

Spanish Irrigation country case study – presentation

International Institute for Sustainable
Development (IISD)

Global Subsidies Initiative



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Subsidies
Initiative

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Institute for
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durable
Better living for all—sustainably



Introduction

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

- IISD is in the business of promoting sustainable development
- Policy research institute
- Partners with over 200 organizations on various projects



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IISD and its Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI)

Subsidies and sustainable development

- Subsidies can be a legitimate tool of public policy
- GSI works on subsidies which are significant, under researched and can have trade distorting effects; or undermine environmental sustainability
- It's a question of weighing up the costs and benefits



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Aims of the Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI)

The objectives of the research program

- Lifting the definitional fog on subsidies - getting debate and analysis in the same language
- Improving data on the scale and impact of subsidies in selected sectors, irrigation, energy etc.
- Improving reporting of subsidies at the national level, in the WTO and other forums



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Why are we interested in measuring irrigation subsidies?

Managing future water supply and demand issues

- Irrigation: 70 to 90 percent of total water use in developing countries and for more than one third of water use in many OECD countries
- Irrigated agriculture occupies only about 17 per cent of the planet's cultivated land but provides about 40 per cent of the world's food supply
- In addition to helping increase agricultural productivity and agricultural production, irrigation has also been credited with several other socio-economic benefits
- There are environmental externalities which need to be assessed and internalized



Quantifying Irrigation Subsidies

Providing information for policy makers

- A clear conceptual framework has not existed to estimate the various components making up an irrigation subsidy
- The GSI have developed a framework for measuring irrigation subsidies – The GSI's Method for quantifying irrigation subsidies
- It does not encompass all components for measuring irrigation subsidies and could be expanded to include additional ones
- A consensus on an acceptable definition of irrigation subsidies and their methods of measurement is important to make estimates meaningful, comparable and useful across nations
- Better information and a better quality public debate is key to sustainable irrigation policies



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What is planned

Developing a network of organizations concerned about the issue

- Governments are encouraged to make more information and data on this issue available publically
- A country study on India will be published adopting the GSI method for quantifying irrigation subsidies
- We hope to use the GSI methodology to conduct other country case studies
- We hope other organizations will become interested in this issue



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www.globalsubsidies.org

http://www.globalsubsidies.org/files/assets/irrig_Spain.pdf

http://www.globalsubsidies.org/files/assets/pb8_irrigation.pdf

Thank you!



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