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

A knowledge asset of the African Ministers’ Council on Water

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.

Copyright for this material rests with the authors.
Meeting objectives

• Present the potential of enhanced rainfed agriculture and the business case for investment.
• Demonstrate how governments are currently implementing enhanced rainfed agriculture.
• Identify how governments can scale up green water management and transform the lives of African farmers.
Meeting structure

• Opening discussion
• Framing presentation
• Panel inputs
• Reflection and insights
• Further discussion
Sustainable Development Goals
Africa's dilemma

**Causes**

Natural factors
- Land and water characteristics
- Climate change

Human-driven factors
- Farming methods
- Public policy

**Consequences**

- Food shortages and malnutrition
- Expensive food imports
- Land degradation
- Macro-level “drag” on national economies
Poverty induced catchment degradation

(Based on the Zambezi River Basin)
Africa’s arable land
Green water

Derived from rainfall that is available in the soil for plant growth through transpiration.

Water capture increases water availability by reducing rainwater runoff and groundwater seepage e.g. terracing, ponding and the use of small dams.

Water storage reduces evaporation.

E.g. through zero tillage, using conservation tillage methods, and applying agro-ecology methods such as mulching, intercropping, windbreaks, using the right fertiliser, timely planting, weeding and pest control.
95% of African food production is rainfed

95% of agricultural water investments are in blue water irrigation

Ref: Abrams
Transforming Africa through Enhanced Rainfed Agriculture (TAIRA)

Goal

Scale up green water and rainfed agricultural solutions across Africa through financial investments and political leadership
Facilitated by....

Partners

• Stockholm International Water Institute
• Stockholm Resilience Centre
• Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa

Advisory group

To include:

• Financial knowledge
• Agricultural experts
• Scaling experience
Outcomes and outputs

• Video: the need for green water
• Meeting report: Kigali
• Meeting summary: Malin Falkenmark Symposium
• Background paper: “Unlocking the potential of enhanced rainfed agriculture”
TAIRA building blocks

Knowledge ↔ Advocacy ↔ Investments
Objectives

Knowledge development to understand the challenges and opportunities of implementing green water solutions.

Advocacy activities to establish the business case and enable high level leadership and political commitments.

Facilitate investments to unlock public and private investments in green water across Africa.

Key activities

- Identify best practices in green water management
- Commission research where there are knowledge gaps
- Establish the business case
- Key events
- Communications
- Leverage existing approaches to secure financing
- Establish new financial instruments in support of green water

Example partners (indicative)

- Universities, ICRAF, IWMI, SRC
- Various government partners, SDGC/A, GGGI, GWP,
- Various government partners, World Bank, AfDB, Africa Water Facility
Impact

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Clean Water and Sanitation
5. Decent Work and Economic Growth
6. Climate Action
Role of governments

1. leading and promoting rural regeneration at a regional, national and local levels;
2. integrating policies and practices across different approaches and government departments;
3. establishing effective policy mechanisms and institutional structures;
4. committing public expenditure and translating this into budgets and mandates;
5. building capacity and encouraging buy in and ownership by individuals and communities
6. regulating and stimulating business involvement along value chains
Thank you
The Grand African Predicament
Expert workshop: overview

• 27/28th June 2018, Kigali, Rwanda
• 80 participants, governments, multilateral, bilateral and academic institutions, philanthropic foundations and the private sector
• Identifying barriers to scaling green water, exploring financial solutions, visioning exercise, identifying partners, initiatives and stakeholders, case study examples
• Opening ceremony included: Mr. Jean Claude Kayisinga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of the Republic of Rwanda
• Site visit to the Rwamagana 34 site, part of Government of Rwanda’s Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside irrigation project
Expert workshop: recommendations

1. Maximise the capture, storage and utilization of green water and rain-fed agriculture
2. Integrate green and blue water approaches and investments
3. Engage all stakeholders along agricultural value chains
4. Strengthen the business case for investing in green water
5. Develop innovative mechanisms and blended finance solutions
6. Embed financial solutions into a broader sustainability strategy
7. Leverage high level leadership and commitment
How strong is the business case for investing in enhanced rainfed agriculture?
Yield comparisons

Yield per hectare (cereals)
- Commercial irrigation
- Small scale irrigation
- Improved rainfed farming

Yield per $ of in-field investment (cereals)
- Commercial irrigation
- Improved rainfed farming

1:6

Excl. the cost of water storage – dams, conveyance etc.