



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – KEY POINTS/ DECISIONS TAKEN

ADDIS ABABA, 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

The meeting was convened by FAO in its capacity as the host of the AgWA Secretariat. A total of 20 participants representing African and international organization and networks with strong interests and capacities in Agricultural Water Management (AWM) attended the Steering Committee Meeting (Annex 1 of list of participants). Annex 2 gives the agenda of the Meeting.

After the official opening by FAO/SFE, the presentation of FAO on AgWA - Building up Mature Partnership for Scaling up Agricultural Water Management in Africa, and the presentation of AgWA progress during 2014/2015 by Fethi Lebdi, AgWA Coordinator, and Maher Salman, Technical Advisor, NRL-FAO-HQs, three sessions followed, namely, AgWA Governance and Implementation Architecture, AgWA Operational Plan 2015/2016, and AgWA Financing Plan 2015/2016.

AgWA Progress: During this session Mr. Maher Salman presented the progress of AgWA during 2014-2015, during which AgWA enhance its capacity and operation at the African inter-regional level. Moreover, AgWA developed its advocacy and knowledge sharing pillars by doing the following activities:

- *March 2014:* Task force on irrigation
- *March 2014:* FAO/AgWA - COMESA Roundtable - TCP/INT/3404
- *May 2014:* Workshop on Promoting Investment in Agricultural Water Management-IFAD
- *August 2014:* Strengthening Agricultural Water Efficiency and Productivity on the African and Global level- Thematic Workshop – Rome, Italy
- *December 2014:* Water dialogue forum “water for regional cooperation”
- *May 2015:* Capacity development for farm management strategies to improve Crop-Water Productivity using Aqua-Crop Model Workshop - Spain
- *June 2015:* Turkey-Regional Training Workshop on Enhancing Water Use Efficiency in Small Scale Irrigation - The Application of FAO’s MASSCOTE Approach
- *June 2015:* International Rain Water Harvesting Symposium
- *October 2015:* Resilience, Research and Innovation (RRI) - Djibouti
- *October 2015:* Regional Workshop in Malawi and Swaziland - Support To The Pre- And Post-CAADP Compact Process For Improved AWM
- *November 2015:* Contribution to the Year of Soil Fertility Ethiopia Initiative
- *November 2015:* AgWA Steering Committee Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The current on-going and pipeline projects were also presented and a productive roundtable discussion followed this first session. The discussion points highlighted are the follow:

- Representatives from Burkina Faso, Morocco and Uganda raised several water issues present in their respectively countries. In particular problems related to water scarcity, water productivity and efficiency were mentioned. All three representatives stated that AgWA Partnership is fundamental to exchange positive lessons learned to tackle Agricultural Water Management challenges, and be on the ground to technically support countries with their effort to manage agricultural water.

- IGAD Representative emphasized that it is crucial that AgWA enhances capacity building in the region and be an operation unit able to implement cross-cutting themes at inter-regional level.
- Most of the participants were positively commenting on the fast and qualitative growth that AgWA had in the last two years and would like to see some practical lessons learned included in a publication in order to enhance the exchange of knowledge.
- AgWA is not only presented by its secretariat and FAO but its members should promote the Partnership activities, plans and on-going projects in their countries and in at regional level.

The session on **AgWA Governance and Implementation Architecture** started with a presentation by Sara Datturi, AgWA consultant, on the current “AgWA Governance and Implementation Architecture”. Subsequent discussions led to the following decisions.

AgWA maintained since 2012 a “gradual approach” to its governance. Considering the persisting funding constraints of its core team ‘the secretariat’ as well as the need to enhance in parallel both the ownership by African stakeholders and the effectiveness of the Partnership, the Steering Committee decided to distinguish the current, interim arrangements, from long-term institutional structures. The current ‘status quo’ changed from COMESA to IGAD: the composition of the Steering Committee changed for this 2015-2016. The new Steering Committee and its new Chair, IGAD, will remain in office until the next Steering Committee meeting, following its 12 months rotation rules. This will allow the Steering Committee and its chair to manage their duties for a reasonably longer period of time in order to guarantee institutional memory and continuity of operations.

During the AgWA Governance Plan discussion, other decisions were proposed:

- 1) AgWA Secretariat communication should be enhanced both internally, between the Steering Committee members and partners, and externally with other stakeholders. Ways of improving the communication are the constant updates of AgWA website (with all AgWA current activities and project’s appraises), which will stay under FAO domain and the creation of a newsletter to advocacy AgWA’s portfolio.
- 2) Following IWMI publication on “lessons learned from AWM experiences in West Africa”, the proposal is to prepare a similar publication that combines all AgWA’s portfolio positive experiences in Africa. This publication can be used as a tool to promote advocacy, resource mobilization and knowledge sharing.
- 3) AgWA Secretariat ToRs should also include the following:
 - a. Programme/Project formulation
 - b. Advocacy
 - c. Knowledge Sharing
 - d. Resource Mobilization
- 4) If AgWA will become a legal entity in the future it will move to another organization other than FAO, the Steering Committee members with a majority vote will take this decision. This is not the case for now. However, if this decision will be taken in the future, FAO technical support will remain through a memorandum of understanding with the new host of the Secretariat. Before embarking into this, it is recommended that an independent study on the success stories of other partnerships/organization, such as FARA, be conducted to understand the criteria and factors that brought these institutions to be legally independents.
- 5) Since AgWA is being hosted by FAO-SFE for the next 2 years, it is recommended to more engage FAO-SFE activities/plan for 2016.

The session on **AgWA Operational Plan 2015/2016** started with a presentation by Maher Salman, Technical Adviser, NRL-FAO-HQs, and Fethi Lebdi, AgWA Coordinator. Subsequent discussions confirmed that the Steering Committee members were in general satisfied with the proposed 'gradual approach to the AgWA delivery framework' and the content of the Operational Plan. The Steering Committee decided that the AgWA Secretariat will incorporate the changes to the Operational Plan that were suggested by different members during the discussions. In addition, some more key conclusions were drawn:

- 1) The two projects in pipeline on Ethiopia should be included in the Operational Plan only if there is a certain confirmation that their funding will be secured. If there is a risk that it may not be the case, it may be counter-productive to include them.
- 2) AgWA members and partners realized the optimal vision and practical work that AgWA has been doing until now. However, they emphasized that more is needed on promotion and advocacy of work, such as a publication that incorporates all these positive achievements and lessons learned.
- 3) AgWA should work more closely with its partners and members in order to increase the capacity of most of the countries where the Partnership is present.

The session on **AgWA Financing Plan 2015/2016** started with a presentation by Maher Salman, Technical Advisor, NRL-FAO-HQs. The Steering Committee members discussed current prospects for a financing strategy of AgWA activities as emerging from the different partners' existing commitments and partners' consultations about the 'AgWA Operational Plan 2014-2015' (which occurred at March 2014). Important observations made/ to be taken into account for the AgWA financing strategy included:

- 1) Since the financial resources of AgWA are limited, AgWA needs to be sustained also through the direct engagement of all its members. AgWA activities may be included in current/future national AWM programmes. It is also AgWA members and partners duty to advocate AgWA activities at the national level.
- 2) It is important to start to diversify funding resources, looking for opportunities, for example, with Kuwait funds, Islamic Development Bank, etc.
- 3) The current AgWA core fund looks promising, in particular its pipeline projects. However, not all projects have secure funds. It is, therefore, important to look at several resource mobilization options to be sure that the actual plan will actually be implemented. There is often a risk to involve different stakeholders in a project proposal without its final implementation.
- 4) AgWA should be more innovative and creative in its resource mobilization, looking also at domestic fund mobilization, starting from Ethiopia itself where AgWA is currently based.

PARTNERS MEETING – KEY POINTS/ DECISIONS TAKEN

ADDIS ABABA, 26TH NOVEMBER 2015 (MORNING)

The Partners' Meeting started with interventions by the different AgWA partners and members about their portfolios and activities in the water sector, including possible contributions to the AgWA operationalization. So far, the partners committed to AgWA are: AfDB, COMESA, FAO, IFAD, IGAD, IWMI, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the US Department of State.¹ Potential interest was shown by the Finland Cooperation Agency. Six presentations by SDC, COMESA, AfDB & USDS, IGAD, IFAD and Finland were given.

The main points addressed are:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): SDC gave some highlights of its three current initiatives. These are: Strengthening Agricultural Water Efficiency and Productivity at the African and Global Level (AgWA on-going funded project), Innovative Monitoring, Modeling and Managing Water (iMoMo) and Water and Land Resources Centers (WLRCs). While the SDC-AgWA project on Efficiency/Productivity was well covered by other speakers of FAO/AgWA, the presentation gave more details on the iMoMo and the WLRCs.

- **iMoMo Global Initiative(2013):** Innovation in Monitoring, Modeling & Managing Water using integrated low-cost, high-tech and user center approaches in order to measure and account for water at local levels in irrigation.

The main objective of this initiative is to foster innovation in hydro- and agro-meteorology for:

- Low-cost, user-centered & non-traditional monitoring / crowd-sensing
- Automatic / secure transmission of data
- Digital data management, analysis and exchange using open source and secure web technologies for the modernization of (existing) workflows.

In conjunction with a global innovation HUB linked to the WMO, iMoMo solutions can be deployed in a timely and highly scalable manner. Technology diffusion and appropriation is made easier by existing institutions (formal and informal), which can benefit from them.

Under any circumstances, institutional long-term support should be guaranteed by local iMoMo Service Centers and Field Offices.

- **WRC project:** The main objective of this project is that water and land governance is improved through knowledge generation and management by consolidation of the water and land resource center and up-and-out-scaling of products at regional/trans boundary level.

The main key outcomes/outputs are:

- Knowledge generation
- Knowledge for cross-scale policy dialogue
- Outreach through Capacity Building

AfDB: AgWA-AfDB project “Exploring Challenges and Opportunities in Building Partnerships to Enhance Investment in Agricultural Water Management in Africa and to Achieve Green and Inclusive Growth Objectives set under the Ten Year Strategy of the African Development Bank” is progressing well- assessing the AWM portfolio of AfDB from 1995 to 2010. The countries selected are: Chad, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tunisia. As pilots are moving, new learning lessons are being developed.

¹ The contribution of Donors would be in two forms: project/programme based; and output based.

COMESA: The COMESA priorities for water development have been captured by the CAADP and Related Documents:

- a. CAADP – National level: Member States National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs)- Pillar 1
- b. CAADP – Regional Compact and Investment Plan
- c. In the COMESA Irrigation Master Plan & strategy
- d. COMESA Climate Change Programme
- e. The Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Support to the pre- and post-CAADP compact process for improved agricultural water management (Pillar 1)

The future direction is the Malabo Declaration Technical support and capacity building to Member states to refine the issues of agriculture water management and resilience in their NAIPs Regional CAADP Investment Plan Implementation.

Finland: The Finish Cooperation Agency has a strong commitment with Ethiopia in particular, the Community Management Programme (CMP) for WASH. With the CMP approach, water scheme implementation rate in Amhara region of Ethiopia increased by up to a factor of 5 (from an average of 200 water points per year (1994-2003) increasing steadily, from 2003, to over 2000 water points per year in 2010/11). This equates to an average of over 70 new schemes per CMP district per year. Finland Cooperation Agency will strengthen its support to drinking water and sanitation in schools and it is expecting cooperation and synergies on the use of compost from sanitation, and freshwater resources development and irrigation for food production and nutrition at school level. Collaboration between the Finish Cooperation Agency and AgWA on extending the CMP to agriculture sector is seen of high potential.

IFAD: IFAD's "water" strategy and portfolio: Corporate level: "water" is a cross-cutting element in IFAD's corporate strategy (MDGs) and policies, such as natural resources management, climate change. Country strategy: In almost all countries, "water" is part of IFAD's country strategy; in many countries it's a core strategic objective. Example: Ethiopia SO1: Enhancing access by poor rural households to natural resources (land and water). Investment size: 60% of IFAD projects have a water component; these projects target 14 million households. Investment type: IFAD targets a wide range of interventions, from irrigation schemes to watershed management to WASH. FAO/AgWA is developing proposal for inter-regional project on AWM through IFAD grant.

IGAD: The AWF launched Call for Proposals for the preparation of Climate Resilient Water Resources Development Programmes and Projects in 2014. IGAD in partnership with FAO/AgWA submitted a proposal in response to the call in 2014. The project proposal was designed to cover all IGAD Member States. It pre-appraisal has been completed limiting the scope to Jubba River alone. Endorsement by its riparian countries is still awaiting while partnership between IGAD and AgWA for its implementation continues to be the case.

USDS: AgWA-USDS project "Support to Agricultural Water Management in the Horn of Africa through the Partnership for Agricultural Water in Africa" in Kenya and Uganda is progressing well, supporting the CAADP process in Kenya and Uganda, and currently designing irrigation master plan in Kenya. So far, success stories and lessons learned can be upscale to other countries.

Subsequent discussions led to the following decisions:

1. Dialogue with Finland should continue to partner on new initiative learning from the CMP, extending it to the Agricultural Water Sector.
2. COMESA states its commitment to work with AgWA in the future agriculture and water programme for the next five years. The role of COMESA would also be to help AgWA in the resource mobilization part.

3. Having the opportunity to communicate, share knowledge and experiences in AWM are fundamental and crucial. AgWA should play a major role in carrying out these initiatives and to promote more discussion points between the partners.
4. In line with the study the legal status of AgWa, a strategy for resource mobilization could also be prepared/commissioned by the Secretariat of the Partnership.

The contribution by partners at regional level is already demonstrated. However, the Secretariat and NRL-FAO will negotiate with each partner, in a sort of mapping exercise of institutional capacities and financial contributions, in particular for the core/basket funding, on the basis of the interventions made already during this Partners Meeting.

ANNEX 1 : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT AGWA-SC MEETING, 25-26 NOVEMBER 2015, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

ANNEX 2: AGENDA OF AGWA SC MEETING- NOVEMBER 25RD, 2015, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

SESSION 1: OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS		
09.00 – 9.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Welcome and opening remarks (SRC-SFE) – Presentation of participants – AgWA - A Partnership for Scaling up Agricultural Water Management in Africa Presentation - Fethi Lebdi, AgWA Coordinator 	FAO-SFE/ADDIS ABABA FAO-NRL/HQS-ROME COMESA AGWA SECRETARIAT AGWA TEAM
SESSION 2: AgWA PROGRESS 2014-2015		
09.40 – 10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AgWA Progress during 2014/2015 - Presentation Maher Salman, Technical Officer, FAO-NRL, Rome DISCUSSION	FAO-NRL/HQS-ROME AGWA TEAM
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION 3: AgWA GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ARCHITECTURE		
11.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AgWA Governance - Current and Future Presentation –Sara Datturi, AgWA Consultant DISCUSSION	AGWA SECRETARIAT AGWA TEAM
LUNCH		
SESSION 4: AgWA OPERATIONAL/ FINANCIAL PLANS		
13.30 – 14.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AgWA’s Operational Plan Presentation - Maher Salman, Technical Officer, FAO-NRL, Rome DISCUSSION	FAO-NRL/HQS-ROME AGWA TEAM
14.30 – 15.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AgWA Financing Plan Presentation - Maher Salman, Technical Officer, FAO-NRL, Rome DISCUSSION	FAO-NRL/HQS-ROME AGWA TEAM
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
AgWA New SC - CLOSING SESSION		
16.00 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Summary of decisions taken – Sara Datturi, AgWA Secretariat 	AGWA SECRETARIAT AGWA TEAM
	New SC and New Chair Closing remarks	COMESA AGWA SECRETARIAT

ANNEX 3: AGENDA OF AGWA PARTNERS' MEETING- 26 NOVEMBER, 2015 (MORNING), ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

08:30 – 09:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opening Remarks: Outlining the role of AgWA partners since AgWA establishment – Partners' Contributions to Operational Plan <p>PLENARY DISCUSSION</p>
09:15 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promoting AWM in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support to technical interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Highlights from SDC Project “Strengthening Agricultural Water Efficiency and Productivity on the African and Global Level” SDC ○ Policy/planning support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Highlights from FAO-TCP Project “Support to the Pre- and Post-CAADP Compact Process for Improved Agricultural Water Management” COMESA – Highlights from the USDS and AfDB projects “Support to Agricultural Water Management in the Horn of Africa through AgWA & Challenges and opportunities in building partnerships to enhance agricultural water investments in Africa to achieve green growth objectives set under the Ten year strategy of the Bank” FAO-NRL <p>PLENARY DISCUSSION</p>
TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
11.15 – 12.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation of partners' portfolio: IGAD IFAD Finland <p>PLENARY DISCUSSION</p>

ANNEX 4: PHOTO GALLERY



ADDIS ABABA, NOVEMBER 25TH 2015: AGWA STEERING COMMITTEE, FIRST SESSION



GROUP PICTURE OF AGWA STEERING COMMITTEE AND PARTNERS MEETING 25-26 NOVEMBER 2015.