



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

WASAG | The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

THE PRAIA CALL FOR ACTION

2nd WASAG International Forum,
7–10 February 2023 in Praia, Cabo Verde

Preamble

Water scarcity remains one of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century, especially for the agriculture sector. The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) embodies the active commitment to deal with this challenge collaboratively as manifested in the adoption of the Rome Statement on Water Scarcity in Agriculture on 20 April 2017 during its first meeting of partners.

The First WASAG International Forum – which took place in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 19 to 21 March 2019 with the theme of “Leaving no one behind” – adopted the Praia Commitments as a firm first step towards decisive actions.

Soon after, WASAG developed a strategy for 2021-2024 with the title “Turning Water Scarcity into opportunities for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition”. Its partners, driven by this objective, worked together freely and innovatively to implement the strategy, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. WASAG has held webinars and virtual workshops, resulting in several knowledge products as published on its website.

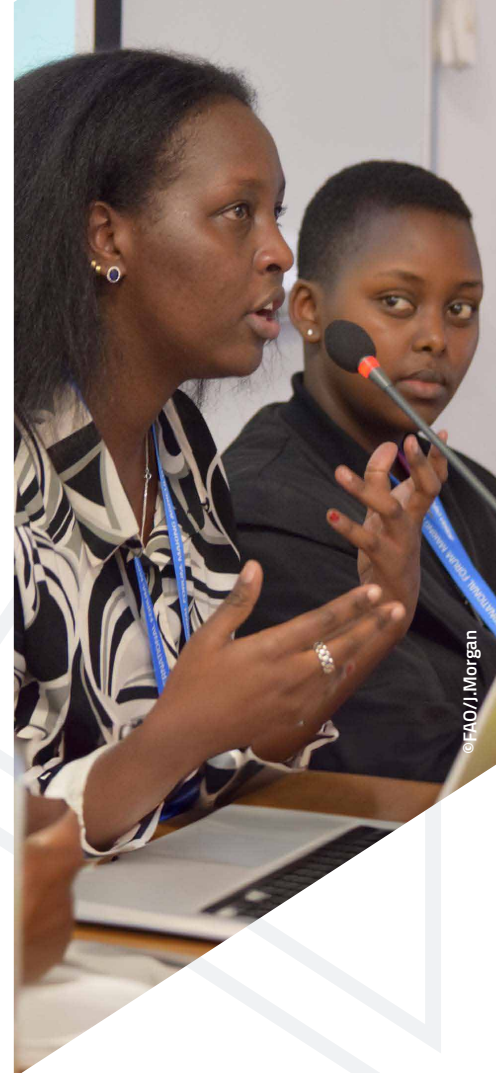
WASAG also continues steadily to receive recognition and the mandate to support countries in finding solutions to cope with water scarcity in agriculture in the face of climate change, as expressed during the meetings of the Committee of Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Food Security (CFS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Consequently, while in the aftermath of COVID-19, the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, His Excellency Mr Ulisses Correia e Silva, together with the FAO Director-General, Mr QU Dongyu, invited the partners and stakeholders of WASAG to reconvene in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 7 to 10 February 2023, the Second WASAG International Forum with the theme “Making Agriculture more resilient for climate change: an opportunity for action and collaboration”, during which participants adopted the Praia Call for Action as a second step towards decisive and concrete action to be taken.



The participants of the Second WASAG International Forum, consisting of government and Intergovernmental Organizations, UN agencies, Academia and Research Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, Professional and Private Sector Organizations, consisting collectively of partners and stakeholders of WASAG,

- Recognizing the confirmation of the continued and extraordinary commitment and leadership demonstrated by the Government of Cabo Verde at the highest level by hosting for two consecutive times the WASAG International Forum and by providing adequate resources for a successful forum,
- Recognizing the resilience of the people of Cabo Verde to water scarcity in agriculture and the opportunity provided to experience uniquely in the field all the facets of water scarcity in agriculture and the efforts to find solutions in the country,
- Appreciating the consistent supportive role that the Government of Cabo Verde, Switzerland and Italy provide to WASAG, both politically and otherwise,
- Appreciating the continued mandate given to WASAG to support its members in finding solutions to water scarcity,
- Recalling the endorsement of WASAG by 83 Ministers of Agriculture during the 9th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Global Forum for Food and Agriculture,
- Acknowledging that water scarcity in agriculture will only get worse in the future,
- Adopting the offer by the Government of Cabo Verde to make Praia the Capital city of WASAG,



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Recommended that:

1. All Members Countries are invited to become partners of WASAG.
2. A Member Country is designated to Chair WASAG, starting with Cabo Verde.
3. FAO convenes, every two years in its headquarters in Rome, a Water Dialogue on WASAG with all the Member Countries, where WASAG will report on the progress made, receive an updated mandate and mobilize the required support.
4. The WASAG Forum is convened in Praia every other second year to provide space to partners and stakeholders for sharing solutions and progress towards tackling water scarcity in agriculture.

Relevance of Praia Call for Action to each of WASAG's thematic areas (continued)

Refer to the full text of the Praia Call for Action for details on each action	Water and migration	Drought preparedness	Financing mechanisms	Water and nutrition	Sustainable agricultural water use	Saline agriculture	Inclusive farmer-led water management	Unconventional sources of water	Dryland agriculture	Innovation, technology, data and science	Capacity building, involving women and youth	Water, energy, food and environment (WEFE) nexus
9. Including the safe reuse of wastewater and other non-conventional water resources in agriculture as one of the key components contributions to addressing water scarcity in agriculture and addressing water quality for the production of healthy and safe food and the conservation and protection of the environment.		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
10. Developing climate-sensitive and water-productive interventions for dryland agriculture, with special attention to the needs of women, youth and the elderly.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
11. Tackling droughts urgently and proactively through early warning, assessing impacts and building resilience across social sectors and ecological systems.		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
12. Addressing the linkages between human mobility and water scarcity at local, national, regional and international levels in dedicated policies with whole-of government approaches and facilitating the access to finance for the most vulnerable to water scarcity, including migrants and displaced persons.	✓		✓							✓	✓	
13. Intensifying the monitoring of soil and water salinity in order to provide the best customized solutions for the soil and water management in salt-affected areas, selecting the proper salt-tolerant crops and suitable biosaline farming systems that can strengthen food and nutrition security for farmers affected by salinity.			✓			✓				✓	✓	
14. Establishing capacity building programs, and particularly inclusive of women and youth, on farm and in the value chain, to strengthen the saline farming proposition in salt-affected areas.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15. Promoting and adopting farmer-led agricultural management as an important pathway to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable agriculture water management under climate change.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16. Applying digital agricultural water management and the early inclusion of users, including farmers, in the development of the tools as a condition for success.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17. Understanding the “water, energy, food and environment (WEFE) nexus” and the policy trade-offs needed for improved resource governance and management, and upscaling optimal utilization from these resources under increasing uncertainty.			✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓