



**“STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL WATER EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY ON THE AFRICAN AND GLOBAL LEVEL”**

**GCP/INT/231/SWI**

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ADDIS ABABA, 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**MEETING REPORT**

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The GCP/INT/231/SWI 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting started with an overview of the project given by its Technical Advisor, Mr. Maher Salman, NRL-FAO-HQs, followed by three presentations on progress so far been made, obstacles/way forward, and the plan for 2016.

The Steering Committee Meeting was attended by FAO, represented by Mr. Maher Salman, Technical Advisor, NRL-FAO-HQs, Mr. Fethi Lebdi, AgWA Coordinator, Sara Datturi, AgWA Consultant; the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-The Donor, represented by Mr. Manfred Kaufmann, Water Policy Advisor for Africa; Burkina Faso, represented by Mr. Kambou Donkora, Directeur de la Restauration, de la Conservation et de la Récupération des sols, Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques de l’Assainissement et de la Sécurité Alimentaire, NPC-Burkina Faso; Morocco, represented by Mr. Mahjoub Lahrache, Chef de la Division des Aménagements, Direction de l’Irrigation et de l’Aménagement de l’Espace Agricole, NPC-Morocco; and Uganda, represented by Mr. Okaasai Opolot, Director of Crop Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; and Mr. Sunday Mutabazi, Commissioner of Farm Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. FAO facilitated the meeting (Mr. Maher Salman, Technical Advisor, NRL-FAO-HQs, and Mr. Fethi Lebdi, AgWA Coordinator) and took note of its discussion/conclusions made (Ms. Sara Datturi, AgWA Consultant). The Meeting Agenda is provided in Annex 1.

The following points were discussed:

**OPERATION/COMMUNICATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL**

- The FAO country offices support the operation of the project at country level and liaise with governments for official matters.
- National Project Coordinators, entrusted by their own governments, supported by Technical Assistants recruited by the project in each country, act as focal points with relevant national stakeholders on behalf of the project and communicate with the AgWA Secretariat, Project Lead Technical Unit (NRL-FAO-HQs), and FAO Country Office for technical and operational project-related matters.

- The website of AgWA Partnership is to have a dedicated section on the project- benchmarks and updates.
- In order to enhance the communication between the three country teams and FAO, a weekly (or every two weeks) meeting in addition to the development of constant up-to-date short reports about the project progress are to be conducted.

## **PROGRESS**

Satisfaction with project progress was shown by all members of Project Committee. Furthermore, the engagement with international resource institutes/persons per theme is well established, while it is in process at national level.

- Water Productivity
  - University of Cordoba (UoC): One year engagement- International Resource Institute for AquaCrop. UoC team is already in contact with country AquaCrop core teams trained earlier this year in Spain to establish the ground for their involvement in field activities next year as a step in the complete knowledge transfer.
- Water Efficiency
  - International Consultant (backstopped by FAO Technical Officer through Technical Support Service Provision): One year engagement- International Resource Person for MASSCOTE. The International Consultant is already in contact with country MASSCOTE core teams trained earlier this year in Turkey to establish the ground for their involvement in field activities next year as a step in the complete knowledge transfer.
- Water Harvesting
  - Spate Irrigation Network: One year engagement- International Resource Institute for Water Harvesting. Spate Irrigation Network team is already engaged with stakeholders in each country for the assessment of the sub-sector to establish the ground for their involvement in field activities next year as a step in the complete knowledge transfer.
- Water Accounting/Auditing
  - The theme is led by FAO-NRL Water Accounting team through Technical Support Provision. Country assessments/ stocktaking are completed for the three countries, adjusted plans based on stocktaking are prepared in two countries (Burkina Faso and Uganda) to primarily install a GeoNetwork node and develop/maintain a structured database, and training programme on GeoNetworking is prepared.
- Out-reach material
  - Synthesized reports, e.g. water harvesting assessment, will be regularly prepared, published, and widely disseminated as part of knowledge sharing and visibility enhancement of the project.

## **2016 PLAN**

- A practical implementation/operation plan for 2016 with timeline and deliverables is to be prepared to guide the intensive field work that will dominate the plan of work for 2016 in the three countries.
- For project sustainability beyond 2017, mobilizing resources for up-scaling pilot projects through funding provided development banks active in each country was proposed.
- Water Productivity activities have also rain-fed agriculture that should be included in the plan of work.

- Inception workshop in Burkina Faso will be organized early 2016. However, it would no longer be called “inception” as it will also include progress/plan of work.

**GENERAL**

- The next Steering Committee Meeting will be in 6 month-time in Morocco (rotational). It will also have one day field visit. Project Technical Assistants as well as Project National Coordinators will be invited to the Steering Committee Meeting and be actively involved in its sessions through presentations and discussions on their country activities.
- The new Chair of the Steering Committee for the next 6 months is Uganda.

NOVEMBER 26<sup>RD</sup>, 2015, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

14:00 – 14:30	<p><b>OPENING STATEMENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– FAO-NRL</li> <li>– FAO/SFE</li> <li>– SDC</li> <li>– Burkina Faso, Uganda and Morocco</li> </ul>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>PROJECT OVERVIEW:</b> MAHER SALMAN, TECHNICAL ADVISER, NRL-FAO</p> <p><b>PROJECT PROGRESS &amp; OBSTACLES</b> FETHI LEBDI, AGWA COORDINATOR</p> <p>COUNTRIES’ FEEDBACK</p> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>	
16.00 – 17.30	<p><b>PROJECT WORK-PLAN AND WAY FORWARD</b> MAHER SALMAN, TECHNICAL ADVISER, NRL-FAO</p> <p><b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>WRAP-UP</b></p> <p><b>SELECTING OF NEW CHAIR</b></p> <p><b>CLOSING</b></p>

