The work leading to this book was supported by funding from the Rural Cluster within the Development Economics Research Group, the Visiting Research Fellows Program and the Agriculture and Rural Development Department of the World Bank as well as the Bank–Netherlands Water Partnership Program, the Norwegian Trust Fund, the Swiss Trust Fund at the World Bank, and the International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The quantitative analysis of the institution–performance interaction reported in this book would not have been possible but for the rich information so willingly provided by 127 international experts on water matters. As a formal acknowledgment of their intellectual contributions, the names of respondents to our questionnaire and others who provided useful material and valuable information are listed in Appendix B. Because of their facilitative role and logistic support during country visits and international surveys, a special note of thanks is also due to the following persons: Miguel Solanes, Sam Johnson, José Trava, Nelson Pereira, Larry Simpson, Alberto Garrido, Mohamed Jellali, Dan Yaron, Yaov Kislev, Saul Arlosoroff, Alan Conley, Gerhard Backeberg, Piet Maritz, Douglas Merrey, Douglas Vermillion, Terrence Abeysekara, Nihal Fernando, Warren Musgrave, John Pigram, Zhang Hai Lun, and Yuri Stekllov.

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous invitation of John B. Braden, Elinor Ostrom, and William Easter to present our theoretical framework and methodology in seminars at the University of Illinois, Indiana University, and the University of Minnesota, respectively. We received initial feedback on our work from participants in these seminars, as well as from separate discussions we had with Vincent Ostrom and Vernon Ruttan.

The final manuscript has also benefited from elaborate written comments and suggestions received from several reviewers. In this respect, we are particularly indebted to Vernon Ruttan, Daniel Bromley, William Easter, Roy Gardner, Raymond Suppala, Marie-Leigh Livingston, William Blomquist, Jennifer McKay, Alberto Garrido, Steven Renzetti, Rodrigo Maia, Piet Heyns, Gerhard Beckeberg, Krzysztof Berbeka, J.C. Caldas, Angel Alejandrino, and Peter Mollinga.

The excellent documentation support of Eliza Mcleod of the Sector Library at the World Bank, Washington, DC, and Charlotte Hess of the specialized library on Institutional Economics at the Workshop on Political Theory and
Policy Analysis at Indiana University, Bloomington, is noted with thanks and appreciation.

A special word of gratitude goes to Frank Rijsberman, Director General, International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka for his encouragement and support toward the final stages of the preparation of the manuscript. Similarly, the active support – received in the early stages of the project – from B.D. Dhawan, S.R. Hashim, and Pravin Visaria of the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi and M. Govinda Rao of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India, are also gratefully acknowledged.

The excellent secretarial support of Michelle Riguad, Fulvia Toppin, and Shivajirao Padmavathy, efficient programming support of Jaime Yepez, Sridharan, and Krishnachandran, able data-processing assistance of William Fru, and timely communication and logistic support of Santhakumar Sundaram are also appreciated with due credit for their contributions to the study.

Finally, we thank Kathleen A. Lynch for her thorough editorial revision of the entire manuscript.

R. Maria Saleth and Ariel Dinar