

Workshop outline

Day 2 (2nd February):

The rural water crisis and water resources struggles

The RPW's network seeks to deepen its work on rural water systems. At this session, we'll consider how to move that work forward. Here is a possible preliminary outline for a discussion -

Rural water typology

As a group, perhaps working in small groups, seek to create a grid describing various types of rural water systems in existence – who served by system, by whom managed, based on what water supplies, water used for what purposes, e.g, drinking, irrigation, industrial, indications of sustainability, costs to consumer, specific examples of each.

Which systems qualify as public, which are private? In situations of community ownership or stewardship, are they public or private or are there other useful categories to speak to democracy and accessibility?

I envision small group putting this information into a grid that we will provide to each group as a template as a template to fill in.

I would envision about 45 minutes of small group work and then the small groups would present their findings to the larger group – perhaps a sort of gallery walk during which groups would walk around and look at each other's work.

We would then discuss commonalities and differences in the groups' findings

The objective of this exercise would be to attempt to get ourselves on the same page as we wade into this rather large topic of rural water.

Growing RPW work on rural water

The second half of this session would be devoted to considering RPW's work on rural water

Working as a full group discussion, what suggestions can we make to the wider group about how to deepen RPWs work on rural water? What are helpful next steps? We might identify conversation starters to get the conversation going.

What opportunities for effective advocacy exist for RPW to engage in to extend water to the billions of people without?

What further research on this topic might we undertake or synthesize from existing work?

Conclusion

List out some next steps

The issue of rural water, as mentioned, is clearly extensive. It seems to me that our task is to determine 1) how to gather together the rural water experiences from among RPW collaborators 2) how to best help RPW affiliates better understand rural water issues and

3) how to move forward on a piece of rural water work that RPW might want to take on as a network.

Some other follow on topics that would deepen our discussion – at another moment as we're unlikely to have time in Brussels are -

Rural water management, ownership and governance

What types of social actors manage, govern and own rural water with what results?

Where has community and popular advocacy had an impact on these rural systems?

What are some cases of best practices where water is well managed in rural areas as a human right for the common good?

Rural water and the human right to water

What does winning the human right to water accomplish for the extension of rural water to families without?

Rural water source protection and engineering

What types of drinking, irrigation and sanitation systems best suit rural areas?

What are some cases of best practices in stewardship and distribution?

Rural water system finance

What are various financing mechanisms?

What is role of payment for environmental services (PES)? What are opportunities with climate change monies?

What are some cases of best practices in acquiring and investing finances?