



## Working Together Towards Sustainable Agriculture Water Management

### Are we ready to support an African Green Revolution?

The first ever African Green Revolution Conference was held in 2008 in Oslo by the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), in collaboration with African Development Bank and others, to discuss the challenges of transforming Africa's agricultural landscape from subsistence farming to sustainable modern agriculture, in order to achieve food security. Very important observations were made at the conference, some of them reproduced in the box below.

**“The world urgently needs a green revolution in Africa. And the African continent has the potential to deliver”.**

Lennart Bage, then President of IFAD

**“The international community must work in partnership with all affected stakeholders to achieve sustainable agricultural development and real outcomes for the people in Africa”.**

Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General

Mr Bage called for investments into research that focuses on technologies and seed varieties that poor rural farmers need, to respond to challenges from pests, droughts and salinity. It was acknowledged that the world is still failing, collectively, to give Africa the level of coordinated and cohesive support that it needs to do so.

Every year alternate year the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) <http://www.agrforum.com/> has been organizing a meeting of the African heads of states to work towards an African Green Revolution. The Forum focuses on promoting investments and policy support for driving agricultural productivity and income growth for African farmers in an environmentally sustainable way.

In ICID, we need to ask ourselves:

### **“What and how can ICID as a network and as National Committees contribute to the Global initiative to bring Green Revolution in Africa?”**

In order to answer these questions and to respond to this challenge, ICID needs to prepare a position paper and set up a mechanism to extend its support in the area we best deal with: Agriculture Water Management. **YOUR** inputs to the following questions from your national perspective will help us prepare ICID position.

1. What were the achievements of First Green Revolution\* (~1960-1990) in your country?
2. In your opinion why did your country miss out, if so, on the First Green Revolution?
3. What should be the mission and objectives of the **African Green Revolution** in your country?
4. What are the main challenges that may inhibit **African Green Revolution**?
5. What should be the three most important components of **African Green Revolution**?
6. What tools would be most relevant for the **African Green Revolution**?
7. Is your country equipped with the required AWM tools for **African Green Revolution**?
8. If not what in your opinion are the capacity gaps for supporting the **African Green Revolution**?

Please send your response to [icid@icid.org](mailto:icid@icid.org) latest by 15 August 2016



## **\*What Is the Green Revolution?**

In the mid- and late-20th century a revolution occurred that dramatically changed the field of agriculture, and this revolution was known as the Green Revolution.

The **Green Revolution** was a period when the productivity of global agriculture increased drastically as a result of new advances. During this time period, new chemical fertilizers, synthetic herbicides and pesticides made it possible to supply crops with extra nutrients and, therefore, increase yield. In addition, high-yield crops were also developed and introduced. A method known as multiple cropping was also implemented during the Green Revolution and lead to higher productivity. These new farming techniques and advances in agricultural technology were made possible by large irrigation systems that provided water to the plants. When combined, these factors intensified the results of the Green Revolution.

