THE POTENTIAL OF THE DRYLANDS 3: CONSIDERATIONS FOR IRRIGATED CROP AGRICULTURE

ECONOMIC:
- Hydrological and economic potential is often over-estimated.
- Operation and maintenance costs are often under-estimated.
- Value of existing land use (e.g. extensive livestock production) is often under-estimated and poorly supported.

ENVIRONMENTAL:
- Downstream water loss
- Erosion
- Salinisation
- Siltation
- Biodiversity loss
- Fertiliser pollution

SOCIAL:
- Who loses? – those who use land as a dry season grazing area.
- Is risk increased? – prices, floods/droughts, conflict.

HOW CAN THEY BE ADDRESSED?
- Plan with the people and respect their informed livelihood choices.
- Learn from the past and evaluate impact and lessons learnt.
- Promote livelihood complementarities: livestock corridors, use of crop residues/dung.
- Ensure adequate investment: labour, roads, transport and security.
- Adapt innovation to dryland conditions.