



CONCEPT NOTE

PARTNERS MEETING

COPING WITH WATER SCARCITY IN AGRICULTURE

A global framework for action in a changing climate

19-20 April 2017 | FAO HQ, Rome, Italy



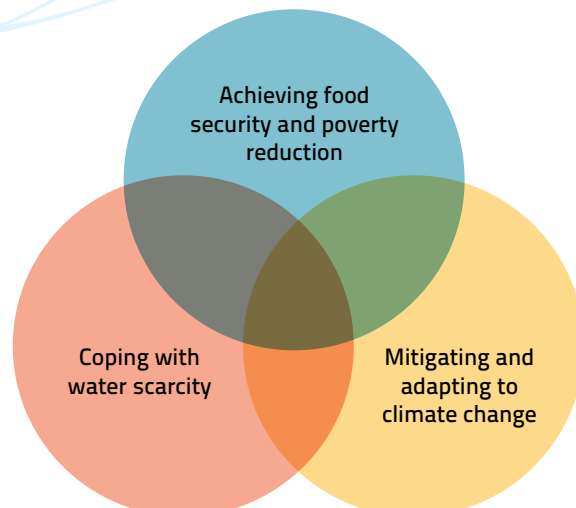
Background

Countries around the world need to urgently adapt their agriculture and food systems to, and mitigate the impacts of water scarcity and climate change. Water scarcity is not just about physical scarcity - an excess of water demand over available supply. Water scarcity can also be due to a lack of adequate infrastructure because of financial, technical or other constraints, or scarcity in access to water services. This is because of the failure of institutions to ensure reliable, secure and equitable supply of water to users - which can equally affect the availability of water. A strengthened focus on water governance for agriculture and food security is needed to address some of the underlying issues of water scarcity.

The *Global Framework* recognizes the intricate links between climate change, water scarcity, sustainable agriculture and food security – and the importance of addressing these holistically. Agriculture must adapt to the impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of food production systems in order to feed a growing population with less water.

No single stakeholder can solve the complex issues facing the agricultural sectors today. Partnerships among stakeholders in the water, agriculture and climate-related sectors are necessary to tackle the challenges of food security under climate change and growing water scarcity.

THE FOCUS OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON WATER SCARCITY





The *Global Framework's* scope includes the following areas of work:

- **Coordinate among partners to make effective use of available resources and expertise on addressing water scarcity in the agriculture sectors**
 - Promoting the use of tested and effective tools and approaches with and among partners (including training and study tours)
 - Building partnerships in focal countries to make effective use of available resources and expertise; to encourage domestic and donor funding in support of SDG 6.4 and the NDCs (including joint project formulation); and to foster national and local leadership and capacities.
 - Supporting countries in prioritizing and formulating transformational projects to tackle water scarcity in agriculture (for example by organizing regional and national-level consultations).
- **Strengthen national government-led planning processes and assist stakeholders** to guide the development and implementation of sustainable agricultural water management and governance (including on-going and new projects by FAO and partners)
 - Assisting countries in the preparation and formulation of plans and strategies pertaining to water scarcity, including agricultural water management plans; drought risk management plans; plans for the prevention and control water pollution by agriculture;
 - Support countries in carrying out water accounting and water auditing
 - Support the establishment of reference centres for irrigation modernization.
- **Increase awareness and political prioritization** of water scarcity to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the relevant SDGs and NDCs
 - Joint events at international conferences or high-level political meetings (e.g. UNFCCC COPs, UNCCD COPs, GFFA, World Irrigation Forum, World Water Forum, and World Energy Forum)
 - Series of political dialogue at international, interregional and national level on water scarcity-related topics and potentially, development of policy briefs (e.g. on establishing SDG 6.4 monitoring system; on systematic reporting/ database for water productivity; on guidelines for climate adaptation of small-scale irrigation systems; international workshop on “water neutrality”)

Working together on these areas, the *Global Framework* also aims to increase the impact of available resources and strengthen mutual accountability among partners.

The *Global Framework* has been presented and discussed at a number of international events, including: the International Water and Climate Conference in Rabat, Morocco, in July 2016; World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2016; the Triple A Conference in Marrakech, Morocco, in September 2016; and the World Irrigation Forum in Thailand in November 2016. After its official launch at UNFCCC COP22, the *Global Framework* was endorsed firmly by 83 Ministers of Agriculture, who



assembled on 21 January 2017 at the 9th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA). The G20 Agriculture Ministers, meeting in Berlin, Germany, on 22 January 2017 immediately after the GFFA, agreed on an action plan for the sustainable use of water resources, which acknowledged the *Global Framework* as an emerging option for coping with water scarcity.

The feedback from these events helped FAO to refine the initial concept note covering the content and objectives of the Global Framework (For more information, refer to the annex).

FAO is fully committed to the *Global Framework*, including the use of its wide network of offices and national partners, offering a conducive environment for implementations under the *Global Framework*. FAO is also providing the facilities and staff for the operational unit of the *Global Framework*.

The *Global Framework* has currently thirty partners from research institutions, think tank organizations, global partnerships, the United Nations and international agencies. The second Meeting of Partners is coming up on 19-20 April 2014 in Rome, Italy, to collectively assert on the initiative's vision, mission, goals, and agree on the governance structure and roadmap for action. The "save the date" announcement has been sent out to more than fifty organizations including eighteen countries.

Objective

The overall objective of the Partners Meeting is to bring the partners and key stakeholders together to define the 'mechanics' behind the *Global Framework*. The participants will actively contribute to the meeting's deliverables during the two days meeting through interactive discussions. A Rome Statement on Water Scarcity is also aimed as an outcome of the meeting. A summary report will be published soon after the event.

In specific, the meeting aims to discuss and produce:

a. Vision and mission, objectives and priorities

The partners of the Global Framework will develop together a joint vision, mission statement and key objectives. This is meant to be a collaborative, open-ended process to which all partners can contribute equally.

Knowing why we're doing what we're doing (our mission), where we're trying to go (our vision), and how we're going to go about it (our priorities and milestones) will be essential to building the strategic foundation and developing a strategy for the Global Framework. *Vision* is a statement about our desired state, where we want to go, and is best stated in the future tense. *Mission* is a statement about our core purpose, why we exist, and is best stated in the present tense. The mission statement may change over time, but the intent stays unchanged.



Partners are asked to contribute to:

- *Vision*. Create an image of what success would look like in five years.
- *Mission*. Reflect on the purpose and added-value of the Global Framework (or how it could potentially add value to their current work. The mission statement should be specific, short, sharply focused and realistic, based on the core competencies of the partners.
- *Objectives*. Identify those that are key to the realization of the vision and guides the activities and the work of the Global Framework clearly within bigger picture defined by the mission.
- *Priorities*. Agree on the strategic issues which need to be addressed in the coming five years in order to work towards achieving the vision.

b. Ways of Cooperating

In partnership initiatives in general, and for this *Global Framework* in particular, particular attention needs to be paid to the structures and mechanisms of cooperation. This gives confidence to the partner organizations, allowing them to commit and be accountable to the objectives of the Framework. Evidence shows that once these structures and mechanisms of collaboration are in place, they are very difficult to change. Therefore, it is imperative that we get them right.

During the Partners Meeting, we will discuss and agree on ways of cooperating, identify roles and functions of different partners, and outline monitoring and evaluation processes.

c. Terms of reference

Partners will review the criteria for joining the *Global Framework*, keeping in mind a range of areas that should be covered, such as expertise, capacities to provide in-kind support, resource mobilization and political clout.

Partners of the Global Framework for Action on Water Scarcity include governments, international organizations, academic/research institutes, NGOs and CSOs as well as private sector entities working to tackle water scarcity in the agriculture sectors.

Points for discussion

- What criteria should there be for becoming a partner of the Global Framework? What roles and responsibilities do partners need to fulfil?
- Can private sector actors be involved? What role can they play? What is the added value for different groups, including farmer organizations?
- Partners will review the current list of partners and reflect on some key actors or stakeholder groups that are currently not represented and that should be approached to join the Global Framework. Where possible, contact details should be shared with the Secretariat.



- Partners will discuss different existing partnerships, networks, initiatives and programmes in the water, agriculture and broader development sectors to identify any overlaps or synergies. At the end, there should be a list of known initiatives that will be reviewed by the Secretariat with the goal of ensuring the greatest possible coordination, effectiveness and added value for the Global Framework.

d. Roadmap, milestones, portfolio and resource mobilization

The partners of the Global Framework for Action will identify some key milestones to which they will contribute in the short-term, medium-term and more long-term. For each milestone, the expected outcomes and an indicator for monitoring their achievements will be agreed jointly.

Milestones

Short-term	Short-term milestones include events and activities within 2017. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Water Week 2017 • Progress report at UNFCCC COP23 • UNCCD COP13
Medium-term	Medium-term milestones may include milestones that can be achieved in next 2 years, like the development of joint project(s); possible establishment of a periodic high-level meeting of Ministers of Agriculture to specifically discuss water scarcity issues.
Long-term	Long-term milestones contribute the realization of the vision and can be achieved in the next five years and beyond. They require long-term and systematic engagement (e.g. progress on SDG 6.4 and NDCs; water scarcity issues have been taken up by X national policies and strategies)

Once the key milestones have been identified, partners will agree on a roadmap, including some specific activities and a general timeframe. The different roles and responsibilities of the partners involved in achieving these milestones will be defined.

The partners of the *Global Framework* can bring a magnitude of programs and/or projects that align well with the objectives of the initiative. In order to maximize the *Global Framework* results, an initial portfolio of programs and projects needs to be defined and agreed. Please use the template in the annex to populate with your organization's programs and/or projects as well as new ideas, which can potentially be developed collaboratively with partners (or can get partners involved) that can form the initial portfolio of the *Global Framework*.

In order to support its activities, the *Global Framework* will need to mobilize financial resources. There are different options available for resource mobilization that can be applied by the *Global Framework*. The partners will define the most appropriate approach for resource mobilization to be used by the *Global Framework* during the meeting in April.



e. Expected outcomes

The following outcomes are expected to be reached at the end of the meeting:

- The vision, mission, objectives and priorities are developed and agreed;
- The structure and working mechanisms are agreed;
- Partnership and terms of reference are agreed;
- Roadmap, milestones, a portfolio and a resource mobilization approach are defined and agreed;
- Rome Statement on Water Scarcity in Agriculture. A joint statement covering the importance of coherently coping with water scarcity for food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation is to be developed and released.

Meeting Preparation

As the meeting of the Partners, we are all interested to know from each other how we can contribute to implement fully the GFWS. In a way of facilitating the discussions, the participants are encouraged to reflect on the following questions:

- i. How do we run the GFWS?*
- ii. What is our added value?*
- iii. What can I bring, as a partner, to the GFWS?*
- iv. Am I willing to move ongoing/current programs under the GFWS, allowing broader interaction, synergies, possible scaling them up? Also reporting under the GFWS?*
- v. What do I commit as a partner?*
- vi. Would I like to participate in the Steering Committee, and/ or other functions (normative, project implementation) of the GFWS?*

All partners that have already confirmed their interest to work together under the Global Framework are invited to reflect on which of their current and future projects and activities may contribute to the portfolio of the Global Framework. This will help us developing a portfolio for the Global Framework.

Please refer to the above questions, particularly question IV, in this regard and make use of the template provided in Annex.