

Joint Dissemination Meeting

**Learning Alliance for Micro Agricultural Water Management
Technologies
for
Small-Scale Farmers in Southern Africa**

To Discuss the findings of two recent studies on Small Scale Irrigation funded by

FAO (Investment Centre and TCEO)
and
US-Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Friday, June 23rd, 2006

**Kopano Conference Room, Campus of the ARC-Institute for Agricultural
Engineering (ARC-ILI), International Water Management Institute, 141, Cresswell
Street, Weavind Park 0127, Pretoria**

From
0900-1300

Background and Justification

The Southern African region has in recent years suffered from persistent food shortages and general decline in standard of living. This has been attributed to recurrences of drought, floods, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and general decline in performance of national economies. In 2002 alone, an estimated 13 million people in Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Malawi and Mozambique received food aid to avert starvation. Most governments and developmental partners have come to an agreement that this situation will remain for longer than anticipated and the solution is not in food aid but long term measures to address the root causes.

Several studies have recently been undertaken to understand experiences and effectiveness of Micro Agricultural Water Management Technologies (AWMT) in contributing to the reduction of vulnerability to food insecurity. The Investment Centre of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Southern Africa Regional Office of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, United States Agency for International Development (USAID/OFDA/SARO), commissioned the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) to undertake the study: Agricultural Water Management Technologies for Small Scale Farmers in Southern Africa: An Inventory and Assessment of Experiences, Good Practices and Costs.

FAO TCEO Emergency and Rehabilitation programme in southern Africa have undertaken a separate assessment of the effectiveness of emergency small-scale irrigation interventions, with case studies from Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The proposed meeting will present the preliminary results from these two studies with the objective of stimulating debate and learning with key stakeholders at the regional level.

Objectives of Meeting

1. Provide an initial forum for the dissemination and debate of preliminary results from studies commissioned by FAO and OFDA
2. Identify follow up actions for the implementation of recommendations from the studies

Participants

- The participants will include donor agencies, Senior Water Management Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and related Ministries, South Africa, UN agencies, International NGOs and private sector equipment suppliers.

Agenda

Presentation of preliminary findings from the two studies

Plenary discussion around thematic areas

Identification of follow up actions need for the implementation of the recommendations

Location and date

Kopano Conference Room, Campus of the ARC-Institute for Agricultural Engineering (ARC-IL) , International Water Management Institute (IMWI), 141, Cresswell Street, Weavind Park, 0127, Pretoria at 0900 on Friday, 23 June, 2006.

The meeting will end at 1300, followed by Lunch, provided by FAO

Key themes

The plenary discussion will cover the main pillars of sustainable irrigation development and how they have affected success or failure of micro AWMT under different conditions. It will also cover irrigation project impact on food security, nutrition and income.

1. Institutional analysis

Project design, procurement, implementation strategy, legislation and policy issues that affected project, geographical and beneficiary targeting, research, extension and training

2. Technical issues

Water harvesting, delivery, application and management, system performance, crop husbandry and crop protection.

3. Social issues

Group dynamics, leadership, conflict issues

4. Economic issues

Product support, access to inputs, credit and markets

5. Impact

Food security, income and nutrition