



SNV



Workshop Announcement and Programme for the set-up of a National Irrigation Acceleration Platform

**“Promoting Farmer-led and Market based Smart Water
Solutions for improving smallholder irrigation in Kenya”**

Date: 12th April 2018

Venue: Azure Hotel, Lantana Road, Westlands, Nairobi

"Promoting Farmer-led and Market based Smart Water Solutions for improving smallholder irrigation in Kenya" is the theme of a workshop being organised by WARREC/JKUAT and SNV in Nairobi on April 12th, 2018. This document provides the background for this workshop, and elaborates on our efforts to stimulate knowledge networking and evidence based advocacy in smallholder irrigation development in Kenya.

The Kenyan water crisis

When it comes to water, Kenya is a land of contrasts. Though it is home to some of the great water towers of East Africa, 90 percent of the country is either arid or semi-arid. Rainfall patterns are highly variable, both annually and across seasons, a challenge likely to be further exacerbated by climate change. For the economy, local water stress is already a factor, not only in the arid areas but also in the more water-rich regions where water-intensive economic and agricultural activity has grown rapidly, such as Naivasha, greater Nairobi and northern Mt. Kenya.

Kenya's Vision 2030 has listed "Increasing the amount of irrigated land" among the eight challenges for the water sector. The Agricultural Sector Development Strategy for 2009-2020 (ASDS) has identified "improvement of water management and irrigation development" as a strategic requirement for building a dynamic agricultural sector. Looking ahead, the Country's Vision 2030 predicts that water demand will grow very rapidly, especially in the context of ambitious agribusiness development plans. To cope with this anticipated challenge, the draft National Irrigation Policy 2015 is promoting a holistic agricultural water management approach, which includes irrigation, water harvesting and storage, field water management supported with appropriate agronomic practices.

The opportunities for growth through irrigation and agricultural water storage are immense in Kenya. The country has an irrigation potential of 1.342 million ha. By the end of 2013, only 12% (161,840 ha) of the potential had been developed (Water Master plan, 2012). To realize this huge irrigation potential, there is a need to invest in smart water solutions for agriculture. Currently, surface water storage capacity for irrigated agriculture and livestock is estimated at only three m³/capita/year, one of the lowest water storage rates in the world, equivalent to some three months use. Thus, if the country experiences droughts of over three months, it experiences famine, lacks water for irrigation and for power generation¹. Based on current water demand and the need for increased irrigation to achieve the intended economic growth of Kenya's Vision 2030, it is estimated that Kenya could face a 31 percent gap between water demand and practically available water supply by 2030.

The Government of Kenya is realizing the need to increase efforts to face the challenges ahead. A new Irrigation Bill 2015 has been tabled with parliament: next to establishing a new National Irrigation Development Services (NIDS), mandates and responsibilities will also be decentralized. County Irrigation Development Units are to develop county irrigation strategies, rehabilitate existing schemes, identify new potential areas, strengthen capacities of farmers and their organisations as well as resolve water conflicts and introduce licensing of smallholder irrigation.

A substantial number of projects are supporting the government, farmers and the private sector to address the risks around water scarcity and quality. Like the government, some focus on expanding or rehabilitating public irrigation schemes. The private sector has found growth markets in farmer-led irrigation – i.e. irrigation

¹ MoALF – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, 2015. National Irrigation Policy (draft).

initiated by individual farmers or groups of farmers - especially by selling Israeli and Indian irrigation equipment often in combination with plastic green houses.

A need for strengthening stakeholder interaction

It is widely acknowledged that no one will be able to solve the water stress alone, stakeholders will need to come together. In the recent years, we have seen some good examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships that bring together farmers, markets actors, service providers, government and civil society to collectively strengthen water resource management, such as "Imarisha Naivasha" ("Arise Naivasha") and the Billion Dollar Business Alliance.

WARREC, the Water Research and Resource Center of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology is tasked with further improving stakeholder interaction collaboration at the national level. WARREC was established under JKUAT as a link for the University to the external world, with the aim of to becoming a national center of excellence in research, innovation, science and technology for the broad water sector.

The mandate of WARREC is thus to facilitate networking and cooperation between institutions and individuals involved in the water sector and to provide advice on policy matters in the sector. For networking and cooperation in the area of farmer-led and market-driven irrigation WARREC has partnered with SNV's Smart Water for Agriculture (SWA) programme. SWA promotes more effective irrigation development jointly with farmers, and interaction, joint learning, coordination and cooperation among stakeholders involved in the development of farmer-led irrigation. The SWA program has already helped facilitate Irrigation Acceleration Platforms (IAPs) in five program Counties, with the idea that the platforms will be run and managed independent of the program and will sustain itself going forward.

These Irrigation Acceleration Platforms (IAP) aim to strengthen collaboration and linkages among people and organizations involved in the irrigation innovation, development, manufacturing, promotion and sales, with the explicit objective to scale-out effective smart water solutions (SWS). They are a place where the supply and demand side can meet and interact, where innovation can be initiated and supported, and where the private sector, farming communities and actors of the enabling environment can engage to analyze problems and propose strategies that work.

Currently the five County level platforms are functional and have been operational for the past year. The SWA program and its key partners are now available to work with WARREC in setting up and launching some form of irrigation acceleration platform at the national level, as many issues experienced at the local and county level need to be addressed at this level.

While the platforms at county level focus is on Horizontal Scaling of SWS, the national level platform will need to focus on Vertical Scaling, seeking to achieve systemic changes in smallholder irrigation, helping to create supportive regulations and an enabling environment through improving value chain governance and improving public policies.

WARREC is therefore taking the initiative towards strategizing and setting-up a National Level Irrigation Acceleration platform.

About the Workshop:

WARREC and SNV-SWA invite key national level stakeholders involved in smallholder irrigation development to a workshop to analyze key developments in the space, share knowledge and experiences with farmer and market-led irrigation development in the field including those from the County IAPs, and jointly develop strategies to upscale Smart Water Solutions to stimulate smallholder irrigation in Kenya.

The workshop will aim to generate interest and commitment for increased stakeholder interaction and collaboration, review the need for National Irrigation Acceleration Platform and its agenda, reach an agreement on main topics to address, and form Working Groups around these. The working groups are expected to undertake series of activities that will support systemic changes in the SWS space and contribute to policy change or development. Activities of the working groups could include work on specific policy issues and preparation of briefs or, e.g., Master Classes around these topics if needed combined with exhibitions on innovative technologies, or other initiatives through brainstorming during the workshop.

About the Organizers:

WARREC – JKUAT

JKUAT is an Institution of higher learning established in Kenya under the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012, through the JKUAT Charter signed on 1st March 2013. The University's objectives and functions include inter alia, to provide directly or indirectly, or in collaboration with other institutions of higher learning; facilities for quality training, research and innovation in agriculture, engineering, technology, enterprise development, health sciences, social sciences and other applied sciences, and integration in teaching, research and effective application of knowledge and skills to the life, work and welfare of the citizens of Kenya. JKUAT has established the Water Research and Resource Center (WARREC) as a center of excellence for research, science, technology and innovation in the broad fields of the water sector.

The Water Research and Resource Center (WARREC) was established at JKUAT in December 2011. WARREC is by design intended to be a national institution with a mandate to conducting research, offer scientific advice, policy advocacy, capacity building and knowledge management for the broad water sector issues. WARREC offers external technical services for the water sector. The Center collaborates with local, regional and international institutions to realise the following objectives:

- Enhance and facilitate research, innovation, science and technology in the broad water sector issues and activities,
- Strengthen human and institutional capacities of water sector stakeholders in Kenya,
- Facilitate networking and cooperation between institutions and individuals in the water sector,
- Provide advisory services, advice policy and facilitate science communication,
- Carry out any other lawful activities for the furtherance of water sector services, growth and development.

SNV

SNV is a not-for-profit international development organization, working in Agriculture, Energy, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Founded in The Netherlands in 1965, SNV has built a long-term, local presence in 38 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. SNV's global team of advisors work with local partners to equip communities, businesses and organisations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services – empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
12.30	Registration	
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Welcoming Remarks by WARREC	Prof. Bancy Mati
14:10	Welcoming Remarks by SNV	Mr. Jeen Kootstra
14:20	Introduction to the Members in the audience	Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen
14:30	Introduction to the Smart Water for Agriculture program	Eng. Sebastian Oggema
14:40	Focus of our workshop: Irrigation Acceleration Platforms	Ms. Vandana Thottoli
15:00	Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration at the County level to improve Farmer-led irrigation development	Mr. Stanley Kirimi / Mr. James Mwangi
15:15	Need for a National level Irrigation Acceleration Platform	Prof. Bancy Mati / Ms. Vandana Thottoli
15:30	Break	
16:00	Breakout sessions – Discussions on Mandates, Roles, Activities of the NIAP	Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen / Ms. Vandana Thottoli
17:00	Plenary feedback	Ms. Vandana Thottoli
17:15	Options for Virtual Communication Platforms	Mr. Mark De Blois
17:30	Wrap-Up and Networking Drinks	Prof. Bancy Mati