

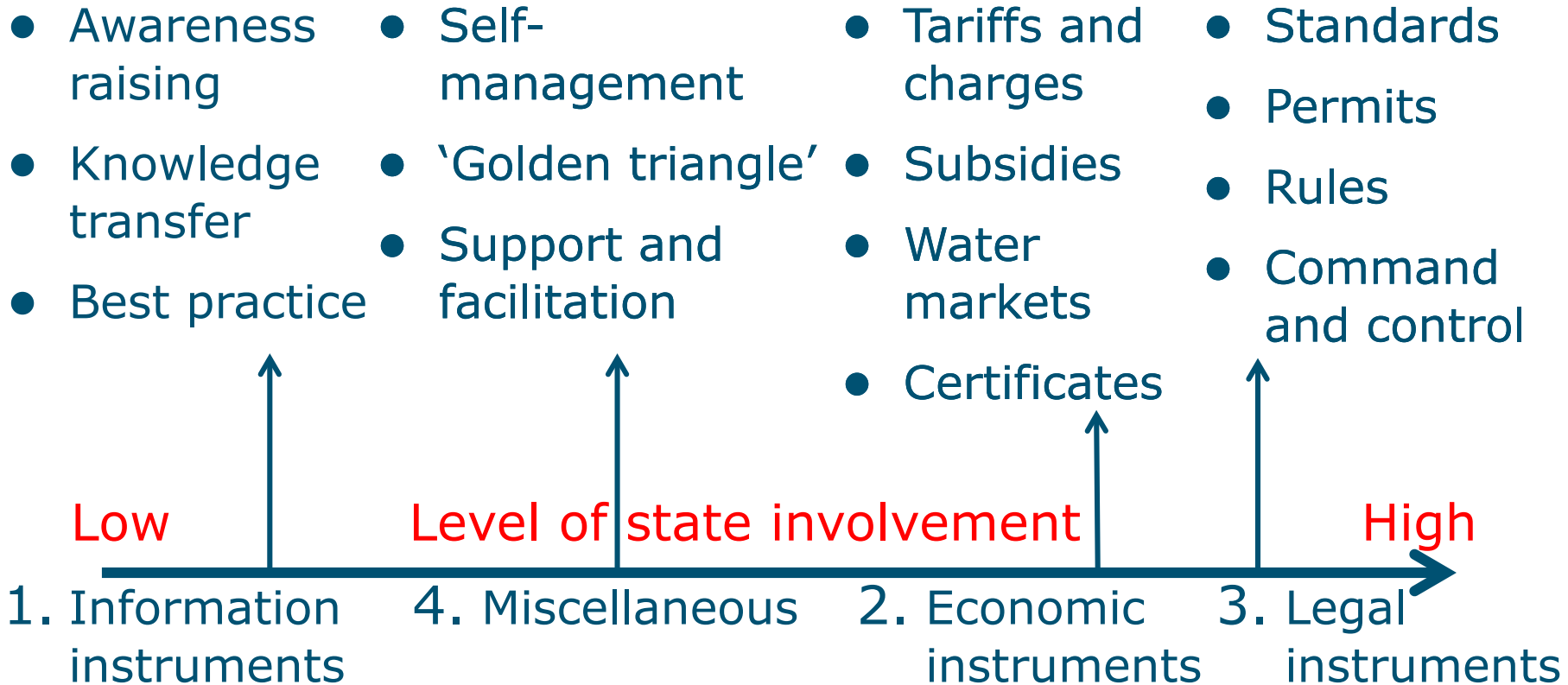
'Pathways to policy change on water in agriculture'

Session 4: *Implementing and future-proofing policies and investments*

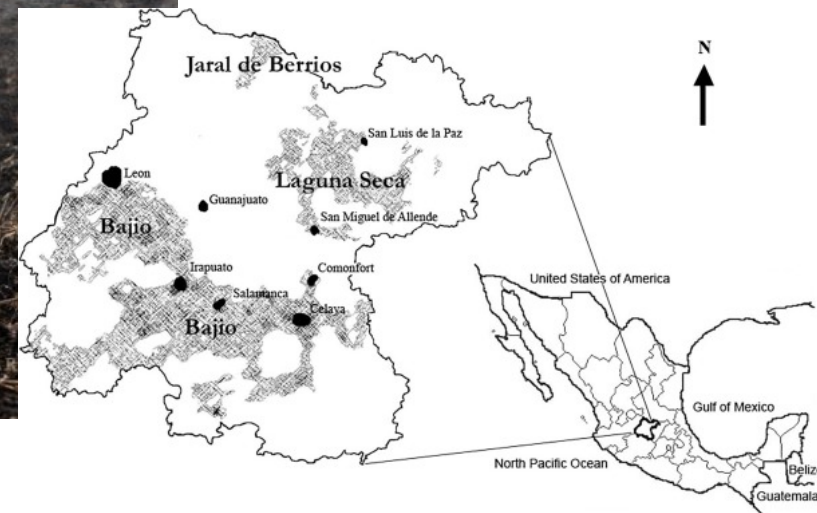
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Four types of policy instruments



Case 1: Central Mexico (Guanajuato)



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- Regulatory measures, indirect measures, self-management, water markets have had limited effects
- Drip irrigation → rebound effect (intensified production)
- 'Water vampires' (equity issue)
 - Industrial agriculture vs smaller producers
 - Political power
- What is needed: cooperation between higher levels of authority (the regulator) and the water users the (regulated)
 - Trust and reciprocity!
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ubFpIZ1VKU>

Case 2: China (Minqin County)



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- Direct groundwater regulation often difficult (South Asia):
 - Large number of individual users (administrative costs)
 - Lack of strong intervention from local water authorities
- Here, however, successfully implemented
 - Part of a water-policy reform (top-down)
 - Local government promoted self-management
 - Integrated in existing institutional structures
- Side-effects:
 - Closure of wells: reduction in crop production
 - Migration of farmers
 - Long term sustainability impacts?

Case 3: Netherlands (flower bulb growers)

- High level of pesticides in surface water in region with bulb farmers
- Problem achieving goals Water Framework Directive
- Program including water authorities, manufactures of pesticides, flower bulb growers, research institutes & branch organization
- Knowledge gained about emission routes and solutions for reduction: further implementation by branch organisation
- 'Successful' policy instruments: knowledge transfer, "golden triangle", awareness, best practise



Some key messages / observations

- Few successful cases of policy implementation have been reported
 - Little can be said about long term effects
 - Reduction of *increases* in levels of groundwater use
- Adverse side effects (equity aspects / mutual gains)
 - Trust and reciprocity, autonomy
- Global - local authorities
 - Labelling / certificates - context-specific / tailor made
- Who is in the driver's seat: consumers or producers?
- Role for government especially when problems occur on mid-term: *"Farmers are specialised in producing food, not in managing water."*

Thanks

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