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History of the participatory irrigation management and the transfer of management authority: science issues, general governance and local actions to solve water crisis

We develop a historical framework to understand the history of the concept of participatory irrigation management (PIM) as an answer to water crisis in many countries. Four levels should be included in this historical approach :

First, the history of a concept is related to the school of the commons : the search for a third way between bureaucratic planning and market supremacy. The principles of Elinor Ostrom on the PIM and their rapid translation into the policy development projects in a situation of cooperation with southern countries

Then, we explore the roots dating back to the 18th Century and the American and French revolutions. For example, we discover the importance of the French mountains Cevennes in the first accurate treaty on modern irrigation, written by William Tatham (1799) which envisaged the development of irrigation in the UK. We study the thought of Francois Jaubert de Passa (1845) on the technical and political organization of the irrigation among ancient peoples. He found that the stakeholders build irrigation institutions with local participatory principles and against powers (this work is largely the origin of the 1865 Act on Trade Union Associations to manage irrigation devices in France).

Since the years 1990, we observe the application of the PIM principles during the management transfers. We may have new views on the southern shore of the Mediterranean basin... but also on the north shore with France, Spain and Italy cases studies. There are nowadays new conflicting parameters for managing surface water vs. groundwater, subsidiarity and centrality of Authorities, generational conflicts and opposite references especially with migrants, emergences of new business actors for individual hydraulic.