

An Initiative of the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research

GRoW

WATER AS A GLOBAL RESOURCE



Breakout Session 2

GRoW transfer-region Latin America

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Breakout Session 2 – GRoW transfer-region Latin America

Key challenges

- Take into account **broad variety of Latin American region** (South America, Central America and Caribbean): in GRoW only 2 countries represented
- **Length of projects** (only 3 years): very often it takes more time than 3 years to achieve sustainable results (scientifically, practically and on the trust level between people)
 - *Very often this is a demand from local associated partners in GRoW projects*
- **Time needed to formalize cooperation** with local partners (framework agreements, e.g. MoU)
 - *Formalized cooperation is easier where there are no financial obligations (big challenge to cooperate with e.g. NGOs or universities when they have no own funding)*
- **Language barriers** when there is no project staff from the region
- **Models are often too complex** to be taken over and of real use to the target group/person/organisation
 - *much money goes into the field work, not enough in the sustainable uptake of model/results*
- No culture of **data sharing**

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Key opportunities

- **Trade Fairs (linking economy, science and policy) e.g. Expo Agua** are very helpful opportunities to bring together companies, but also to present research results
 - *Especially master classes are very helpful (interesting experience to share how technologies are implemented, on management models etc.)*
 - *There is still room to involve other GRoW partners who wish to participate (contact: C. León)!*
- **Events such as German-Brazilian symposium** (across all funding measures between those 2 countries) were very helpful!
- Define a **clear strategy on the person/organisation/target group who will take over the model/product** developed by GRoW project, to ensure it will be taken over in the long run and adapted to needs
 - *Simple enough to be taken over, and at the same time precise: communication with local partner is crucial to ensure real use of those models*
- Build **trustful cooperation and transparent communication structures**

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- Need of a strategy **on how to improve and maintain knowledge produced and networks in the long term**
 - *Need to build up experience to implement policies and research results*
- Have **formalized agreements** to define basis for cooperation
 - *Both sides need to adapt to start cooperation (important especially when shared data or common investments are involved)*
- **Inter-disciplinary** approaches
- Make **potential benefits** obvious for local organisations right from the beginning
- Create **joint project calls**, or look for **co-funding possibilities**
- Involve **staff over a longer period from region** (e.g. Phd students) within research project
 - *To overcome language and cultural barriers throughout the project duration*
- Platform to access **project contacts in the long run** (even after the end of project)