



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# AgWA

Partnership for agricultural water for Africa

## WHAT AgWA IS

AgWA is an autonomous partnership of development partners, and international, regional and national organizations in Africa and elsewhere, who have a common interest and important capacities to support investment in Agricultural Water Management (AWM) in Africa.

A core function of AgWA is its work as an “Expert Pool” to support the planning and implementation of AWM investments in the continent.

## AFRICA NEEDS MORE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT

Concerns continue to grow about Africa’s food security. Africa’s population keeps growing and if nothing changes, about half of the world’s poor will live in this region, mostly in the rural areas. Agricultural growth is the key to increasing food security and driving economic growth in Africa. But agriculture needs water and lots of it. Africa is well endowed with water resources, yet only 7 percent of arable land is irrigated, compared to 38 percent in Asia. Additional investment in AWM would, thus, pay dividends. The continent is already moving towards increased investment in AWM with 25 African countries now having signed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compacts, and a further set of countries likely to sign Compacts in the coming years. Investing in AWM can boost agricultural growth, increase agricultural wage employment, help to stabilize food prices, reduce both rural and urban poverty.

## ...SO, AFRICA NEEDS AgWA!

There are numerous African institutions with AWM capacities and expertise, but none, nor any existing coalition of institutions, can offer the full range of specialties and degree of coordination needed to meet the challenges faced by African stakeholders. AgWA fills that gap by pooling partners’ knowledge and coordinating their efforts.



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## AgWA OBJECTIVES

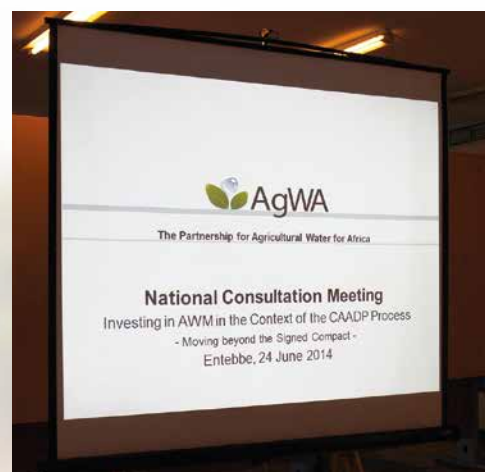
AgWA's overall objective is to increase investment in AWM that is socially equitable, profitable at the farm level, economically viable, environmentally friendly and sustainable, while contributing to the implementation of the CAADP National Process, in particular to its Pillar 1 (Land & water management) and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets. Specifically, AgWA aims to:

- scale up investments and ensure a more reliable, broad based and sustained flow of funds for agricultural water;
- promote analytical work and support sectoral strategies in the field of agricultural water;
- promote knowledge sharing, dissemination and capacity strengthening, and initiate innovative business lines in support to scaling up investments in agricultural water;
- promote regional integration, coordination and partnerships, and empowerment of national and regional stakeholders.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AgWA?

In the longer term, AgWA will play a key role at continental and regional level to match demand and supply of AWM support, and to provide highly-specialized technical assistance in country processes, such as, the CAADP National Process. AgWA is implementing several projects and activities in the African continent, with the aim of helping African countries to reach and maintain a higher path of economic growth through agriculturally led development that reduces poverty and food insecurity. Projects and activities are aligned with AgWA's priority areas. The AgWA partnership will meet its overall objective by undertaking a range of activities around five key components:

- **Advocacy** - Disseminating information on AWM and setting the topic on top of the national /international agenda;
- **Partner harmonization** - Providing a platform for closer collaboration, policy-dialogue and harmonization between partners;
- **Resource mobilization** - Increasing and sustaining the flow of resources towards AWM;
- **Generating and sharing knowledge** - Facilitating knowledge-sharing and understanding of issues related to AWM;
- **Capacity building** - Building the capacity for informed decision making at all levels of AWM.



## AgWA RECENT PROJECTS

- **Support to the Pre- and Post-CAADP Compact Process for Improved Agricultural Water Management** (Egypt, Malawi, the Sudan, Swaziland) – Donor: FAO
- **Support to Agricultural Water Management (AWM) in the Horn of Africa through the Partnership for Agricultural Water in Africa** (AgWA) (Kenya and Uganda) – Donor: USA
- **Strengthening Agricultural Water Efficiency and Productivity on the African and Global Level** (Burkina Faso, Morocco, and Uganda) – Donor: Switzerland
- **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** (Tunisia, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Chad, Mozambique and Kenya ) – Donor: African Development Bank

## INVESTMENT TOOLS

AgWA has developed a number of Diagnostic Tools for Investment (DTI) in Water for Agriculture and Energy to offer an integrated platform to systematically assess, at country level, trends in use of water resources, the policy and institutional frameworks and the investment needs and potential to boost the sustainable use of water.

More information on DTI:

[www.fao.org/agwa/investment-tools/dti/en](http://www.fao.org/agwa/investment-tools/dti/en)



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## AgWA SECRETARIAT

In March 2010 an interim Secretariat was established at the African Development Bank (AfDB). Following the activation of the Secretariat, major building blocks were prepared for AgWA to operate as a platform for AWM collaborations and joint ventures. After consultations in the African sub-regions and analytical exercises on the status of AWM promotion in Africa, AgWA was re-launched at the AgWA Partners' Meeting in January 2011 when a number of key decisions were made on the partnership's way forward, including on the AgWA governance structure, advocacy and communication activities and other important steps. Progress in building a mature partnership was made in 2011, in particular with the relocation of the AgWa Secretariat to the FAO sub-regional office for Eastern Africa (SFE) in Addis Ababa and by becoming fully operational thanks to a grant by IFAD.

The core functions of the Secretariat are as follows:

- Keep communications with partners
- Identify future partners and keep communications with them
- Prepare terms of reference for consultants that will prepare specific reports, studies, communication material, etc.
- Supervise and support the work of consultants that will prepare specific reports, studies, communication material, etc.
- Attend AWM related events and meetings to represent the partnership and ensure that communication material is distributed
- Organize AgWA related events and meetings
- Support and supervise the implementation of AgWA projects
- Prepare the AgWA progress report

AgWA's activities are governed by a Steering Committee which ensures that the Secretariat pursues the objectives set for the Partnership and performs in accordance with an agreed-workplan budget.



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 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
[www.fao.org/agwa/home](http://www.fao.org/agwa/home)

## AgWA partners



African Development Bank group (AfDB)  
[www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)



African Ministers' Council on  
 Water (AMCOW)  
[www.amcow-online.org](http://www.amcow-online.org)



African Union (AU)  
[www.au.int/en](http://www.au.int/en)



Association Régionale pour  
 l'Irrigation et le Drainage en  
 Afrique l'Ouest et du Centre (ARID)  
[www.arid-afrique.org](http://www.arid-afrique.org)



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture  
 Development Programme (CAADP)  
[www.nepad-caadp.net](http://www.nepad-caadp.net)



Food and Agriculture  
 Organization of the  
 United Nations (FAO)  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



Common market for Eastern and  
 Southern Africa (COMESA)  
[www.comesa.int/index.php](http://www.comesa.int/index.php)



Comité permanent Inter-Etats de  
 Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le  
 Sahel (CILSS)  
[www.cilss.bf](http://www.cilss.bf)



International Commission on  
 Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)  
[www.icid.org](http://www.icid.org)



International Fund for Agricultural  
 Development (IFAD)  
[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)



Italian Development Cooperation  
[www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgs/inglese/intro.html](http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgs/inglese/intro.html)



International Water  
 Management Institute (IWMI)  
[www.iwmi.cgiar.org](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org)



New Partnership for Africa's  
 Development (NEPAD)  
[www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)



Southern Africa Development  
 Community (SADC)  
[www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)



Swiss Agency for  
 Development and Cooperation  
[www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home](http://www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home)



The Economic Community Of West  
 African States (ECOWAS)  
[www.ecowas.int](http://www.ecowas.int)



The Intergovernmental Authority  
 on Development (IGAD)  
[igad.int](http://igad.int)



U.S. Department of State  
[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)



Waternet  
[www.watnetonline.org](http://www.watnetonline.org)



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[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)