



Rebooting Sustainable Small Holder Irrigation

African Smallholder Irrigation: Double Yields With Half The Water! Side Event

31 August 2017, Stockholm Sweden

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2017 | August 27 - September 1
World Water Week Stockholm
Water and waste: Reduce and reuse

BIG challenge facing Africa



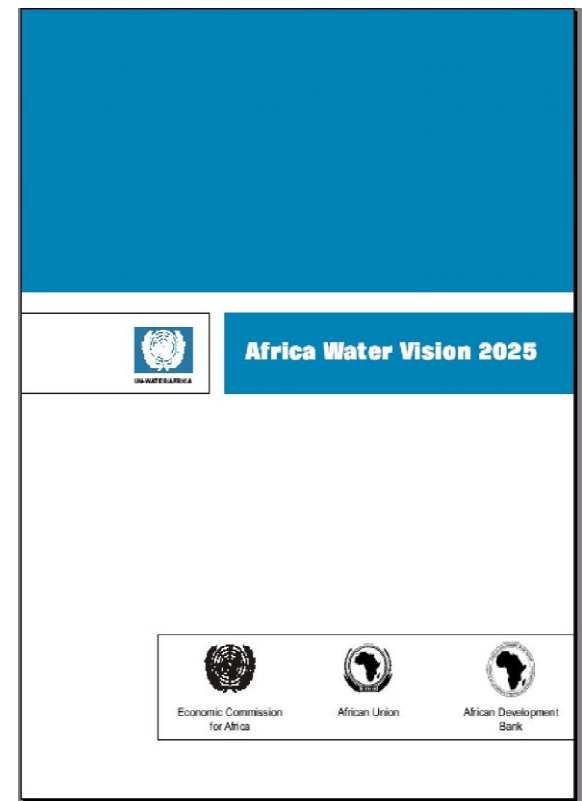
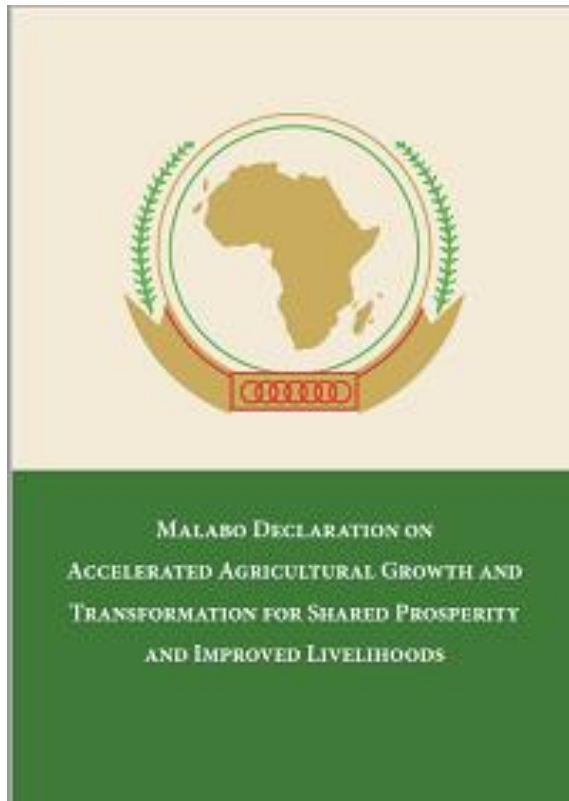
Expanding area under irrigation while improving the efficiency and productivity of existing and future irrigation practices.

Opportunities for Increasing Irrigation in Africa

- Huge potential for expansion of area under irrigation
- Increased demand for high value products responsive to irrigation
- Renewed public and donor interest in irrigation
- Investors acknowledgement of need for R4D evidence to guide irrigation investment



Political will is there...BUT is it enough?



Key Bottlenecks to Policy Implementation and Performance

- Lack of political incentives to ensure stated objectives are met
- A number of institutions responsible for irrigation development
- A lack of capacity for implementation, particularly at local levels (to which responsibilities have been devolved)
- The emphasis on building infrastructure, without due attention to and investment in farmer institutions for scheme management, operation and maintenance;
- Increasing competition over water, exacerbated by absence of integrated planning or coordination among key sectors



Increasing irrigation water productivity in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

1. Evaluating whether agricultural innovation platforms, based on existing community **organisations**, can identify and overcome institutional and market barriers to greater water productivity.
2. Developing, testing and deploying innovative water and solute monitoring systems to stimulate farmer learning toward greater water productivity.
3. **Identifying and communicating economic and policy incentive mechanisms for greater water productivity.**



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Barriers to improving farm productivity and profitability in small-scale irrigation schemes

The barriers are a broad and complex mix of issues:

1. Land tenure

- In all six schemes there were issues with insecure land tenure

2. Irrigation farmer organizations (also known as water user associations)

- In all six schemes irrigation (or water user) associations are often ineffective

3. Water use

- Farmers had little knowledge of how to determine and practice more efficient water scheduling.

4. Enabling profitable irrigation

- Input (high costs) and output (access) market challenges



Key Reforms Needed for Rebooting Sustainable Smallholder Irrigation

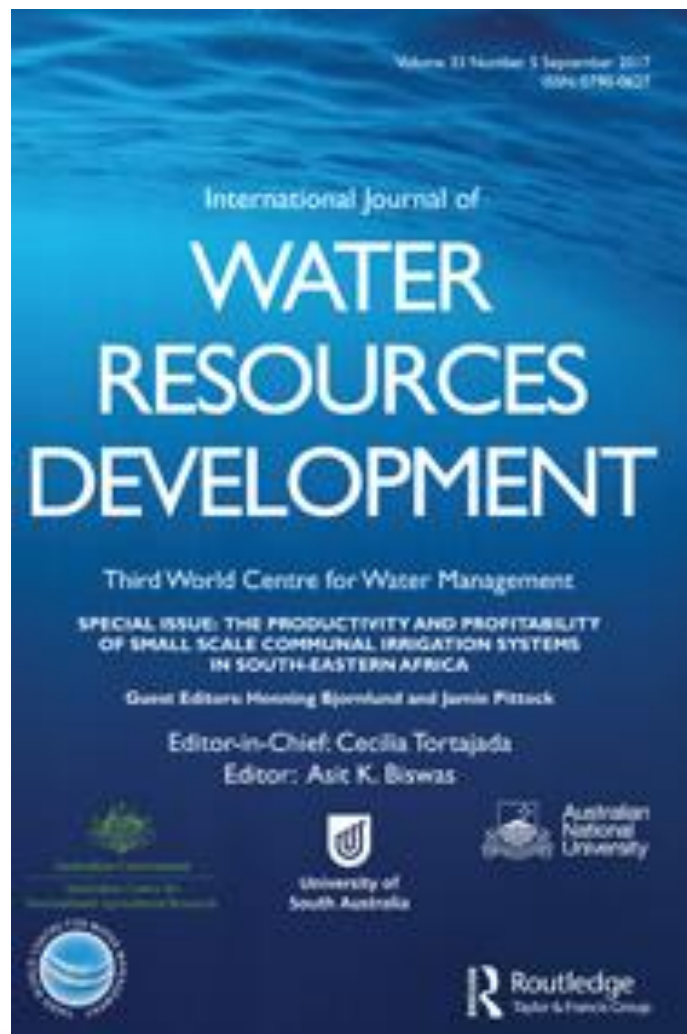
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1. Reform land tenure systems
 2. Enhance role of irrigator associations
 3. Enable more efficient water use
 4. Support irrigation businesses through national government policies

A final word.....



Much research, policy and donor support is centered on technical aspects of irrigation infrastructure, it is the softer barriers that are foremost on the irrigators minds

Research Papers Available!



International Journal of Water Resources Development

**SPECIAL ISSUE - Water and irrigation
productivity in small scale communal
irrigation systems in Africa**

ISSN: 0790-0627 (Print) 1360-0648 (Online)

Journal homepage:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cijw20>



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