

## Applied Research

### Introduction

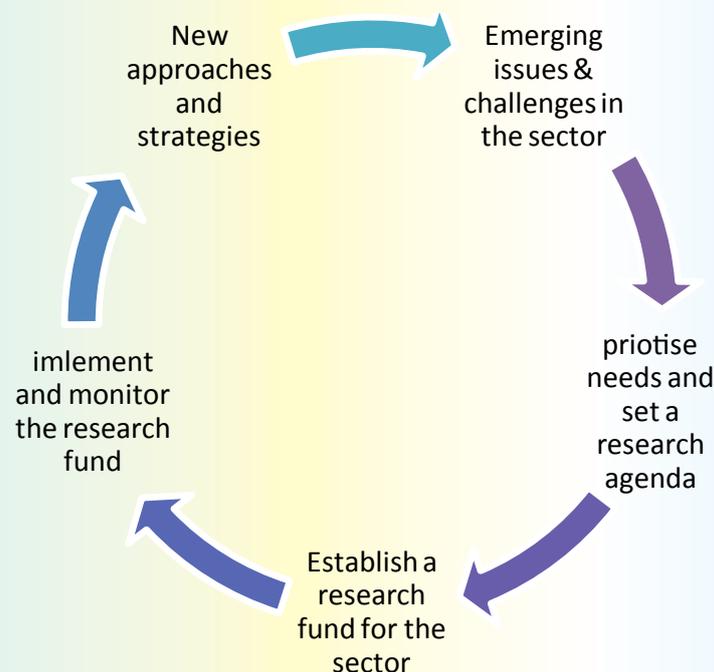
Applied research is a practical problem-solving process that applies innovation to existing water resources and environment challenges faced by the country. By generating evidence through applied research, the Water and Environment sector will articulate and exemplify its contribution to national development.

The Water Resources Institute (WRI) will coordinate the planning, implementation and application of applied research, by supporting the use of innovative knowledge and technologies in the creation of useful evidence, products, services and processes for water resources development and environment management.

At the WRI, applied research shall be central to development and delivery of capacity building through Applied Training, dialogues, and outreach, leading to a more formalised process of knowledge generation and evidence-based decisions in policy formulation and review.

WRI will harness the strength of applied research to: increase the prioritisation of research; putting research into use; coordination, where fragmentation and lack of harmonisation exist in the sector; undertake cross sector research; increase innovations in water and environment management; provide opportunity to test new approaches where existing ones are being overtaken by modernisation. Applied research will also be used to tackle challenges within the Water and Environment sector that limit effective action and response to emerging issues and information needs of the various stakeholders.

### Approach



## **Applied research will be undertaken following a systematic process:**

1. Determine emerging issues and challenges that inform research needs for the sector.
2. Prioritise needs and set a research agenda for the sector.
3. Establish a sector research fund to support designing of innovation and action learning projects in relation to the research agenda.
4. Conduct and monitor applied research projects.
5. Design new approaches and strategies for the sector after policy dialogue and building necessary capacity.

## **Implementation of Applied Research**

The Water Resources Institute will use a phased approach to implementation of applied research in the short, medium and long term, as indicated below:

### **Short term**

The WRI will focus on understanding and defining the current research needs relating to water resources and environmental management and sustainability. Several research interventions are currently ongoing or undertaken by different sector institutions including donors and Civil Society Organisations (CSO). Based on an inventory of the available applied research, the Institute will play a key role in harmonising the process by setting up a research agenda that feeds directly into the sector strategy with the goal to improve policy and practice.

The Institute will focus on a few select areas that directly relate to topic sector challenges that include water quality, sustainable ground water management, climate change impacts, and economic value of water and environmental resources on national economy.

### **Medium and long-term**

The Institute will evolve into a wider research institute for water resources development, environment management and sustainability. The institute will integrate modelling as part of the applied research covering specific regions or the whole country in order to develop scenarios for planning purposes.

Applied research will also focus on sustainable production and appropriate technological solutions, skills and approaches. The Institute shall provide cutting edge skills in areas such as water reuse/recycling, and facilitate the development and scaling up of appropriate technology efficient tools for water and environment resources use.

The WRI will establish a research fund to support sector professionals in designing and implementing applied research that supports innovative ideas to address contemporary challenges in the sector.

The Institute will collaborate with research and academic institutions to promote joint proposal writing for researches. and utilise the professionals in the universities and retired professionals to participate in research and outreach activities.

The results will be packaged and used to inform policy dialogue, training and awareness raising, development of information materials and policies.

For more information, find us on

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