argeli and Chherlung
- Rapid Appraisal by Ed. Martin and Robert Yoder
- **Rabi Laitos et.al.1986**. Rapid Appraisal of Irrigation Systems in Nepal, Water Synthesis Project, Colorado University.

# Con'ted

- **Rapid Appraisal** of 19 Systems of Sindhupalchowk study (Assistance to FMIS)
- ISG of IAAS, Rampur, Inventory of Irrigation Systems in East Rapti, Chitwan, Nepal, **Ganesh Shivakoti** lead person, IIMI support (like IPC of Philippines)
- In her first visit, she collected 135 case studies



# Con'ted

- **Dhading** District Irrigation Inventory was also secured.
- Base for the information collection was already there.
- Idea of data Base came into existence. **John Ambler** of Ford Foundation supported the idea of data base preparation, funding support was made

# Work at Indiana and Rampur

- Inventorised the information of irrigation systems thus far collected. Many of those cases are catalogued at Workshop Library
- (Key note speech: How FMIS build social capital outperform AMIS that rely on physical capital) 2002.
- (Webpage: **[prachandashare.wordpress.com](http://prachandashare.wordpress.com)**)
- Codification format was prepared
- Updating the information thus collected and selected systems were again field verified in collaboration between ISG of Rampur and Indian Team.
- Thus, NIIS came into existence.

# Study based on large number of Case Studies

- Previously, studies are based on intensive case study of one or two studies like the study of Robert Hunt, etc. They are classical studies but of small number.
- My study was of 21 systems comparative study (Pattern of Irrigation Organization)
- Lin undertook study of over 231 systems (183 and 46 AIMS) and established Design Principles of Irrigators Organization with multiple variables comparison

# NIIS as Data Bank

- This data bank was stored in Workshop Library in **Indiana University and Rampur Campus, Chitwan**, Nepal However, Rampur went through a number of transitions .
- Access to data bank is on personal contacts.
- Whether it has to have open access or guided access??

# View of Changes





# Time to Updating

- Since its establishment, it has been over a quarter century. Many changes have taken place in Nepal irrigation sector and rural life.
- Who should take lead in updating the NIIS?
- Many scholars have taken advantage of NIIS for their PhD studies and other scholarly researches.
- I felt limitations while I was doing study on irrigation and hydropower relating water right, basin management, water share, etc.

# How Do We Do Updating of Data Base?

- Should We do it at all?
- What should be our purpose?
- How can we make sure dynamism of institutional change and adaptation captured in updating the data?