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# SUPPORTING THE DRAFTING OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY AND POLICY DOCUMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION IN WEST AFRICA

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SDGs:



Countries: Members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Project Codes: TCP/RAF/3604

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### Implementing Partners

ECOWAS Commission.

### Beneficiaries

ECOWAS and the governments of its 15 Members, as well as the farmers who use irrigation systems within the 15 countries, whose current and future irrigation systems will be much improved by enhanced irrigation productivity.

### Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF contribution in the eight countries in which it was possible to implement the studies (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo).



## BACKGROUND

Food security is a major problem in Africa and especially in West Africa, where many countries have made agriculture an economic priority. In order to find a community-based solution to the issue, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has developed and adopted its own common agricultural policy (ECOWAP). Despite this, given the effects of climate change over the last few years, irrigation has become the key factor in food security. In this context, as part of the cooperation framework with FAO, ECOWAS requested the drafting of a regional strategy and policy document for the development of small-scale irrigation in West Africa.

The decision made to support irrigation is linked to the fact that the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) has incorporated specific action to “strengthen irrigation”, with no concrete measures implemented to date. In addition, the recommendations made in the Malabo Declaration 2014, at the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) on climate change and in the new guidelines of the ECOWAP II (for 2015) have all focused on intensive and sustainable agriculture, among other aspects. This is because irrigation in the ECOWAS area is one of the main tools used in the sustainable intensification of agriculture.

Almost 75 percent of farmers from the area are smallholder producers, which makes this type of irrigation more manageable. Development partners also believe that the advancement of small-scale irrigation is a key factor in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, as well as an effective resilience tool against climate change.

The aim of drafting a regional strategy and policy document was to achieve intensive and sustainable agriculture with higher productivity sustained by improved irrigation in the ECOWAS area.

The main project results achieved were as follows: (i) an analysis of the irrigation subsector, in particular small-scale irrigation, including strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of ECOWAS Members and (ii) the drafting and approval by ECOWAS of a regional policy and strategy of small-scale irrigation to help develop irrigation within the ECOWAP framework.

## IMPACT

The project contributed towards intensive and sustainable agriculture with higher and sustained productivity through the development and knowledge of small-scale irrigation. The irrigation data was collected and is now available in eight ECOWAS countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo).

## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

Data was collected as part of the analysis of the irrigation subsector, in particular small-scale irrigation, and made available in the eight ECOWAS countries cited above. For the seven remaining countries, the contracts of the international consultants expired before the end of the activities and, as a result, no national consultants could be recruited.

Nevertheless, international consultants were able to carry out missions to certain key countries and meet subregional institutions, mainly in the Niger and Burkina Faso. Furthermore, the technical, organizational and management capabilities of the stakeholders working in the irrigation subsector in the eight countries cited were identified, categorized and assessed. The need for capacity-building at all levels was also noted. Finally, the project carried out two important analyses. First, a comprehensive assessment on the state and level of available water resources was carried out, as well as a detailed examination of the constraints in the mobilization and use of water. In addition, a baseline study of the situation regarding governance, tenure security, access to land and access and use of water also took place.

With reference to the drafting and approval by ECOWAS of a regional policy and strategy on small-scale irrigation, the project inception meeting was held and attended by international consultants, who presented their working methodologies, as well as the situational analysis of agriculture and irrigation in ECOWAS Member Nations and the FAO guidance note on irrigation in the area. A detailed plan of visits to the main ECOWAS institutions was drafted and agreed with the Lead Technical Officer.

However, the workshop for the validation of the draft document could not be held. As a result, given that the international consultants' contracts had expired, the policy and strategy document was not completed.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

Although over 50 percent of activities were carried out, it was not possible to complete the project, in large part due to the expiry of the contracts of the international consultants before the project's end, but also as a result of difficulties in recruiting other national consultants, especially once the international consultants' contracts had expired.

The main risk envisaged during the project design phase was that of instability in certain Member Nations. In order to mitigate this risk, the project organized a series of consultations and exchanges by email or video conference.



### FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Each participating country should have a national policy on the development of irrigation and should create implementation programmes.

Furthermore, a policy of financial compensation for taxes on imports of irrigation material and equipment (such as solar-powered pumps, solar panels and drip irrigation kits) should be established.

### SUSTAINABILITY

For the eight countries in which the studies were able to take place, the reports form an excellent basis and a good source of information for the development of efficient policies, programmes and strategies to improve irrigation, above all small-scale irrigation, which is more likely to deliver significant results in the efficient use of water for irrigation and in the improvement of agricultural productivity to help cope with climate change.



### DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- Assessment reports on the state of irrigation were produced in the following eight countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Expected Impact</b>	<b>An intensive and sustainable agriculture with higher productivity which is sustained through the development and knowledge of small-scale irrigation</b>		
<b>Outcome</b>	A regional policy and strategy for small-scale irrigation available and approved by ECOWAS to help develop irrigation in support of a common agricultural policy (ECOWAP)		
	<b>Indicator(s)</b>	More intensive agriculture and increased productivity using small-scale irrigation.	
	<b>Baseline</b>	Absence of linkages between intensive agriculture and small-scale irrigation.	
	<b>Final objective</b>	Data on small-scale irrigation available in tandem with the small-scale irrigation policy and strategy.	
<b>Comments and follow-up measures</b>	Irrigation data collected and made available in eight ECOWAS countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo). The contracts of the international consultants expired before the project end for the remaining seven countries and it was not possible to recruit national consultants in these countries.		
<b>Output 1</b>			
	Implement a comprehensive analysis of the irrigation subsector. in particular small-scale irrigation, in ECOWAS Member Nations		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	The opportunities to strengthen small-scale irrigation are identified to enable a favourable environment for investment.	Information on the subsector situation is available.	Partially
<b>Baseline</b>	The actual situation of the small-scale irrigation subsector is unknown.		
<b>Comments</b>	Irrigation data collected and made available in eight ECOWAS countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo). The contracts of the international consultants expired before the project end for the remaining seven countries and it was not possible to recruit national consultants in these countries.		
<b>Activity 1.1</b>			
	Implement a high-level Regional and Technical Working Group to monitor the development of small-scale irrigation strategy and policy and its validation, and organize the workshop for the inception and validation of the working methodology		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Partially	
	<b>Comments</b>	The initial project inception workshop was held and was attended by five international consultants and members of the task force. The working methodology, the work plan and the missions plan were all presented. Missions undertaken by international consultants to key countries in order to meet the subregional institutions, in particular in the Niger and Burkina Faso, were organize and carried out. The visits involved the Niger Basin Commission, the Volta Commission, the Liptako Gourma Authority and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Discussions also took place with the ad hoc committee on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Centre (WRCC). Scheduled visits to other institutions, in particular to Chad to visit the Lake Chad Basin Organization and to Senegal for the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), were not carried out.	
<b>Activity 1.2</b>			
	Carry out a baseline study on small-scale irrigation of Member Nations		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Partially	
	<b>Comments</b>	The baseline study on small-scale irrigation in ECOWAS Member Nations was achieved in eight of the countries and the national reports were produced by the recruited national consultants. The project encountered major difficulties in recruiting other national consultants, especially after the contract expiry of the international consultants.	
<b>Activity 1.3</b>			
	Carry out an assessment on technical and institutional capabilities of the subsector		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Partially	
	<b>Comments</b>	The identification, categorization and assessment of technical capabilities and of the organization and management of stakeholders working in the irrigation subsector was achieved in the eight ECOWAS countries cited above. The requirements for capacity-building at all levels were also assessed.	

Activity 1.4	Assess the level of available water resources in ECOWAS countries and the constraints in mobilizing and using them in order to implement the strategy		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	A comprehensive examination of the state and level of available water resources and a detailed examination of the constraints in the mobilization and use of water were achieved in the eight cited countries.	
Activity 1.5	Review the national legislative and regulatory environment in relation to irrigation in the target countries (land tenure, water, environment)		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	The situation regarding governance and tenure security, in particular access to land and access to and use of water, was also analysed, as well as environmental compliance within the eight ECOWAS countries.	
Activity 1.6	Organize a restitution, validation and situational analysis workshop		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	The national workshops could not be held because the international consultants' contracts had expired.	
Output 2	A regional policy and strategy on small-scale irrigation is available for adoption by ECOWAS		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Existence of a regional policy and strategy document on small-scale irrigation.	Regional policy and strategy document on small-scale irrigation.	In part
Baseline	No policy or strategy on small-scale irrigation in place.		
Comments	<p>Five international consultants were hired in accordance with requirements. The first project inception meeting brought together the international consultants. A number of issues were assessed, including the agriculture and irrigation situation in ECOWAS Member Nations. A work plan was prepared by the team of consultants and visits to the main ECOWAS institutions were planned. Although the missions to the Niger and Burkina Faso did take place, those to Chad and Senegal could not be carried out.</p>		
Activity 2.1	Prepare the draft regional strategy and policy document on small-scale irrigation and a plan of action for implementation together with a roadmap		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Five international consultants were hired in accordance with requirements.</li> <li>– The first project inception meeting brought the international consultants together in order to put forward their working methodologies, according to their respective terms of reference, including analysis and comments on the terms of reference. Situational analysis on agriculture and irrigation of ECOWAS Member Nations was presented, along with the FAO guidance note on ECOWAS and ECOWAP II. The Department of Irrigation from Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture presented its own irrigation policy during the inception meeting.</li> <li>– A work plan was prepared by the team of international consultants.</li> <li>– A detailed plan of visits of the main ECOWAS institutions was prepared and mutually agreed with the Lead Technical Officer.</li> <li>– Missions to the Niger and Burkina Faso were organized and carried out, with the visits to the Niger Basin Commission, the Volta Commission and the Liptako Gourma Authority as well as to the CILSS, the IWRM and the WRCC.</li> <li>– The missions to Chad and Senegal to visit the Lake Chad Basin Organization and the OMVS could not be carried out.</li> </ul>	
Activity 2.2	Organize the expert workshop for validation of the draft regional strategy and policy document on small-scale irrigation		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	The workshop for the validation of the draft document did not take place because the policy and strategy document could not be completed due to the expiry of the contracts of the international consultants.	
Activity 2.3	Prepare the final regional strategy and policy document on small-scale irrigation and a plan of action for implementation, together with a roadmap		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	The policy and strategy document was not achieved due to the expiry of the contracts of the international consultants.	

**Partnerships and Outreach**

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