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et de modernisation du périmètre. Problèmes rencontrés.

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PREFACE

This report is part of a series of case studies on the performance of irrigation systems in different countries. These studies focus on the extent to which the design of the irrigation system fosters effective water management and provides equitable, reliable, timely water distribution to farms (analyzes water efficiencies, the effectiveness of maintenance, and cost recovery).

Case studies have been prepared by the Bank's Operations Evaluation Department (OED) in cooperation with the Agriculture and Rural Development Department (AGR) in two semi-arid countries, Mexico and Morocco, and two tropical countries, Thailand and the Philippines. A case study prepared by AGR on two irrigation districts in Colombia has been published (PPR staff working paper No 264). Other cases studies in South East Asia by the International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI) are now starting. A report summarizing the results of the individual case studies based on the series of performance indicators and other observations will then be prepared. This report will draw some recommendations on the design of the physical infrastructure, institutional and organizational of irrigation systems and their impact on the management of these systems.

Because of the comparative nature of this study, this report on the Gezira scheme in Sudan makes only passing references to some specific but critical aspects of this project, such the capacity of the system to adapt to changing socio-economic conditions.

FOREWORD

For the Sudan Gezira scheme, the eighties have been a decade of missed opportunities. Despite considerable momentum on rehabilitation, the scheme is operating well below its potential. Unless its key actors embark on a major reform of production arrangements in the scheme, Gezira will not be the engine of growth that Sudan desperately needs in the nineties. Placing the farmer at the center of the production process, with the Government and parastatal providing the enabling environment through a policy framework and basic facilities such as research, extension and investment promotion, is the key to Gezira's future. Efforts, such as the present case study, should assist decision makers in the task of realizing Gezira's potential in the nineties.

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