

16. AGRICULTURAL WATER STEWARDSHIP & ACCOMPANYING REGULATIONS AND POLICIES TO INCENTIVIZE LOW CARBON AND WATER (RE)USE PATHWAYS OF OUR AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

ACTION AREA	FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS
THEMATIC AREA	WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS
SUBMITTED BY	IWMI, CGIAR

WHAT IS THE RISK, SHOCK, STRESS THAT THE SOLUTION IS TRYING TO ADDRESS?

Climate induced water risks and increasing pressure on water resources

HOW DOES THE SOLUTION IMPROVE OR ENHANCE RESILIENCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS?

It reduces climate vulnerability of food production and systems more broadly as actors along the food system contribute to accessing, using and protecting water resources in a more integrated and holistic way which also enhances access to safe water for vulnerable communities (e.g. WASH) with further reaching impacts such as enhancing the nutritional benefits of food produced, diversified and accessed. Furthermore, the actors and stakeholders in farmer-led irrigation development cover the entire food system. This provides an opportunity to incorporate aspects of agricultural water stewardship and accompanying regulations and policies to incentivize low carbon and water (re)use pathways of our agri-food systems. Hence, tackling the common interest of sustainable management of water resources and reducing water related risks to the food systems could create a win-win opportunity (2030,WRG).

IS THE SOLUTION RELEVANT TO BUILDING FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE?

Anticipate shocks/risks/stress and/or reduce vulnerability, Transform the Food System when the current Food System is no longer sustainable

IN WHAT REALMS OF INTERVENTION IS THE SOLUTION DESIGNED TO ACT ON RESILIENCE?

Household, Community, Land/sea-scape

WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Civil (NGOs, etc.), Farmers, Scientists, Indigenous groups

WHAT IS THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA? DOES THE IDEA HAVE ANY MEMBER STATES OR POLITICAL INTERESTS? ARE THERE ANY STAKEHOLDERS WORKING ON IT?

African Union Commission, India, Uzbekistan, Southern Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia

IS THE SOLUTION APPLICABLE AT GLOBAL LEVEL, OR SPECIFIC CONTEXTS & PARTICULAR COUNTRIES?

It is applicable to a global level as it is adapted to the local context of water scarcity, availability and need to support climate resilience of food systems

WHAT ARE THE KEY ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS THIS SOLUTION?

Policy:

- Stimulate cross-sectoral public investment in WASH, FLI and Circular Economy
- Align sectoral policies related to water, agriculture, WASH, energy, climate, gender, and social inclusion where relevant
- Incentivize low carbon and water use (e.g. tax/importation, water, or carbon credits) whilst stimulating water access for the most vulnerable in food systems;
- Bundling of best-fit technologies and services which support multiple SDGs along the water storage-access- (re)use continuum;

Strengthening financing ecosystems for win-win solutions: This requires the irrigation, agriculture, climate, WASH sector to assess gaps and perverse incentives in the current financing environment both for upstream (private sector investment) and end-user financing.

ARE THERE ANY FINANCIAL SOURCES/FUNDS THAT IS SUPPORTING THIS IDEA?

Yes IFC, WB, IFAD, impact investors and private sector agri-business more broadly

HOW DOES THIS SOLUTION CONTRIBUTE TO (A) EMPOWER WOMEN AND COMBAT GENDER INEQUALITIES, AND (B) THE FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE RIGHT TO WATER, (C) MAKE USE OF INNOVATIONS (TECHNOLOGIES, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES)?

Farmer-led irrigation development has been showing to positively impact to multiple SDGs depending on the contextual challenges faced in terms of water scarcity (i.e. physical or economic), dietary diversity, food and nutrition security, enhanced income, women's empowerment, jobs and livelihoods and access to safe drinking water. Without it, production of nutritious foods may continue to be insufficient and even decline under climate change. We also have seen that gender matters in irrigation-nutritional linkages when women can make decision on crop choices, control over financial and natural resources. Given its positive effect on economic growth and nutritional outcomes, it can support vulnerable communities in building their climate resilience.