



Water Solutions Lab Network (WVLN)

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Water Solutions Lab Network Background

- Role of humans as a chief force shaping the global water system
 - Previous research: Rather identification of problems than the identification of solutions
- Shift in emphasis towards **solution-oriented approaches** is required



Water Solutions Lab Network Objective

- Transition towards developing knowledge-to-concrete-action
- Finding solutions in the spirit of co-production and co-application of knowledge
- Integrating research with practical solutions towards identifying a feasible set of innovations to attain sustainable water solutions at the local level.



Water Solutions Lab Network Outcomes

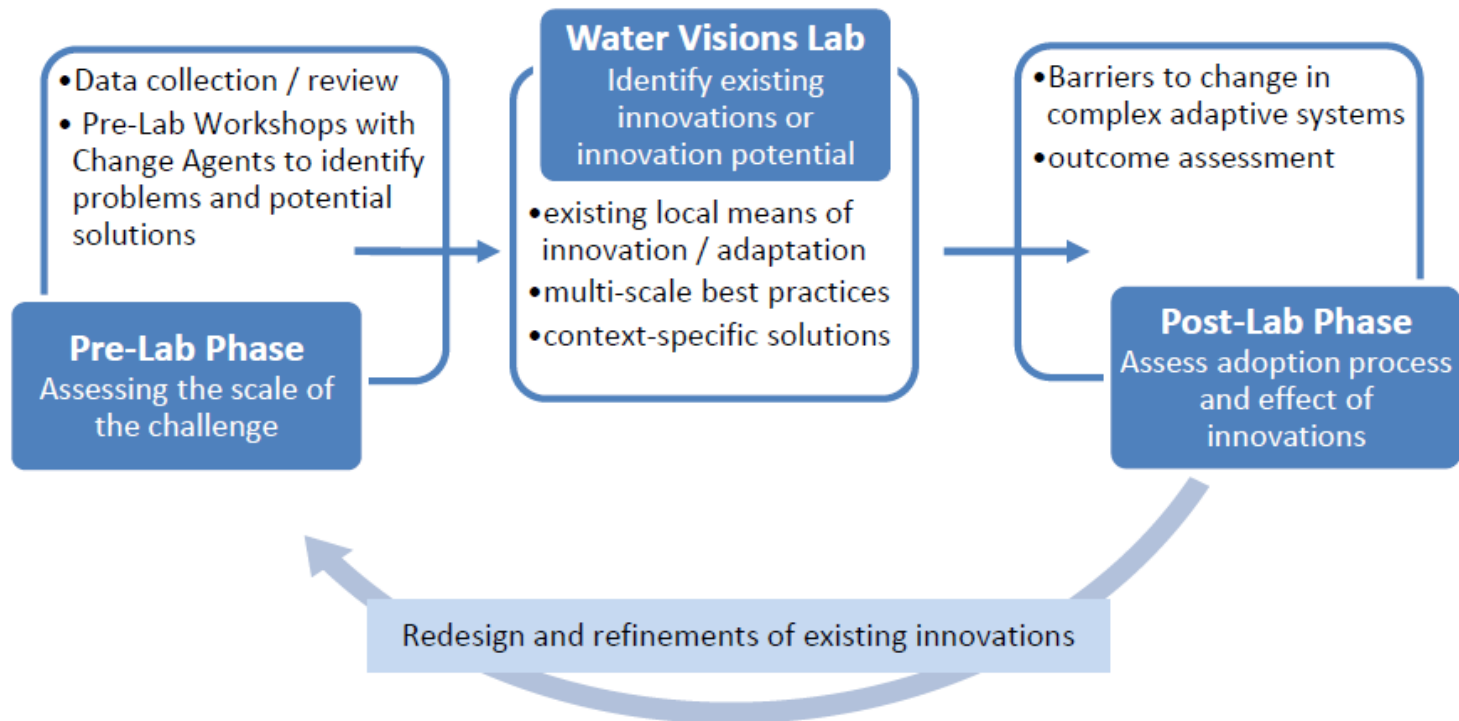
The WVLN will address three major innovation barriers:

- (1) long diffusion time of innovations
- (2) lack of knowledge exchange between theory and practice and
- (3) lack of understanding of the implementation and adoption process.



Water Solutions Lab Network Process Design

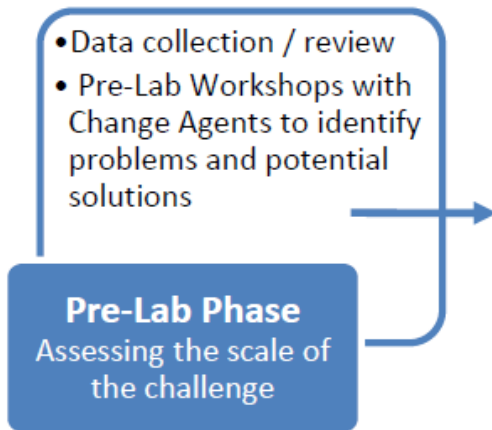
← Understanding the innovation process →





Water Solutions Lab Network

Pre-Lab Phase



- Ecological and human water security problems will be identified, and defined from a global, regional and local perspective.
- Potential case study areas or sectors will be identified
- Data on existing innovations, techniques, and approaches that are currently used globally, regionally and locally to address the problem will be collected, and synthesized.



Water Visions Lab Network

Lab Phase

Water Visions Lab

Identify existing innovations or innovation potential

- existing local means of innovation / adaptation
- multi-scale best practices
- context-specific solutions

- Presentation of the findings from the pre-lab phase to provide all participants with the knowledge
- The lab will help to determine subjective perspectives from different stakeholder groups (science, industry, NGOs, government, civil society) and the different solutions identified in the pre-lab phase.
- Each group will then present their perspective with concerns, problems and solutions.
- Lab members pick feasible innovative solution that could be implemented in a controlled setting.



Water Solutions Lab Network Post-Lab Phase

- Barriers to change in complex adaptive systems
- outcome assessment

Post-Lab Phase
Assess adoption process
and effect of
innovations

- Implementation of selected innovations in a controlled setting, accompanied by implementation research, where randomized control experiments will be conducted to understand the implementation process.
- Discuss results with different stakeholders and collaborate on iterative re-design of the outcomes.



Water Solutions Lab Network USP

- Dialog between industrial and other sectors
- Identify and craft lasting, feasible innovative solutions
- strong emphasis on accompanying research before and after the development of an innovation.
- Implementation research and knowledge exchange are key components of the WVLN.



Water Solutions Lab Network

Goal

Reducing the lengthy diffusion time for cost effective and efficient innovation

Allowing for optimal results and maximal acceptance of producible products and guidelines.



Water Visions Lab Network Presentation of Results and Findings

- Conferences and workshops
- An active online platform
- A Water Exploratorium/Museum
- Handbooks and reports

Water Solutions Lab Network India



A platform bringing together actors from different sectors to develop solutions and deliver them to stakeholders for implementation.

- India's water resources are under growing pressure due to population growth and rising incomes
- Past approaches of supporting development do not suffice in the face of present and future challenges.
- Water Innovation Lab India will integrate and build on existing innovations to create and identify gaps in knowledge and implementation of water related solutions.



Water Solutions Lab Network Partners

Organization	
Global Water System Project	Anik Bhaduri
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Global Water Partnership	Danka Thalmeinerova
German Water Partnership	Claudia Iberle
University of Osnabrück	Claudia Pahl-Wostl Stefanie Engel
IFPRI	Claudia Ringler
UNESCO-IHE	Stefan Uhlenbrook
SOAS	Peter Mollinga



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UNU-FLORES	Reza Ardakanian
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World Business Council for Sustainable Development	Joppe Cramwinckel
Innovation living institute	Elmar Schüller
RWTH Aachen University	Holger Schüttrumpf
University of Amsterdam	Joyeeta Gupta



Thank you for your attention!

