

ARIGA PROJECT: CETRAD & ICRAF

RESULTS TRANSFER WORKSHOP FOR THE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE MERTI AQUIFER

Workshop Report



Report prepared by

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**SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2014, TRANSIT HOTEL,
ISIOLO**

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the ARIGA Project in a nutshell

The research organizations engaged in the ARIGA project included: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), University College of London, Training and Research Support Centre, Acacia Water, Centre for Training and Integrated Research in Arid & Semi Arid Lands Development (CETRAD). The project had a timeline of one year and commenced in June 2013 and is scheduled to be completed by December 31st 2014.

The Merti aquifer in Northern Kenya is a fossil groundwater body, which supports local communities and also people living in the world's largest refugee camp at Dadaab. The use of the aquifer may have reached unsustainable levels because abstractions exceed the known recharge, a situation, which may further aggravate with plans for further groundwater development to supply urban water to the city of Wajir.

ARIGA aims to develop a novel approach for projecting the impact of groundwater development projects that does justice to the multiple uncertainties that accumulate along the entire socio-hydrological impact-pathway. This approach starts with mapping out the impact pathway, starting with the investment or management decisions that will affect the hydrological system through to the likely impacts on the livelihoods of water users. It models and assesses the probability of envisaged outcomes, using quantitative estimates of the uncertainty of individual variables in this socio-hydrological system. The approach provides a tool which allows for any factor which is deemed important in the impact pathway to be considered, no matter how uncertain or difficult to measure it may be. The research presents an approach to address uncertainties around ground water development and applies this to model the uncertainties around investment in development of the Merti Wajir Water pipeline project.

Recent devolution of government authority to county level also leads to a spur of local aspirations and plans for water development that is likely to affect the use of the Merti aquifer. The second part of the research aims to assess the impacts of these various plans and aspirations and review the effectiveness of the devolved political and water management institutions to effectively manage the sustainable use of the groundwater.

1.2 Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop was to share results of the ARIGA project carried out in the Merti aquifer region, with the aim of increasing the knowledge of the various local stakeholders (all communities in the Merti aquifer) on the Merti Wajir Water Pipeline Project. ARIGA project implemented by ICRAF and CETRAD carried out extensive research in the Merti at three levels: 1) the hydrogeological surveys; 2) Business feasibility and 3) community surveys. The second objective of the workshop was to acquire feedback from the participants in regards to the findings and finally to allow participants to validate the findings by in-depth discussions in the plenary sessions. The objectives were achieved through power point presentations and lectures as well as plenary discussions that gave room for question and answer sessions from the stakeholders and the research team.

1.3 Workshop participation and organization

The workshop attracted participants from all the six clusters (developed by ARIGA research team) included: cluster 1: Gotu springs; Cluster 2: Kubikalo, Kom ; Cluster 3: Malkagala Basa; Cluster 4: Modogash; Cluster 5 Habaswein and Cluster 6: Wajir. Cluster 7: Daadaab, was not represented due to the fact that the research team could not access the area due to security and logistical reasons. It was anticipated that each cluster would field at least three participants (local administration leader – chiefs and sub chiefs, woman representative, male representative). In total, the workshop saw a total of 30 participants attending from all the six clusters (19men and 11 women), which reflected the interest by the local stakeholders of the ARIGA results. The complete list of participants is given in Appendix 2.

1.4 Workshop programme

The programme for the workshop is given in Appendix 1. The major issues addressed within the three sessions of the workshop included:

- Session I: Welcome of the participants and the introductory statements of the workshop: session chaired by Alex Oduor of ICRAF.
- Session II: Findings of the ARIGA Project: The session was chaired by Dr. Kiteme and involved presentations of the findings of the ARIGA project coupled with plenary discussions of the findings by the participants

- Lessons learnt and way forward: the session was chaired by Alex Oduor and involved further discussions on the project, evaluation of the workshop participants' perceptions on the project and the way forward.

1.4 Official Welcome and Opening of the Workshop

The Director of CETRAD (Dr. Boniface Kiteme) formally opened the workshop. In his remarks, he elaborated on the ARIGA project, how it was developed, the partners and the work they have been involved in within the Merti Aquifer. He also gave a brief relationship between CETRAD's long term work and experience spanning over three decades within the Ewaso Ngiro Basin as key critical ingredients to having concrete findings to share with the participants. Upon opening the workshop, Sarah Ogalleh took over to elaborate on the programme of the day. Upon completion of the day's programme outline, the presentations of the workshop followed. The presentations were done by Boniface Kiteme and Sarah Ogalleh, which opened up room for discussions.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Knowledge about the Merti Wajir Water Pipeline Project by local stakeholders

From the insights of the results, 68% of respondents did not know about the project plans, even though the project was planned to be implemented in the area (Merti aquifer, Habaswein). From this observation, majority of the communities were against this project, owing to the fact that it was a 'white elephant' not known to them and therefore likely to pose risks to the entire community. In addition, ARIGA results also revealed that among those community members that were knowledgeable of the project, majority of them got to do so through informal means such as word of mouth, which reflects the likelihood of misinformation. Generally, the analysis of results demonstrated a total lack of consultation of the local communities by the Government, through which the project is to be implemented.

2.2 Sustainability of Water for Habaswein and Wajir

With the growing demands for water resources in the Merti, particularly in Wajir that lacks a sewerage system due to lack of water, ground water (aquifer waters) was the main subject of the ARIGA project research. Upon completion of the presentation, the participants agreed with most results but also raised the issue of sustainability (i.e. is the water enough for the Habaswein people, the Wajir people and all the people along the pipeline if it is implemented?)

In responding to this question, Dr. Kiteme elaborated further on the hydro geological results, which depicted that water would be available until 2050 and this is when, there could be some

Community feedback workshop Report, Transit Hotel, 30th September, 2014

drawdown drop by 10 metres. However, some participants, were of the opinion that water should not be tapped from the aquifer, instead, argued that if the government indeed had funds for the water project, they should then invest in pumping water from Lake Turkana and Lake Victoria that have massive amounts of water.

2.3 The supporters and opposers of the Project

After explanation on the project results from the local perspectives, the strongest supporters of the project were from Modogashe followed by Wajir (this could be associated with the nearness of the two places to each other, and also, for Wajir, the project was believed to benefit them rather than other sites). While the research findings also revealed that Habaswein constituted the biggest group of community who strongly opposed the project, other opposers came from Merti and Gotu clusters. Particularly, the opposition from Merti and Gotu was pegged on the fact that the communities did not have sufficient knowledge of the project and in that case, they were uncertain of how the project would affect their existent water sources such as the Merti borehole and Gotu springs respectively. In general, the fear of exhausting water for the current communities while also risking water resources for the future generation was the pillar of the discussions on sustainability of the project by the communities.

2.4 The role of local leadership in disseminating information

According to insights from the participants, there were thoughts that the Merti Wajir Water Pipeline Project was being supported by an NGO, but upon presentation of the ARIGA results, the communities realized that the project is a government of Kenya initiative. In this case, the role of the local leadership was identified as the key avenue through which knowledge and information on the project can be easily disseminated through the chief's barazas and other meetings.

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS: QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

3.1 Questions from participants and answers from researchers

Chief of Habaswein – Khalif: I know that we are the ones in Habaswein that are against the project, but now I know that there is no need to worry and my work is to go back and tell them this. But my question is, they people in Habaswein are saying, the first borehole to be drilled in Habaswein was drilled at 158meters, but now in 2014, the water was drilled at 220. So my people are saying there is a possibility that if there is another borehole to be drilled in Habaswein to serve the Wajir people, it will cause water to go down. SO tell me, what shall I tell them to answer this question they still have?

Kiteme: below the ground, there is water (aquifer) in this case, it's the Merti aquifer. As of now, there are discussions to determine that there is plenty of water underground in two layers, and that there is also a possibility that we are tapping water from the first layer, but have not reached the second layer.

I would like to ask the chief to send me the report with the findings that inform you and the people of Habaswein so that we also get informed more. I am not refuting the fact that you are raising.

We can also check with WRMA offices with the exact measurements. There are many factors that can make the borehole drawdown to go down rather than water usage only.

Participant: didn't hear the question

Commissioner: I can contribute something here, I know the story of the Masinga dam, when the leader was asked about water, and he responded with a metaphor:

When three people are sharing a bed, there is one side on every side and there is another one in the middle, suppose there was pulling of blankets between the two people on the sides, does the middle person get worried? No, he doesn't, because, they blanket will anyway, cover the middle person, so he does not have to worry. So the people of Modogashe are in the middle and will easily benefit from water that passes them to Wajir??

Participant: I know there are issues of climate change and this can affect the water, what can you say about this? I also hear there are mega dams that are in the plan to be constructed upstream, so if this occurs, what and how will it affect the Merti aquifer and water sustainability?

Kiteme: There is a high relationship between the rains and the water that recharges the ground, but if there is climate change,. For the mega dams, if they are constructed with all the information given on mega dams, they can or may not cause any problems, however, if they are constructed without much information behind it, then there is a problem. This is where education and awareness on information, research is necessary.

Participant: I want to ask the issue of water from Merti aquifer, is it possible to get the water elsewhere instead of Merti aquifer? Isn't there any other place that water can be gotten and tapped to Wajir?

Kiteme: from the underground aquifers, Merti aquifer has the most water from the research findings. The water can be tapped from Lake Turkana, Lake Victoria and Merti and Wajir (using Community feedback workshop Report, Transit Hotel, 30th September, 2014

a map simulation on the flip chart). From the results, you can see that people are not ready to pay so many costs for a length of 120 meters of water piping, how about when the water is piped for over 800km, will the people be willing to pay more for this water?

Participant: I still feel that Turkana has more water than Merti, so I still feel the water should be piped for the 800km you have said rather than use the water from Merti

Kiteme: The Merti aquifer has the most water, as I said earlier. Who then shall pay for the piping of the water to Wajir with the big distances given?

Participant: The old man is asking that from what he has heard before, there is more water somewhere other than Merti, why doesn't that water get tapped and not our Merti. So am trying to tell him that from research, the findings show that Merti water has more water in Kiborana.

Chief Kashane kashane Ali – Malkagalla – this project of Merti Wajir water pipeline project, is there a proposed site?

Response: We don't think there is a point already for the borehole; the results here help to first track on the perceptions of the communities in the designated areas.

Secondly, we are told that after drilling the borehole, the water levels will start to drop after 40 years, so what will happen after it starts to drop? My fear is that the borehole going to be affected after the 40 years, and thus, is the project reliable?

Yes, the water level will drop, but only if there are no measures to ensure recharge of the aquifer over time. There are many measures such as planting trees to enhance percolation of water to the ground.

My third question is talking about aquifers, but I know they are not everywhere, so how many aquifers are there in the Merti?

Alex: I don't know the number of aquifers under the Merti, but what I know is that there are satellite knowledge that can help us tell where there are water available underground, although the satellite does not necessarily show the under aquifer waters.

My name is Abdulahi from Modogashe: am told that Merti has too much water, I know the water comes from Modogashe, and there is a lot of research that has been done previously by government and other NGOs, but unfortunately, up to 6 times, there were results showing that there is no water. But I heard Kiteme say that there is a lot of water underground, and we in

Modogashe, is about 80km from Merti, so how comes there is no water for us in Modogashe, and yet we have a lot of problems with water? I also hear that there is a pipeline that will go to Wajir, is there a specific place that you have found enough water to pipe it to Wajir?

Alex: Using the map, Modogashe is near Habaswein, and Wajir is ahead of these two towns. The second question is answered that there is no specific point yet.

Chief Dima Ali Jarso: We heard about the project when Sarah came to our areas. I want to say that the results that have been reported by Sarah are perfect, majority of us did not know about the project, but my question is: was the proposal of the project Merti Habaswein water pipeline project, subject to the underground water, was this proposal in collaboration with Isiolo counties and other stakeholders in other counties?

Participant: Are there plans to make this project more inclusive for all stakeholders?

Sarah and Alex: – Yes, we have involved as many stakeholders as possible, we have had several workshops to ensure that the project is known to as many stakeholders. This has been through several workshops, meetings and reports that ensure information is gathered inclusively and disseminated to all stakeholders as much as possible. We know that the project was not known to many people, however, our work has been to ensure that the project is known to you.

Habiba from Jiko la akina mama: am the chairlady of Jiko la akina mama, I have a question, the government has tried to make sure and they know there is water, we people in Habaswein, sometimes people don't know that there is large pieces of land in Habaswein that can be used to feed the whole of Kenya so that we grow rice and supply to the whole Kenya, why doesn't the government also look at the efforts to enhance irrigation in Habaswein, we must benefit from the water and then we can see and help our neighbours?

Alex: Our first aim is to find water first, we cannot also plant rice first if we don't have water, we must have water to satisfy our water needs and livestock needs before irrigation of rice and other crops.

Habiba: What we are saying is that we have big chunks of land, but we don't have boreholes, and if you counted our boreholes, they don't reach ten, but if we also have our own water, we will be happy, and the government has struggled to get water but for Wajir, but for us, we are left out and the same government has not followed on our needs, the government is mistreating us, even our president does not think of us. I don't mean to say that I don't want good things for Wajir, but the government only followed for Wajir, why not us?

Chief of Malkagalla: I know the project targets Wajir due to the problems that are experienced in Wajir. Habaswein was not thought of and some of the reasons that made Wajir to be thought of was the salty water, the lack of toilets etc. And so for me, the Wajir was the first issue.

Chief Khallif: I am the senior chief of Habaswein, and I can say that the government has told us that they will drill 6 boreholes, I know that. What we have refused is the 40 years now of secure water availability but, we are old now, but what about our children, where will they get water after the 40 years? We should deal with the real problem here?

Yussuf: I support Habiba, why is Habaswein where water has been found, and people like Modogashe who are very close to Habaswein and yet have so much problems with water, why don't they also look at the Modogashe people? Malkagalla, Basa etc are dependent on water boozers, so what is the logic of taking water from Habaswein to Wajir?

Chief Jarso Ali from Biliqo marara: We don't have enough water for ourselves in 16 centres back home and our people have a problem with water, why is the water being planned to be pumped to Wajir and not us?

Assistant chief of Goda- Hassan: 40 years are so little years, and you know the population is increasing and a lot is changing. I think we need to think a lot about this. Secondly, the benefits as Mr. Alex has said are that we shall get benefits from our boreholes in our respective areas. I think its good if there is shared benefits, but I want to know, are there other benefits that we shall get from this project?

Alex: After 40 years, it's just half a generation, but now, we are already doing some research on the issue.

Mowwid: when the researchers came to us, they gave us a book and told us that if they drill a borehole to Wajir, they will have to demolish the hills and all houses that do not have title deeds; they will not have any compensation for those who will loose their land in that case. They also told us that the water will reduce and then become salty. Now, if we don't have title deeds, how will this work? Also, there are those who depend on the Merti aquifer, what will happen to the pastoralists that depend on the hills with bushes around, I know this is one of the reasons that makes the Habaswein people refuse this project totally.

Senior chief of Malkagalla: This project is very large, its like the LAPPSET project and its going to affect human life and it will not be carried out too fast, it needs more time and more lessons to ensure that it doesn't hurt people later in life? The project also covers several counties, means that all these leaders must come together to debate?

LESSONS LEARNT AND WAY FORWARD

There are varied opinions among the different stakeholders. There are those that are supporting the project, those that are against the project (opposers), those that are neutral and those that don't know their position. Some stakeholders particularly from Habaswein realized that they are not the only stakeholders against the project; there were others who too were opposing the project.

Those who are supporting still want more information about the project and also would like to have capacity building in regards to the project in order to allow for wholesome inclusion of all the stakeholders – so that they can work together. Even those groups of participants that were neutral also voiced their sentiments of wanting more information on the project. In conclusion, all the stakeholders in the Merti are in dire need for information on the project so that they can make an amicable decision based on facts and not hearsay.

There are other factors such as land tenure issues that are still 'uncertain' for some respondents and this was clearly evident when some respondents wanted to know the issue of compensation for their land, incase the proposed project displaces them.

The have's and have nots of water found a ground to champion for their needs, eg, Modogashe highlighted their lack of water, similar to Bisan Biliqo, Basa, Malka-galla among other sites, while Habaswein was key on maximizing on their benefits from the project through consideration of irrigation in the area aside from water for domestic use. Similarly, the issue of the specific site of construction of the proposed borehole came out clear, underpinning the total absence of involvement of communities in the initial phases of the project development.

The position of those who are here in the meeting could have changed but s/he has to communicate to the whole entire community in order to convince them to change their mindset. However, the challenge of the huge areas of coverage remain for the participants representing the communities at the workshop. But there is hope that through information sharing, mindsets and positions can change.

The need to have more stakeholders involved in the project to ensure there is no controversies arising from those stakeholders that were left out.

There are some stakeholders among the community that are still fearful of the project due to various reasons. There is need, therefore, to carry out an impact assessment of the project before implementation to help demystify the 'fear' that may cause some stakeholders not to support the project.

Majority of people confirm/validated the results as a true representation of their feelings and the feelings of their community members.

Finally, there were significant changes in mindsets of the participants when the results of the evaluation carried out after the workshop was done. The participants who were strongly opposed to the project, changed their minds to support or be neutral (see Figure 1 and Figure 2 below)

Figure 1: Position of participants before attending the workshop

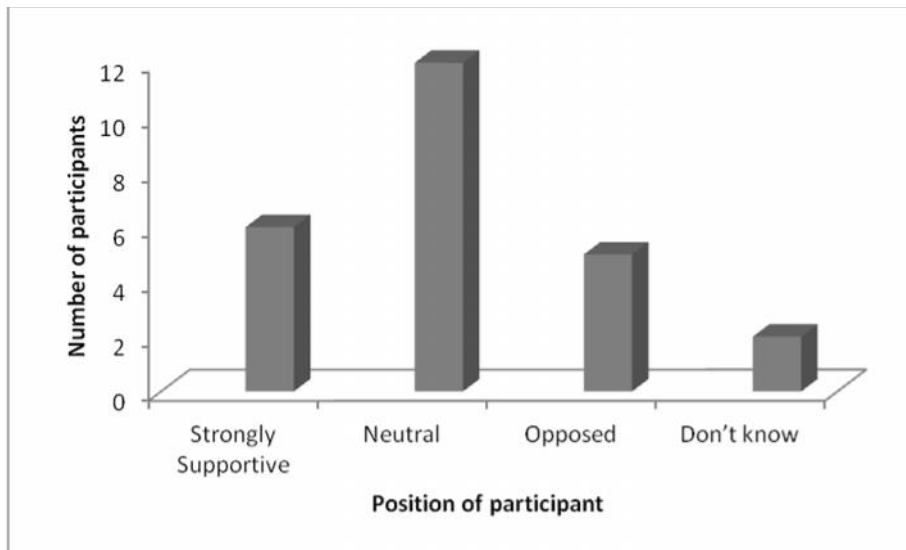
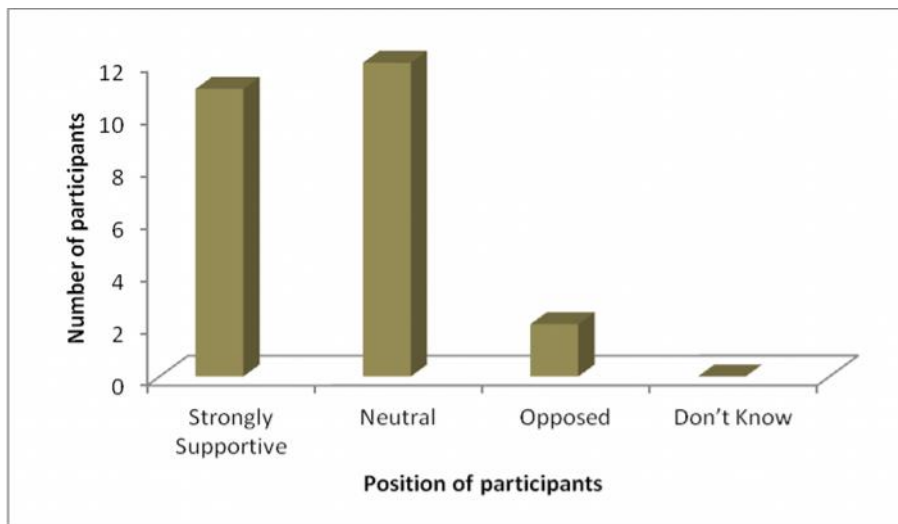


Figure 2: Position of participants after attending the workshop



3.2 Perception of Participants on CETRAD and ICRAF Roles on the project

The role of CETRAD to share the results is very good and this is not the first nor the last stakeholder engagement workshop, the CETRAD team needs to engage with all the stakeholders and bring them to a common understanding.

We as participants of this workshop need to disseminate all the information shared with CETRAD to all our grassroots. We shall try to say as much as possible and also try to communicate the same to CETRAD and the whole team.

The issues that are raised in the meeting were considered very real and genuine and that all stakeholders should not allow for conflicts between the stakeholders, however, they should be able to listen to the sentiments of all stakeholders to allow them to come up with a consensus.

3.3 Vote of thanks and appreciation– Deputy County Commissioner Habaswein

The deputy county commissioner gave a vote of thanks and appreciation to the participants for attending the workshop and their sharing of different views and perceptions. The community, being the biggest stakeholders in the project, is important to involve them otherwise, projects would likely fail. According to the DCC-Habaswein, the Merti Wajir Water Pipeline Project is comparable to the LAPSET project that is also not known to the locals. The DCC-Habaswein also emphasized the fact that local leadership can play a critical role in disseminating information to locals, particularly because they are always working with and for the communities.

Appendix 1: Workshop programme

COMMUNITIES' RESULTS TRANSFER WORKSHOP OF THE ARIGA PROJECT – TRANSIT HOTEL, ISIOLO, SEPTEMBER 30TH 2014

Tentative program:

8.00 - 9.00 Registration of participants (Grace)

Session 1 – Welcome and setting the stage – Chair: Alex Oduor

9.00 Welcome – Dr. Kiteme

9.30 Introduction of workshop attendants (Dr. Sarah Ogalleh)

Housekeeping issues (Grace Wambugu)

10.00 Programme for the day (Sarah Ogalleh)

10.30 Introduction of the ARIGA project – Dr. Kiteme

10.30 Coffee break

Session 2 – Findings of the ARIGA project - Chair: Dr. Boniface Kiteme

11.00 Social perspectives on the Wajir Habaswein Urban Water Project (Sarah Ogalleh, CETRAD)

11.30 Discussion on the findings of the project

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Session 3 – Lessons Learnt and Way Forward – Chair: Alex Oduor

14.00 Discussion Stakeholder Perspectives on Merti Groundwater Development – Sarah Ogalleh

15.00 Evaluation of the workshop findings and participants results' perceptions (Sarah)

15.30 Way forward and Closure – Alex Oduor (ICRAF)

16.00 Tea break

Appendix 2: Participants' list

No	Name	Designation e.g. chief, WSP	Area e.g Merti, Isiolo, Wajir etc	Telephone No.
1.	Shana K. Ali	Chief	Malka-galla	0721877404
2.	Moulid Yousuf	Water user	Habaswein	
3.	Khalif Sirat Farah	Chief	Habaswein	0720628118
4.	Makai Somo	Women Rep	Malka-galla	0726543271
5.	Havetha Madhif	Jiko la akina mama group	Habaswein	0724613730
6.	Kipkorir Maritim	Water venture	Habaswein	0727025681
7.	Farman Said	Men-Rep	Gotu	0725019044
8.	Hadija Bilow	Women- rep	Gotu	0713619563
9.	Fatuma Golicha	Chairlady	Biliko-Marara	0725734337
10.	Abdi Jattani	Chief	Bulesa	0714988793
11.	Jackson Mutemi	Deputy County Commissioner	Wajir	0725522859
12.	Habiba Iman Abdi	Women leader	Wajir	0708183447
13.	Abdullahi Diba	Water	Isiolo-Modogashe	0720627861
14.	Hadija Tachana	Women leader	Isiolo-Modogashe	0713105281
15.	Abdikadir Abdullahi	Chief	Isiolo-Modogashe	0722179535
16.	Abdirashid Molid	Chief	Isiolo	0721317147
17.	Mohamud Jarso	Water user	Isiolo	0713459245
18.	Jarso Ali	Chief	Biliko Marara	0724553257

No	Name	Designation e.g. chief, WSP	Area e.g Merti, Isiolo, Wajir etc	Telephone No.
19.	Hassan Mohammed	Assistant chief	Goda	0710744806
20.	Yussuf Dika	Water	Biliqo	0701497238
21.	Wako Liban	Assistant chief	Kom	0728663708
22.	Arbe Katezo	Women leader	Kom	0701165602
23.	Nassir Ali Elmi	Assistant chief	Wajir town	0720386992
24.	Halima Noor Ali	Women Rep	Wajir town	0720250772
25.	Dima Ali	Assistant chief	Bisan Biliqo	0702629214
26.	Nukta Galgab	Women rep	Bisan Biliqo	07277890459
27.	Qabale Hassan	Member	Isiolo town	0714196078
28.	Ali Jirmo	Water user	Malka-galla	
29.	Shani Boru	Women rep	Ori Jabesa women group	
30.	Kiteme, Boniface	Scientist/ Researcher	CETRAD	0722835863
31.	Ogalleh, Sarah	Social scientist	CETRAD	0787704599
32.	Grace Wambugu	Research assistant	CETRAD	
33.	Faith Marete	Accountant	CETRAD	
34.	Alex Oduor	Researcher	ICRAF	
35.	Albert Mwangi	Communications officer	ICRAF	0722406400
36.	Irene Nyambura	Communications officer	CETRAD	0728709508

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Appendix 3: Workshop evaluation by participants

Evaluation questions and answers

PROPOSED SURVEY MONKEY QUESTIONS

1. **BEFORE** attending the workshop on the ARIGA project on 30th September 2014, what was your position with regards to the Merti Wajir Water Pipeline Project?
 - a. Strongly supportive 6
 - b. Neutral 12
 - c. Opposed 5
 - d. Don't know 2

2. **AFTER** attendance of the workshop, what was your perception about the project?
 - a. Strongly supportive 11
 - b. Neutral 12
 - c. Opposed 2
 - d. Don't know 0

3. In case you changed your position, what made you change? Reasons
 - *I was neutral but remain neutral still, but now I appreciate that I have a clue of the project although I don't feel convinced yet.*
 - *I was neutral, but now I support the project because I see many will benefit from the project*
 - *I was opposing the project but now I have changed and become neutral because I understand the project a little more and there could be some benefits from the project although I haven't decided yet*
 - *I was neutral and still remain neutral because I still fear, there has been no impact assessment of the project and this is my fear as the project can bring de-benefits to the communities later in the years*
 - *I supported the project and still support it because I feel the project is viable and will solve the water problems for us*
 - *I supported the project all the way because I know I shall benefit*
 - *I was neutral and still remain neutral because upto now, I still don't have water and am not sure the water will get if the project is done*

- *I was neutral before but now I oppose the project because I see there maybe no clear benefits for us*
 - *I support and still support the project because if there is clean water for people to benefit, then let the people benefit*
 - *I oppose the project and still hold the same stand because, from research findings of some NGOs, they told us that if we don't have title deeds for our farms, we shall not be compensated when the project kicks off, so am fearful of loosing my home and therefore, oppose*
 - *Even if I change and support the project in this meeting, back to Habaswein, I still have to face the whole community, with Habaswein being such a big place, I call for a meeting and then they community members come and they refuse, what shall I do, what will my stand mean here?*
4. What did you learn about the project from the results workshop that you did not know before attending the workshop? and how did this new insight affect your position about the project?
- *The results show that we have different opinions of the project from the various areas*
 - *I have learnt that in Merti we have plenty of water, which I didn't know before*
 - *I thought that only the Habaswein people are opposed to the project, but from what I have learned, there are other people from other areas that are against the project*
 - *The project will benefit Wajir and the surrounding communities, this I did not know before*
 - *there is diverse opinions of different stakeholders on the Merti project*
 - *I have learnt that the Merti aquifer can sustain us and the Wajir people for up to 40 years and the it begins to drop*
 - *I learned that CETRAD is under the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural resources*
 - *That the Northern water services board was formed in 2007*
 - *I have met many different people from the different places and that they have different opinions*
 - *I have learned that there were varied indigenous ancient technologies that were used in the ancient time to determine water sources for over 700 years*
 - *I have learned that there are two layers of water in the Merti aquifer*
 - *I have learned that there were challenges to the field research team that came to carry out fieldwork*

- *I have learned that water is not salty at a depth of 250 metres*
- *I have learned that the Merti aquifer is not an NGO project but a government project as we had earlier thought*
- *I have also come to learn of new places such as Basa, Bulesa, Biliqo, Marara, Malkagalla etc that I didn't know existed*

5. Do you have any other comments, questions and or concerns about the project results?

I think we are satisfied, you have answered all our questions and I think this is true to most of us, unless someone has something else to raise.

Table Showing Numerical analysis of participants' feedback

Evaluation Question	Response	No. of Participants
Q. What was your position before attending the workshop?	Strongly Supportive	6
	Neutral	12
	Opposed	5
	Don't know	2
Q. After attending the workshop, what is your new perception?	Response	No. of Participants
	Strongly Supportive	11
	Neutral	12
	Opposed	2
	Don't Know	0

