

## UNPACKING THE STRATEGIES OF POLICY ENTREPRENEURS IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT TRANSFER IN MEXICO

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### Abstract

In the 1980s, the Mexican government adopted a vision of privatizing public sectors. At that time, the Mexican irrigation districts (ID) depended on the government and suffered economic shortcuts dedicated to maintenance and operation purposes, producing deterioration of the hydro-agricultural infrastructure. In 1989, the Mexican government started the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program of the Mexican Irrigation Districts (ID) as a measure to reduce public spending. The objective of the study is to identify policy entrepreneurs' strategies in the Mexican IMT using the theoretical framework proposed by Huitema et al. (2010). The research identifies through a bibliographic review who the policy entrepreneurs were and what strategies were used to implement the IMT program in Mexico. It was found that the IMT approach came from outside Mexico. The actors identified as policy entrepreneurs were the World Bank-EDI, Senior CNA officials, international irrigation experts, influence farmers, donor advisors, and consultants. Three epistemic communities were recognized as coalitions. Moreover, the identified window of opportunity was the political and economic crisis of the late 1980s. Also, the management of the networks occurred even before the start of the IMT process, with recommendations from the World Bank and the FAO for a change in the Mexican irrigation policy in order for the Mexican government to be a creditor of loans. Finally, the shopping of venues was mainly done through irrigation policy debates, where ideas were disseminated and subsequently adopted in the Mexican case.

**Keywords:** Irrigation Management Transfer, policy entrepreneurs, policy change.