



SUMMARISED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TOPIC 2.3

Water and Food for Ending Poverty and Hunger

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CONSORTIUM OF TOPIC 2.3

- **50 Consortium Partners**
- **17 Consultation Partners**
- **Excellent broad implication of key organisations**



KEY QUESTIONS AND SESSIONS

- I. How to achieve the required food production to meet the growing demand?
- II. How can food market measures boost rural development and poverty alleviation?
- III. Water for bioenergy or food?
- IV. How can better water management reduce poverty and hunger? A synthesis.



SUMMARISED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOUR SESSIONS OF TOPIC 2.3

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Sessions were well attended; room was full during Topics 2.3.1 and 2.3.4 most of the time
- In the presentations and interventions from the audience many comments were made for incorporation in the synthesis paper
- Topic Report (six draft versions were mailed to Consortium and Consultation Partners preceding the Forum and put on VMS and ICID web site). Comments and recommendations .

Session 2.3.1

**How to achieve the required food
production to meet the growing
demand?**

Reporter Dr. S.A. Kulkarni

KEY ISSUES

- **How to bridge between agricultural and water policies?**
- **How can water management improvements contribute to the required increase in food production?**
- **What types of investments are necessary?**
- **How can rainfed agriculture contribute more effectively to enhance food security and improve livelihoods in rural areas?**
- **What policies/actions may ensure sustainability of water resources and river basin services that underpin increases in agricultural productivity?**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Farmers may have food production capability, however, this may not alleviate urban poverty and hunger**
- **Consider multifunctionality of agriculture/irrigation with attention to environmental impacts and services.**
- **Some increase in water withdrawals for irrigation and increase in crop yields are required to meet food production in least developed and emerging countries**
- **Ensure availability of other inputs: seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, equipments, extension services**
- **Optimization of farm holdings with farmers**

COMMITMENTS

- **Food demand is expected to double by 2030. Main drivers are population growth, change in dietary habits and waste of food (from field to fork). Devise both short term and long term solutions to meet the food demand**
- **Enhance investment in water management (irrigation, water harvesting, rainfed agriculture, drainage) by public and private sectors.**
- **Offer capacity building options at appropriate levels given system complexities**

INITIATIVES

- **Focus on improvement of irrigation schemes, long term O&M and better water productivity**
- **Close cooperation of Ministries of Water, Agriculture, and others dealing with water. Governments assure food security and improved livelihood of the poorest.**
- **Include and encourage farmers in discussions on agricultural water management initiatives.**
- **Women play a substantial role in farm level activities and in food production in many countries. Involve women in water management and decision making.**
- **Data collection, analysis, monitoring and evaluation play an important role in decision making**

Session 2.3.2

How can food market measures boost rural development and poverty alleviation?

Reporter Teshome Atnafie Guyo

KEY ISSUES

- **how can poor farmers benefit from market opportunities and how to improve the marketing chain?**
- **how can local markets be strengthened e.g. by capacity building and farmer empowerment (including micro-financing) consistent with trade?**
- **how can new agricultural market opportunities help in financing improved water productivity and services?**



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Development of local markets are key to move farmers from survival mode to market oriented farming. Expand local market infrastructure, improve market chain, recognizing farmers as entrepreneurs**
- **Small-holder poverty eradication initiatives must be demand driven, multipurpose and profitable**
- **Rainfed agriculture remains key livelihood option for most smallholder farmers; its potential to be fully harnessed**
- **Organize small-holder farmers into socially cohesive bodies to operate as one big entrepreneur**



COMMITMENTS

- **Ensure enabling governance and policies**
- **Secure access to markets and information on prices**
- **Provision of complementary physical infrastructure**
- **Secure access to land and water**
- **Prevent soil degradation and restore fertility**
- **Provide targeted subsidies and tailored financial packages, including crop insurance**
- **Invest in human capital: access to knowledge, training, gender considerations.**



INITIATIVES

- **Recognise small-holder farmers, poor and emerging, women and men as rural entrepreneurs and as such are part of the solution, not source of the crises**
- **Farmers to be recognised as water providers, entrepreneurs and to be involved in all business oriented livelihood improvement decision making**
- **Respect small-holder farmers (80% are women) as crucial for food production in many parts of the world**
- **To couple informed decision-making by small-holders, especially in times of crises, to inclusive empowerment and institutional strengthening**



Session 2.3.3

Water for bioenergy or food?

Reporter Ms. Isobel van der Stoep

KEY ISSUES

- how can rural communities benefit from bioenergy crops?
- how to avoid conflict with food production by considering reversible crops from non-food to food production, and using marginal water and land?
- how to develop farming practices compatible with nature, increasing the resilience of rural poor and ecosystems?
- what may be implications of bio-fuels policies and trends for water resources, availability and allocation among uses (including by ecosystems) and on ecosystems and livelihoods?
- can bio-fuel plantations give a sustainable income to the small and marginal farmers?
- are bio-fuel prices influenced by changing price of fossil fuels?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Change the key question in:** *What may be the implications of biofuel policies and trends for water resources, their availability and allocation amongst uses (including ecosystems), and thus on ecosystems and livelihoods?*
- **Water for food AND fuel**
- **Topic of bioenergy may not be as controversial as one year ago but will still engage our attention**
- **Biofuel production needs to be seen in the wider context of agriculture, with the same debates and issues at stake – resource scarcity and sustainability**



COMMITMENTS

- **There needs to be integrated policies and decision-making that complement not contradict each other – integrated approaches will be followed in both policy and implementation**
- **Globally, circumstances differ - solutions will be taken on a situation specific basis**
- **Discuss - Investigate – Invest - Sustain**



INITIATIVES

- **Water, and in some cases land, are limiting factors but are needed for food AND fuel. Farmers make cropping decisions based on market conditions and product demand. Enabling circumstances could be created, especially in least developed countries**
- **Organise and inform small-holder farmers on water availability and use. Encourage debates on allocating water to people and nature**
- **Promote strategic environmental assessments for large-scale land and water acquisitions**
- **Protect rights of the poor**

Session 2.3.4

How can better water management reduce poverty and hunger? A synthesis

Reporter Teshome Atnafie Guyo

KEY ISSUES

- how to reconcile agricultural and water policies to avoid both global and local food crises?
- how can institutional and technical water management improvements and investments contribute to increased food production?
- how can scientific findings be more effectively transferred to practical technologies, especially supporting poor farmers?
- how can poor farmers, especially women, benefit from market opportunities?
- how can local developments benefit from bioenergy?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Consider diverse options for agricultural water management: rainfed, irrigated, water harvesting. Integrate these options in an optimum manner**
- **Water, energy and agriculture are intimately related. Deal with them as an integrated entity.**
- **Rural sanitation and safe water re-use need to be coupled to agriculture and water investment agendas**
- **Move from water management to integrated resource management (land degradation, water, infrastructure, institutions, markets, etc.)**

COMMITMENTS

- **Small-holder agriculture and rural water agenda have been neglected. The current crises offer double opportunities to promote diversified livelihoods**
- **Food price volatility especially for poor small-holders highlight need to promote climate proofing for agricultural water related goods and services**
- **Higher food prices could drive system efficiencies which include improved water management**



INITIATIVES

- **Promotion of mainstreaming of water in national and international strategic development planning**
- **Promotion of grassroots water management institutions (financing, land, water, micro-credit)**
- **Concerted effort by ICID, FAO, IFAD and other organizations to formulate integrated programmes (water-energy-local, cultural); generate dialogue with local government and donor communities to mobilize appropriate technologies and make them accessible to small-holders to achieve the ultimate objective of poverty eradication**



FOLLOW-UP

- **We will prepare the draft synthesis report, including all presentations, comments made during the sessions, recommendations and suggested initiatives. It will be mailed to all Consortium and Consultation Partners and put on the VMS and ICID web site for comments**
- **Several Consortium Partners are working on proposals that will elaborate on the issues presented and discussed in the Topic report and the sessions**

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Thank you

