



# Workshop on: Capacity Development for Farm Management Strategies to Improve Crop-Water Productivity using AquaCrop

25-29 October 2009 | Cairo, Egypt

## BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

Global demand for fresh water is constantly rising as a consequence of population growth and the rise in living standards. Agriculture is not only the world's largest water user in terms of volume, but is also a relatively low-value, low efficiency, and highly subsidized user. In the years to come the agricultural sector will compete with households and industry for increasingly scarce water resources, and yet is under pressure to produce more food and fibre with less water to satisfy the food needs of a growing world population. The overall future scenario is further aggravated by the impact of climate change.

Rainfed and irrigated agriculture needs to improve its water productivity. To assess accurately crop yield under limited water availability, user-friendly software and simulation models can be valuable tools.

A new crop model, named AquaCrop, has been recently developed by FAO. AquaCrop focuses on simulating the attainable yield in response to water which is the key driver for agricultural production and which becomes increasingly the critical factor limiting crop production. AquaCrop uses a relatively small number of explicit and mostly intuitive parameters and attempts to balance simplicity, accuracy and robustness.

The workshop main objective is to train participants in the practical applications of AquaCrop in order to improve their skills in strategic farm management practices toward increasing crop water productivity in rainfed and irrigated production systems.

## ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS

The workshop is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) hosted by the United Nations University and the Soils, Water and Environment Research Institute (SWERI).

## PARTICIPANTS

Typically participants will come from governmental and non-governmental agencies dealing with agricultural water resources management, from extension services formulating practical advices to farmers, or from a relevant research or higher education institution. Participants might be project managers, researchers at relevant institutes, irrigation engineers, extension specialists, or teaching staff involved with the training of agricultural and/or water engineers.

The training is intended for people familiar with running software. To guarantee a proper dissemination of the knowledge acquired during the training, the workshop is designed for participants who can train relevant people in their home countries once they have attended the workshop (training of trainers).

## VENUE

The workshop will be held in Cairo (Egypt) over a period of 5 days, from 25 to 29 October 2009, in morning and afternoon sessions. It will be hosted in the facilities of the Soils, Water and Environment Research Institute (SWERI).

### SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

- At least 3 years of professional experience in a related field (water resources management, irrigation, extension service on farm water management, research in crop-water relations, teaching in agricultural science)
- Currently be working in a relevant institution or organisation
- Opportunities for dissemination of the gained knowledge
- Basic computer skills
- Good command of English
- Age under 45

### HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are requested to submit all of the following:

1. Application form downloadable at <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquacrop.html>
2. Curriculum Vitae (3 pages maximum) highlighting educational experience, work experience and other professional experience, language and computer knowledge
3. Letter of intent (1 page) describing how the training will be beneficial to their work and how the gained knowledge can be disseminated once the applicant return to his/her institution
4. Reference letter (1 page) from their supervisor expressing the interest of the organisation

### COSTS

Selected participants from the following eligible countries will receive financial coverage by the organizers for travel and local costs (local transportation, accommodation and meals): Burundi, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda.

Participants from other countries may take part in the workshop at their own expense. Special support may be granted in certain cases if funds are available. This will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

### LANGUAGE

The workshop will be conducted in English. The training material, reference documentation and software will be in English.

### CERTIFICATE

A certificate of attendance will be issued to the participants upon conclusion of the workshop.

### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

1 September 2009

Please submit your full application to: [aquacrop@fao.org](mailto:aquacrop@fao.org)

[www.fao.org/nr/water/aquacrop.html](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquacrop.html)