

# Revitalizing Philippine Irrigation: A Systems and Governance Assessment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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*Surian sa mga Pag-aaral Pangkaunlaran ng Pilipinas*

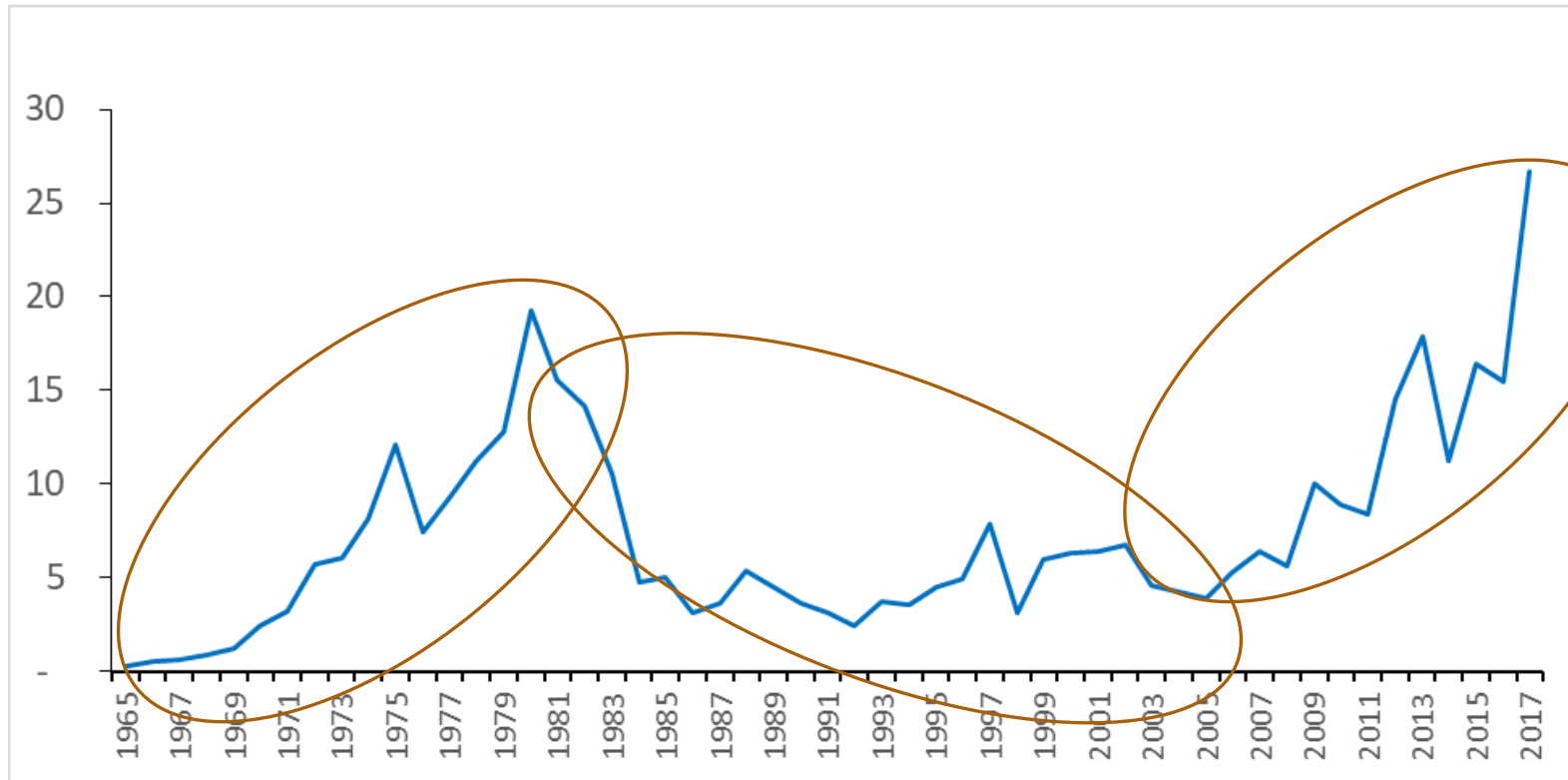


# Motivation for the book

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# Public investment in irrigation – revitalized from about 2005 onward

**Public Investments in Irrigation, in Php millions (2000 prices), 1965-2017**



In nominal terms: Php 8 billion appropriation in 2008, up to Php 24.4 billion in 2012  
2013 – 2018: Php 32.3 billion per year

Sources: NIA (various years).

# Reasons for the resurgence

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- World food price crisis (2008)
- Rapid economic growth and fiscal space
- Renewed government commitment
  - Finish the task of irrigation: irrigation area ratio of 65.07% by 2022, from a baseline (2015) ratio of 57.33%
  - Irrigation service free made free by RA 10969: Free Irrigation Service Act (FISA) of 2018

# Aims and scope

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- Need for stocktaking: Expenditures vs benefits (to farmers and the economy)
- Coverage:
  - National and communal irrigation systems (NIS, CIS)
  - Culmination of a series of studies of PIDS since 2012
  - Takes perspective of project cycle: planning, implementation, operations, monitoring, evaluation
  - Examines performance, design, management, governance
  - State-of-the art assessment

# Structure of the book

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1. Irrigation and agricultural development (Introduction)
2. National Irrigation Systems
3. Communal Irrigation Systems
4. Water resources component
5. Irrigation Water Governance
6. An Assessment of the FISA
7. Benefit-Cost Analysis
8. Assessing the Irrigation Development Program (Synthesis)

# Key findings and recommendations

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# Project identification

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## FINDINGS

- Political interference
- “Potential area” not a reliable guide to area suited for irrigation system
- Land use maps not updated, status of watershed, soil suitability, etc. not considered
- On the other hand, some areas with >3% slope may be irrigable
- After rationalization, competencies in NIA for project ID were lost

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build capacity for project ID
- Increase coordination with DA and LGUs
- consider land use trends
- Include assessment of water sources in delineating potential area – taking into consideration Climate Change



# Project design and appraisal

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## FINDINGS

- Insufficient resources and time for project appraisal
- Lack of consultative process in design
- Low science-based capacity in design, e.g. Use of geo-referenced data
- Overlapping roles, lack of coordination with other agencies

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strictly adhere to benefit-cost analysis
- Implement design improvements – towards diversification, smaller patches of land, incorporate farmer participation
- Opt for multipurpose projects

# ... System operation...

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## FINDINGS

- Worsening degradation and poor system performance
- High siltation
- Problems in governance within irrigation systems
- FISA increases demand on NIA to monitor IMT schemes

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt *Asset Management Method*
- Continuous capacity building for AMM
- Determine appropriate level of O&M funding
- Integrate watershed management with irrigation system management

# Conclusion

- Single largest agricultural development program
- closest we have ever been to closing gap between potential and actual irrigated area
- yet: considerable room for improvement in the irrigation development program
- best to combine wide array of tools, methodologies, including stakeholder participation, to realize benefits from irrigation in long term





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# Thank you !

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