

Developing the extension services in Tajikistan

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In Tajikistan, the extension service department is established in the **Provincial Water Management Organization** for consulting services to farmers on matters of efficient irrigation water use and for training the consultants of existing consulting organizations (Fig. 4.24).

At present, the insufficient development of the WUAs in Tajikistan and the existence of large dekhkan farms (collective farms) do not allow establishing the extension services only in the frame of WUAs. In addition, the extension services aimed at improving activity in the agrarian sector are being intensively developed in the province under consideration.

Existing extension services in this province are mainly focused on economic, legal and land treatment issues. The extension services for farmers and WUAs focused on water management and irrigation are practically absent. Such an extension service can be organized as the NGO under the umbrella of PWMO. Local specialists who are engaged in implementing the IWRM-Fergana Project can staff this organization since they already participate in activity of various CECI projects in the agrarian sector, DPSSA-NAU and WUAs.

In our opinion, the key staff of extension service should consist of three specialists (irrigation engineer, agronomist and entomologist); and besides them, economist and lawyer can be included into the staff. This extension service will cover all private farms and WUAs over the whole province under cooperating with all pilot projects and their consultants and coordinating by the Khakimiat and Ministry of Agriculture.

The extension service will be responsible for implementing the following activities:

- Conducting the training seminars for farmers and specialists of WUAs;
- Preparing the manuals on rational scheduling the water allocation process, effective use of irrigation water at the field level, enhancing water and land productivity, establishing the irrigation water accounting system;
- Monitoring irrigation water use and agricultural methods in private farms;
- Drafting the thematic booklets and their dissemination among farmers at the training seminars and through various agricultural and water agencies;
- Training trainers of the extension services and pilot projects who work directly with farmers and WUAs;
- Technical assistance to specialists of the extension services and pilot projects who work directly with farmers and WUAs;
- Analyzing and assessment of monitoring data on irrigation water use and its productivity; and
- Establishing the information database comprising data on private farms, normative indicators, existing “bottlenecks” for analyzing and assessment of the current status of water use and irrigation water productivity.

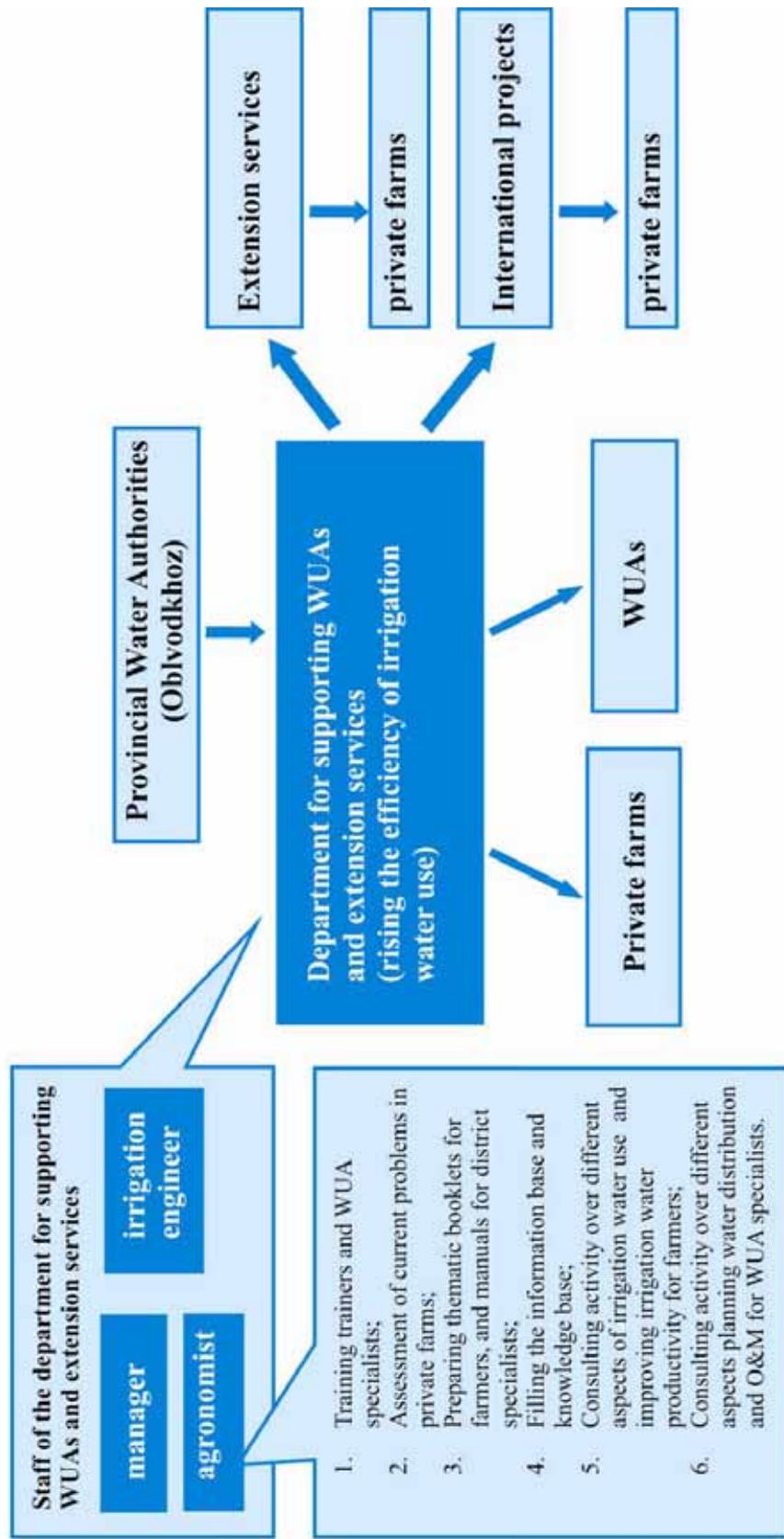


Figure 4.24 Institutional Framework of Extension Services in