



Document from the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week,  
held in Libreville, Gabon, 29 October – 2  
November 2018

*This material is shared as a learning  
resource to promote awareness and good  
practice in the provision, use and  
management of water resources for  
sustainable social and economic  
development and maintenance of African  
ecosystems.*

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A knowledge asset of the African Ministers'  
Council on Water



**PLENARY SESSION DAILY REPORT**  
**(RAPPORT JOURNALIER DE SESSION PLÉNIÈRE)**  
**'7TH AFRICA WATER WEEK'**  
**« 7IEME SEMAINE AFRICAINE DE L'EAU »**  
**29 OCT. – 02 NOV. 2018**

<b>No.</b>	<b>AWW7-2018SS/13</b>	<b>Version No.</b>	1r0			<b>Report Date:</b> (Date du rapport)	30-10-2018
<b>Date:</b>	30-10-2018	<b>Time:</b> (Heures)	11:18 AM	to	12:43 PM	<b>Language</b> (Langue)	French
<b>Theme:</b>	Toward Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa						
French theme	'Vers la Sécurité de l'Eau et des Services d'Assainissement gérés en toute sécurité pour l'Afrique'						
<b>Sub-theme:</b> (Sous-thème)	Water Security: Infrastructure, Investments and Innovation						
<b>Session No.</b>	SS13	<b>Title:</b> (Titre)	Demonstrating political leadership in the African Water Revolution				
<b>Country:</b> (Pays)	GABON	<b>City:</b> (Ville)	Libreville	<b>Location:</b> (Lieu)	Stade de l'Amitié Sino-Gabonaise, Angondje		
<b>Rapporteurs</b> (Rapporteurs):	Ms Claudia Ondo				<b>Technical Partner:</b> (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON	
<b>Further details:</b> (Informations complémentaires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PowerPoint Presentation (YES) SS13_PowerPoint Présentation_AWW_v3</li> <li>Technical Documentation (NO)</li> </ul>						
<b>Abbreviations and Acronyms:</b> (Sigles et abréviations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIWI – Stockholm International Water Institute</li> </ul>						

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEAD CONVENER AND CONTACT (IDENTIFICATION DES RESPONSABLES ET CONTACTS)**

<b>Lead Convener (Responsable):</b>	SIWI
<b>Co-convener (Coresponsable):</b>	-
<b>Contact:</b>	Katherine.madden@siwi.org

**SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)**

<b>Moderator (Modérateur) :</b>	Katherine Madden - SIWI
<b>Speakers (Intervenants):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anton Earle - SIWI</li> </ul>

**SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show the potential of improved rainfed agriculture and cost-benefit analysis of investments.</li> <li>Show how governments are currently setting up improved rainfed agriculture.</li> <li>Point out how governments can intensify green water management and change the lives of African producers.</li> <li>Demonstrate leadership in the area of rainfed agriculture.</li> </ul>
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**SESSION PLAN (PLAN DE SESSION)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening debate</li> <li>Organisation of the presentation</li> <li>Session/panel contribution</li> <li>Thoughts and ideas, the road ahead</li> <li>Further discussion</li> </ul>
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## **SESSION SUMMARY (RÉSUMÉ DE LA SESSION)**

- Transforming Agriculture through Investments in Rainfed Agriculture (TAIRA) is an initiative led by the Stockholm International Water Initiative (SIWI) aimed at developing green water and improving rainfed agriculture in Africa through financial investments and political leadership.

Green water can be defined as: *the water that infiltrates into the unsaturated soils from precipitation, which is stored in the upper layers of the soil and is available to plant roots; rainfed agriculture depends on green water.*

The main finding of this session is that it is possible to deal with the food insecurity and crises experienced by most African countries by unleashing the potential of improved rainfed agriculture.

More than 95% of African food production comes from rainfed agriculture, but only 5% of public investments are allocated to water for farming. Although substantial investment is required to improve rainfed agriculture, there is a clear value proposition for this to take place. By maximising green water capture, storage and utilisation, it is possible to build capacity for adaptation to climate change and enable producers to move beyond subsistence farming to achieve economic growth and sustainable development.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (QUESTIONS ET RÉPONSES)**

No question period was held. Small groups of 3-5 participants were formed in the room and the moderator gave them instructions on the focus of the discussions to be held by each group. The aim was to share opinions, experience and knowledge and to dialogue.

*First Focus:* Can rainfed agriculture be profitable?

*Second Focus:* What roles should the government play in successful implementation of rainfed agriculture?

## **CONCLUSIONS OF THE SESSION (CONCLUSIONS DE LA SESSION)**

Africa has the potential to produce enough food to more than satisfy its own needs. However, due to natural constraints, 95% of the continent's potentially arable land is rainfed, i.e. not irrigated and entirely dependent on rain.

Most investments in water management and development for agriculture target clean water, but 90% of food production and 95% of farm lands depend on green water. Thus, additional investments are required to improve rainfed agriculture throughout Africa.

Improved rainfed agriculture can be financed through a combination of new funding sources and reallocation of existing resources used to deal with the consequences of the current general failure of rainfed agriculture. New approaches are required to significantly and sustainably regenerate rural African economies.