



ACTIVITIES IN GHANA



The AgWater Solutions Project

The aim of the project is to identify the factors that influence successful adoption and upscaling of small-scale agricultural water management (AWM) interventions and to provide a set of evidence-based tools and recommendations that support increased investment and policies to improve AWM adoption. The project is being undertaken in Ghana, Zambia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Burkina Faso and two states in India, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. This short update is designed to provide stakeholders with details of the current status of the project, including project activities to date and what is being planned for the future.

Activities to Date

Inception and Midterm Workshops

An inception workshop for the entire project was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2009. The project plan was discussed and work plan details were agreed for all countries. In January 2010, a midterm project workshop was organized in Lusaka, Zambia, which was attended by representatives from each country where the project is being undertaken. The participants reviewed progress, adapted work plans, and further detailed outputs and outreach plans for all countries.

Brainstorming Workshop

A one day brainstorming workshop involving professionals from Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA), University for

Development Studies (UDS), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) was held in December 2008. This was used to inform the Situation Analysis of AWM technologies in Ghana (see below).

Situation Analysis of AWM Technologies in Ghana

A Situation Analysis of AWM technologies in Ghana was conducted by IWMI, IFPRI, GIDA, UDS and KNUST in 2009. The purpose of the analysis was to provide background material on and analysis of:

- Existing environmental, hydrological and climatic conditions;
- National institutional and policy frameworks related to AWM;
- Typologies of existing AWM practices and their geographic spread;
- Key actors who are supporting the development of AWM in each region; and
- Promising AWM solutions that merit further detailed study.

The Situation Analysis involved three steps:

1. Brainstorming, literature reviews and analysis of secondary data;
2. Development of typologies of irrigation systems to provide an objective approach to stratifying irrigation systems according to their common physical, management and social characteristics; and
3. Primary data collection through reconnaissance, key informant surveys, field observations and farmer interviews (individually and in groups).

The Situation Analysis was carried out by a multidisciplinary team including an agronomist, an irrigation engineer and an agricultural economist. The research teams were assisted by agricultural extension agents from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA). A report has been prepared and a summary is available as **a briefing note on the project website**.

National Consultation Workshop

The National Consultation Workshop was held on August 31, 2009, in Accra, Ghana. It was facilitated by IWMI, GIDA and IFPRI and attended by some 30 participants from various organizations. The Workshop was an opportunity for stakeholders to share their opinions on AWM solutions that would be appropriate for Ghana and could be out-scaled. The participants prioritized water-lifting technologies; small reservoirs and dugouts; innovative institutional mechanisms such as "out-grower" schemes for smallholders and public-private partnerships; groundwater use for agriculture; and low-

land/inland valleys. The minutes of the workshop were circulated to the participants and a summary can be found as a **briefing note on the project website**.



Mapping AWM Potential and Solutions in Ghana

A two-day workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, from July 15-16, 2010, to map locations in Ghana for scaling-up of potential AWM solutions. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Define a typology of livelihood zones in Ghana;
- Prepare a national map locating the main livelihood zones of Ghana; and
- Identify the potential of promising AWM solutions in Ghana for poverty reduction in each of these livelihood zones.

Experts from various relevant disciplines were divided into groups to work on the mapping exercise. The groups, which were based on region, were tasked with dividing the regions assigned to them into livelihood zones. They then discussed this in plenary and came to an agreement on the most promising AWM solutions in each zone.

Gendered Cropping Systems Mapping Workshop

A workshop was held on July 14, 2010, in Accra, Ghana, to discuss the gendered organization of farming in Ghana with a selection of experts. By understanding the gendered organization of smallholder farming it is possible to design effective gender-equitable strategies for AWM, which will then have greater positive impacts on the livelihoods of smallholder farming families.

Field Level Case Studies

Based on the results of the Situation Analysis and the National Consultation, the project is carrying out case studies on the opportunities and constraints related to:

- Institutional and technical interventions to improve AWM using existing irrigation infrastructure (i.e., out-grower systems, public-private partnerships and on-farm ponds);
- Water-lifting technologies (i.e., manual and motorized pumps, and sources of energy including electrification);
- Groundwater use for agriculture (i.e., tube wells, shallow wells and boreholes);
- Small reservoirs; and
- Lowland/inland valleys.

Stakeholder Engagement Activities

- The Second Ghana Forum was held in October 2010. Members of the project team made presentations based on the results of the AgWater Solutions Project.
- Team members will also presented project findings at the West Africa Irrigation Workshop to be held from December 1-2, 2010.

Future Plans

- The detailed case studies will be completed and reports produced in early 2011.
- Preliminary project findings will be shared at technical meetings as soon as the draft reports are complete.
- The case studies will be formulated into “solutions” and “business models” with the support of various stakeholders.
- Solutions that are seen as being applicable in several countries will be developed into “investment briefs”.
- Stakeholder engagement will continue through a series of consultations to discuss emerging outputs and proposed solutions, and to support the development and implementation of business models.

Key Project Contacts

- Country Coordinator and project contact point – Dr. Regassa Namara, IWMI
- National Focal Point – Dr. Ben Vas Nyamadi, Deputy Director, Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA)
- Project Ambassador for West Africa – Dr. M. Amadou Allahoury Diallo, independent consultant, Niger

For more information and copies of the briefing notes mentioned in this update, please see the country page on the project website:

<http://awm-solutions.iwmi.org/ghana.aspx>

If you would like copies of any of the reports mentioned in this update please contact the Project Secretariat (awmsolutions@cgjar.org)

