



# More effective and sustainable investments in water for poverty reduction

The project aims at improving food security and reducing rural poverty of smallholder farmers through providing guidance and technical support to enhance the quality, impact and sustainability of Agricultural Water Management (AWM) investments.

Water is crucial to economies and to livelihoods and is central for poverty reduction. Sufficient availability and reliable access to water is commonly a constraint, not only to food production, but also to social and economic development and sustainability. Water plays a pivotal role around which other interventions can be organized. Therefore, improving investments in AWM to support smallholders' livelihoods is a priority in rural areas.



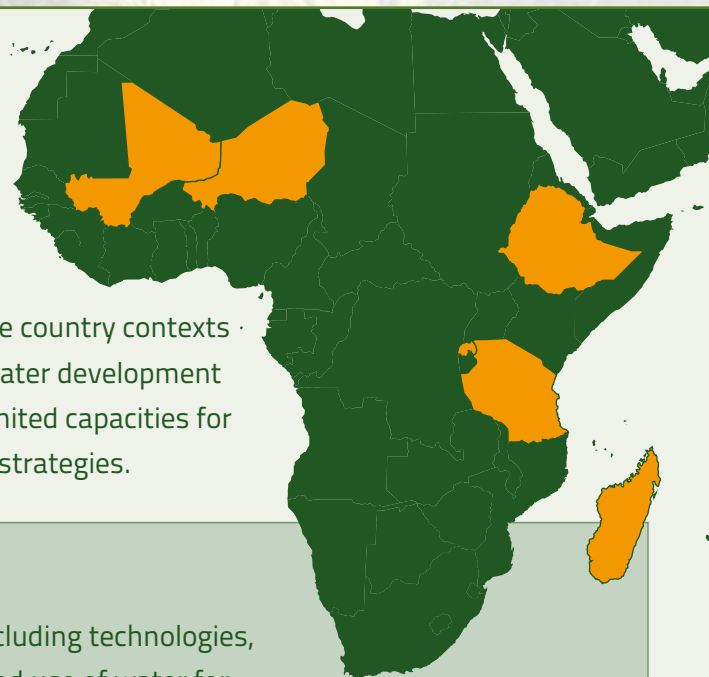
## The objectives

- Improve knowledge and assess the potential for scaling up, and design innovative AWM solutions and business models for the successful adoption of specific interventions.
- Provide technical assistance and training to farmer organizations and service providers on AWM in order to promote the adoption of appropriate technologies, and establish the necessary local capacity to put farmers in charge of water management.
- Enhance existing dialogue platforms to improve the effectiveness and impact of public and private sector investments in AWM solutions.

## The focus

The project is implemented in six African countries: Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The project develops new models of planning and implementing AWM investments, recognizing the diversity and complexity of the country contexts and priorities, and tailoring interventions accordingly. Any rural water development strategy needs to deal with diversified livelihood systems with limited capacities for agricultural investment, putting extra emphasis on risk-avoiding strategies.



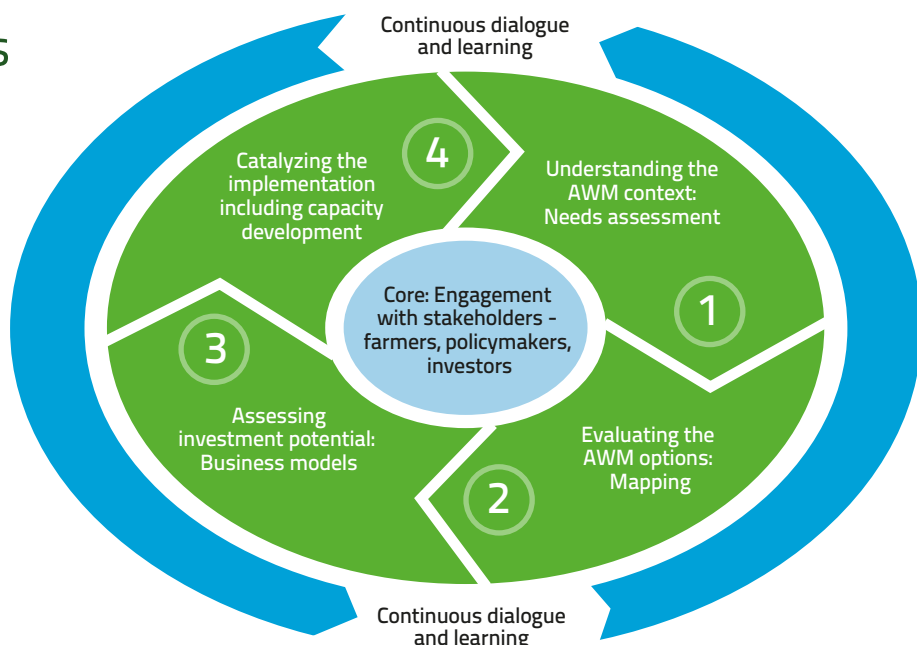
## What is AWM?

Agricultural Water Management (AWM) covers any measure, including technologies, products and practices that increases or improves the access and use of water for agriculture, including crops, livestock and multiple uses.

# How the project works

The project offers a set of concrete, evidence-based recommendations and tools in prioritizing and planning water-related interventions, in support of smallholder farmers for donors, policymakers, the private sector, communities and individual farmers.

These recommendations are developed through a continuous and consultative process with stakeholders which includes different phases:



- Understanding the AWM context through a needs assessment analysis to identify the needs, relevance, potential and opportunities for improving the impact and effectiveness of AWM interventions in terms of research, technical assistance, training and policy support.



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- Evaluating the AWM options by mapping livelihood zones, agricultural water management investment potential and suitability domains of specific AWM solutions.
- Assessing investment potential through the creation of business models for the most relevant AWM solutions identified.
- Catalyzing the implementation by providing technical assistance and mentoring support to smallholder farmers and service providers on AWM.

## Partners

The project is funded by IFAD through the CGIAR Programme on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and is implemented by FAO in collaboration with IWMI.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Water, Land and Ecosystems

## For more information

[www.fao.org/in-action/water-for-poverty-in-africa](http://www.fao.org/in-action/water-for-poverty-in-africa)

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