

# AGRICULTURAL-WATER CONTROL

## Agricultural-water control

Africa is the continent that suffers the most from agricultural-water scarcity.

About 66% of its lands are located in arid or semi-arid areas and are, thus, affected by water shortages. The continent is increasingly vulnerable to bouts of even dryer weather linked to climate change: mounting temperatures and reduced rainfall, with more frequent and longer extremes. Even regions sufficiently endowed with water lack conveyance, storage, and distribution infrastructures for land irrigation. In Africa, only 5% of arable land is irrigated, while the irrigable potential stands at 25%. The irrigation of the African continent can be developed through an over-arching approach and a joint proactive action.

With regard to agricultural-water control, the solutions put forward by the AAA initiative are results/production-oriented. These solutions seek to achieve complementarity between water-conveyance installations, hydro-agricultural facilities, plot developments, institutional exploitation and reinforcement, and value addition – all without losing sight of the scope of the areas to be developed for irrigation (large zones, collective or rustic zones, small-scale private irrigation, lowland development).

In this respect, **five key themes** have been identified:

1. Reinforce water-potential mobilisation: rehabilitate existing structures to optimise their capacity and build new structural facilities;
2. Proactively develop complementary irrigation between (a) large-scale irrigation based on the development of great plains, (b) lowland and flood-recession agriculture, (c) small-scale rural irrigation, and (d) individual irrigation;
3. Continue to strengthen the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach, particularly for cross-border water management;
4. Modernise and promote more water-efficient and more productive irrigation and production systems;
5. Proactively support irrigation development through capacity building.



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of African lands  
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of arable land  
is irrigated in Africa,  
while the irrigable  
potential stands at  
25%

Capacity building &  
funding solutions

More



Climate-risk  
management

More





Launched upstream of COP22 organized in Morocco, the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) aims to reduce the vulnerability of Africa and its agriculture to climate change.