Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

WASAG
The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

1st Meeting of the
International Network of Salt-Affected Soils
(INSAS)

The WASAG working group on Saline Agriculture - Partners at work for resilient agriculture and food security

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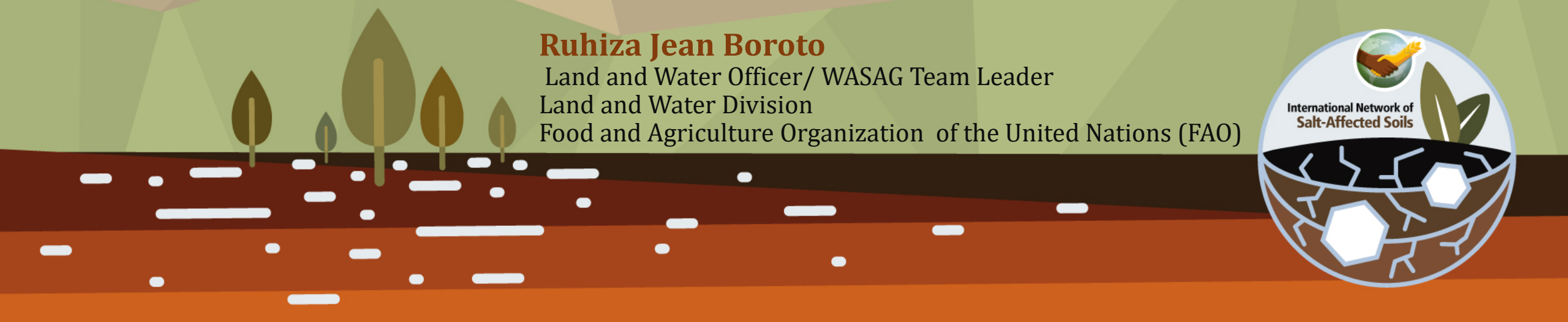
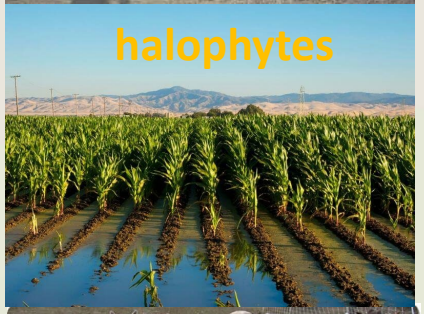


Water scarcity & saline water: Global issues

- 4 billion people (66% of all people) live under severe **water scarcity** for at least 1 month of the year. It affects all regions of the world

- Salinity can be turned into **an opportunity**

Source: FAO



WASAG Partners (71 Partners from more than 25 countries)

www.fao.org/land-water/overview/wasag

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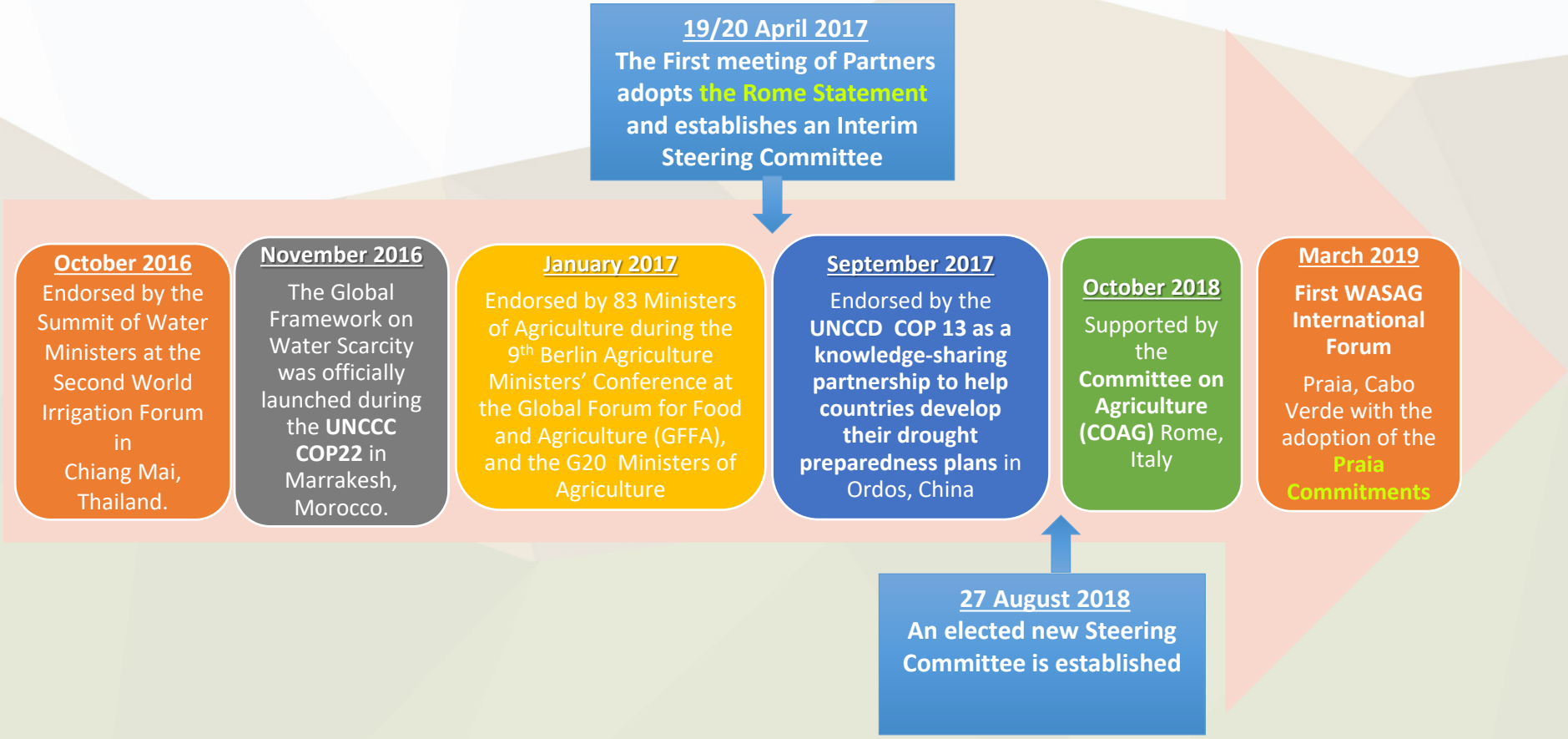
WASAG Key Steps



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WASAG Partners and Working Groups

WASAG currently has **68 partners** from five categories:

- UN agencies and other UN bodies
- Governments and intergovernmental organizations
- Academia and Research institutions
- Civil society organizations and NGOs
- Private sector organizations and trade associations

WASAG has established **six Working Groups**:

- Water and Migration
- Drought Preparedness
- Financing Mechanisms
- Water and Nutrition
- Sustainable Agriculture Water Use
- Saline Agriculture

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From Rome Statement to Praia Commitments

Relevance of Praia Commitments to each of WASAG's six working groups	W&M	DP	FM	W&N	SWU	SA
1. Cooperate within the framework of WASAG to tackle the challenges of water scarcity in agriculture.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Develop understanding and insights to enhance water-use efficiency in line with local contexts.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Advocate for integrated planning processes involving different stakeholders for better decision making.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Promote water as a driver of development for all to reach the SDG targets.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Support farmers and associations to increase their resilience.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Promote good governance for all dimensions of water scarcity in agriculture.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Support the institutionalization of a proactive and risk-based approach to drought preparedness.		✓				
8. Provide policy makers with tools and guidelines through a one-stop shop.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Encourage the mutualisation of resources and promote innovative financing mechanisms.			✓			
10. Encourage innovative technologies including reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11. Bring focus on sustainable management of water resources to address water-related migration.	✓					
12. Build a community of practice and develop a framework to link nutrition & water management.				✓		
13. Propose ways to live with salinity, particularly in SIDS.						✓
14. Integrate climate-smart agriculture and innovative practices including drought/salt tolerant crops.		✓			✓	✓
15. Promote a culture of sustainable water use in agriculture.					✓	
16. Identify criteria and indicators for sustainable agricultural water use measurement and monitoring.					✓	
17. Encourage community-based approaches and people centered policies.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Refer to the WASAG website for details on each commitment

www.fao.org/land-water/overview/wasag

Full Praia Commitment No 13

- **Propose** ways to live with salinity, particularly in the most vulnerable areas including Small Island Developing States, since it is possible to produce more food from salinized areas. This includes supporting national strategies and policies for tailor-made adaptive farming solutions for salt-affected areas and the implementation of sustainable saline farming systems, including agrobiodiversity, to enhance food and nutrition security and cash crops.

- **Example**: Support to Cabo Verde

Full Praia Commitment No 14

- **Integrate** climate-smart agriculture and innovative farming systems adopting sustainable management practices and proper drought/salt tolerant crops, including in marginal areas, to enhance food and nutrition security;

- **Example**: quinoa project proposal development

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Perspectives of collaboration (1)

- INSAS and our WG on Saline Agriculture: common mandate
- Internally, in FAO, we meet in the Saline Agriculture Task Force: soils, land, water, crops (including fodder), livestock and aquaculture.
- All together, we can make a difference in mobilizing support to countries, influencing policies and strategies, documenting good practices piloting and upscaling (capacity development + projects) .
- Collaborative projects to develop saline agriculture into a sustainable business opportunity for food and nutrition security, despite climate change.

Perspectives of collaboration (2)

Recent WASAG webinars covering topics such as:

- Irrigation management under saline conditions
- Biosaline agriculture techniques: soil and water salinity in Cape Verde,
- Water management in land reclamation areas of southern Spain,
- Saline water management in land reclamation areas of northern Italy,

Farmers guidelines under preparation:

- Proper soil and water management in salt affected areas
- Saline agriculture systems tailormade for rural salinized areas

THANK YOU!

Webpage: www.fao.org/land-water/overview/WASAG

Email : Water-Scarcity@fao.org

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'By working together, we are changing the challenge of coping with water scarcity in agriculture into an opportunity!'

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