AgWA is an autonomous partnership of African countries, development partners, international, regional and national organizations from the public and private sectors and civil society who have a common interest and important capacities to support investment in Agricultural Water Management (AWM) in Africa.

A core function of AgWA is its work as an “expert pool” to support the planning and implementation of AWM investments within Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programmes (CAADP).
AFRICA NEEDS INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT

In Africa only 7 percent of arable land is irrigated, with an even lower 4 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 38 percent in Asia. Moreover, 93% of the Africa population rely on rainfall to live or rather than survive. Additional investment would pay dividends.

Agricultural growth is the key to reducing poverty in Africa and driving economic growth. But agriculture needs water and lots of it. Africa is well endowed with water resources, yet only 7 percent of agricultural land is under effective water management and water withdrawals are less than 3 percent of total renewable resources.

Why does Africa need AgWA?

A recent study about the “institutional architecture” for AWM in Africa found that there are numerous African institutions with AWM capacities and expertise, but none, nor any existing coalition of institutions, can offer the full range of specialties and degree of harmonization needed to meet the challenges faced by African stakeholders. Hence, governments, donors, and various organizations increasingly recognize that a much better coordinated effort is needed to provide stronger advocacy and better mobilize resources for AWM, improve knowledge sharing, support capacity building and harmonize donor programmes.

About AgWA

OBJECTIVES:

"AgWA’s overall objective is to – increase investment in agricultural water development that is socially equitable, profitable at the farm level, economically viable, environmentally neutral or positive and sustainable, so contributing to Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Pillar 1 (land & water management) and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)“.

AgWA has identified five priority areas of activities for developing agricultural water management (AWM) in Africa:

- **Advocacy**
  Improving awareness about the importance of effective AWM development to growth and poverty reduction;

- **Partner harmonization**
  Using more efficiently the funds available for AWM (creating synergies and reducing duplication);
Resource mobilization
Supporting the implementation of coherent national agricultural water strategies and investment plans;

Generating and sharing knowledge
Increasing knowledge and understanding of issues related to AWM;

Capacity building
Building the capacity for informed decision making at all levels of AWM.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?
Within the AgWA Framework partners have developed a series of tools to review the scope and possibilities for promoting investments in water for agriculture. The tools provided are the following:

- AgWA country support tool;
- Diagnostic financial tool to assess investment needs in water for agriculture;
- Institutional tool to assess political, legal and institutional environment for investment in water for agriculture.

WHAT WILL BE DONE IN 2012/2013?
- Set up forums for Partners' harmonization including the strengthening of AgWA website;
- Complete and promote the Agricultural Water Agenda for Africa;
- Finalize and disseminate a harmonized results-based M&E framework for use by countries and AgWA;
- Organize workshops/other knowledge-sharing events that contribute directly to AgWA’s purpose;
- Promote and facilitate practical training programmes for agricultural water professionals;
- Facilitate assistance to countries for preparation of national AWM strategies and investment plans;
- Commission thematic studies prepared that contribute directly to AgWA’s purpose;
- Increase support to AWM investment (in particular through CAADP Pillar 1 assistance).

WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE OF AGWA?
In the longer term, AgWA will play a key role at continental/regional level to match demand and supply of AWM support and to provide highly-specialized assistance to the network of AWM experts involved in the country processes like CAADP investment plans.

AgWA's Secretariat
AgWA has its Secretariat at FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa - SFE, in Addis Ababa for both the leadership and administration of the partnership. Its activities are governed by a Steering Committee which ensures that the Secretariat pursues the objectives set for AgWA and performs in accordance with an agreed work plan and budget.
BECOMING A PARTNER

AgWA is not designed to provide funding for partner activities, nor does it seek funds from partners. Rather, AgWA is principally looking to meet its objective in a spirit of cooperation and information sharing between partners.

Examples of partners include:

• National governments;
• Donors from the public and private sector;
• International, national and regional organizations from the public and the public sector;
• Civil society organizations.