

**High Level Conference on:
Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change
Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 15-17 December 2008**

Regional Workshops

Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, are organizing a High Level Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of Climate Change”. The Conference is being organised in partnership with UN-Water, the African Union (AU), the African Ministers Council of Water (AMCOW), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and will be held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 15 to 17 December 2008.

The purpose of the Conference is to examine the prospects for water resource management in the context of higher demand from the agriculture and energy sectors and in the light of global concern over food prices, energy costs and the anticipated impacts of climate change. The Conference will therefore be an opportunity to consider national and regional responses to these recent shocks in the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the broader water resource implications, particularly in terms of irrigation and hydropower generation.

The Conference will consider the actions/outputs stated in the Sirte Declaration (2004) on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water in Africa as its entry point, to add a new strength to the commitments agreed upon in face of the new pressing challenges which have emerged. The Conference will also be a follow-up to the FAO High Level Conference on “World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy” (FAO, Rome, June 2008).

Specifically, the Conference will examine investment needs and management requirements across the spectrum of water management, from small scale irrigation interventions, through rehabilitation of large-scale hydro-agricultural works up to the development of major river basins. The Conference will aim to update national and regional strategies in water management to respond to the sharpened development challenges of soaring food prices, higher energy costs and climate change.

Conference preparation process and role of the regional workshops

The Conference preparation includes the production of National Investment Briefs (NIBs) for all African Countries, in which estimated investment needs in water for agriculture and energy will be presented, based on a critical review and updating of NEPAD-CAADP and other investment projections – including NEPAD National Medium Term Investment Programmes (NMTIP) and National Programmes for Food Security.

Five regional workshops will be organised in preparation for the Conference and will be held in the Regional Economic Communities for Africa (SADC, IGAD, ECCAS, ECOWAS and UMA). The workshop will be co-facilitated by the hosting institution, FAO and the AU. At

these workshops, the National Investment Briefs will be presented, discussed and finalised, and Investment Portfolios by Region will be prepared and later presented at the Conference Regional Working Session. The workshop will also illustrate a regional vision that will look forward towards 2030 and 2050, will be based on a shared understanding of the challenges faced by the countries of the region, and the responses needed in terms of water investments. The regional dimension of the problem, both in terms of market integration, shared river basin management and regional energy strategies will be emphasised.

Workshops objectives and questions to answer:

The objective of these workshops will be to put together investment envelopes for water in the agricultural and energy sectors at country and regional levels. More specifically, the workshops will aim to:

- define the investment needs with regards to water for agriculture and energy at country level
- define priorities on investment in water control
- share knowledge on national strategies for water, energy and agriculture and investment plans
- promote regional integration, particularly concerning large scale/ large hydropower projects, and the harmonization of action on a regional scale

The workshops will address the following questions:

- What are the challenges faced by the region in terms of food and energy demand for the horizon 2030-2050, and to what extent are they affected by climate change ?
- Which investments in water for agriculture and energy – specifically hydropower – are necessary in the short, medium and long term to address these challenges at national and regional levels?
- What is the potential for regional integration in response to these challenges?
- How can these investments best be undertaken i.e., through what modalities?
- What is needed in terms of (i) policy reform, (ii) institutional reform, (iii) capacity development, (iv) public awareness, (v) financial mechanisms, and (vi) regional cooperation?

Organization and programme of the regional workshops

The regional workshops will gather national representatives (focal points) from the water, energy and agriculture sectors, together with representatives of river basin organisations, civil society and partner institutions. A draft agenda for the workshops is provided below:

Day 1 – Morning

- Welcome by organisers
- Introduction of participants
- Presentation of the Sirte Conference: context, purpose, objective, programme
- Overview of challenges faced by the region in terms of food and energy supply, including climate change
- Presentation of National Investment Reviews by national representatives

Day 1 - Afternoon

- Presentation of National Investment Reviews by national representatives
- Presentation of river basin investment programmes
- Civil Society views on investments in water for agriculture and energy

- Discussion on regional investment programmes

Day 2 – Morning

- A framework approach for investment in water management
- Working groups: Defining an investment envelope for the region
- Report from Working Groups and conclusions on an investment envelope approach

Day 2 - Afternoon

- Working groups: Elements of a regional vision for investments in water for agriculture and energy
- Report from Working Groups, discussions and preparation of Regional vision for water
- Closure