



# Enabling Investment in Irrigation in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Sunday, August 28, 2016, 16:00 -17:30 pm**

**Location:** NL Music Hall/Musiksalen

**Chair:** Biniam Iyob, Water and Irrigation Advisor, USAID

**Organizers:** Texas A&M University, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USAID, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and International Development Enterprises (iDE)

Irrigation is one of the most transformative practices for smallholder producers in the developing world and is of fundamental importance for achieving several of the SDGs, especially those related to poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, safe water supply, environmental sustainability, and climate action. In sub-Saharan Africa, greater investment in new infrastructure and water technologies by governments, the private sector, and farmers themselves are needed to expand access to water for irrigation. Yet, investments are lacking and/or constrained because the enabling institutional and policy environment is not in place and affordable, attractive and viable technologies are often unavailable. Women farmers, especially, lack access to appropriate technologies and resources. As irrigation expands, more regulation and collective and coordinated action will be needed to address water management issues at the community level and any environmental impacts. This panel presents recent research on this complex topic in sub-Saharan Africa. Presentations will focus on creating the enabling conditions for greater investments in irrigation from the national scale to the household level. The discussion will address how policies, institutions, and technologies are interrelated, as well as the potential for expanding gender-equitable irrigation access and improving water management in this region.

The objective of this session is to identify the actions needed to create the enabling conditions for improved water management and greater investment in irrigation at multiple scales. Each panelist will lead a discussion on particular aspects of this theme following brief presentations based on ongoing research. These aspects include the following:

- What policies and interventions are needed to spark investment in irrigation while addressing challenges related to the equity, efficiency, and sustainability of irrigation development?
- How can public private partnerships mobilize investment in irrigation, while taking the needs and concerns of farmers into consideration?
- How can communities work together to build resilient food production systems and transform agro-ecological landscapes through improved water management?
- What conditions are needed to encourage greater investments by smallholder farmers, including women, in small-scale irrigation technologies?

## Speakers include:

1. Biniam Iyob, USAID
2. Dawit Mekonnen, IFPRI
3. Ruth Meinzen-Dick, IFPRI
4. Jennie Barron, IWMI
5. Tim Prewitt, iDE

PROGRAM	
TIME (MINS)	SPEAKER/ORGANIZATION
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
16:00	Biniam Iyob, Water and Irrigation Advisor, USAID
<b>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</b>	
16:05	<b>How to Ensure Equity and Nutrition Benefits of Small-Scale Irrigation: Insights from ILSSI and Beyond:</b> <i>Dawit Mekonnen, Research Fellow, IFPRI</i>
16:20	<b>Assessing Models of Public Private Partnerships for Irrigation Development in Africa:</b> <i>Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI</i>
16:35	<b>Insights and Opportunities from New Field Studies with Small-scale Irrigation in Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Ghana:</b> <i>Jennie Barron, Theme Leader – Sustainable Agricultural Water Management, IWMI</i>
16:50	<b>Key Investments and Opportunities for Private Sector-Led Smallholder Irrigation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from the Front Lines (and Drip Lines)</b> <i>Tim Prewitt, CEO, iDE</i>
17:05	Discussion
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	
17:25	Biniam Iyob, Water and Irrigation Advisor, USAID



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