

**ASSOCIATION FOR STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
(ASARECA)
SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH NETWORK
SWMnet**

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2001
AND
PLAN OF ACTIVITY FOR 2002**

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. One of the main strategic objectives of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA) is to promote sustainable Natural Resource Management (NRM). The NRM Strategy of ASARECA identifies the role of the Soil and Water Management Research Network (SWMnet), as follows:
 - Soil and water management research should constitute the backbone of NRM research for the region's agricultural systems.
 - SWMnet should enable the region to harness and benefit from collaborative work of key NRM scientists especially in the universities in the region.
 - As the network develops its capacity for collaborative regional programmes, its activities should cover the entire range of eco-systems from lowlands to highlands.
 - SWMnet should, to the extent possible, help other networks and programmes under ASARECA in handling the cross-cutting issues involved in soil and water management research and fill gaps in existing programmes. These gaps include, among others:
 - Climatic fluctuations and their impact on farming systems;
 - Water conservation and utilisation including assessment of available resources;
 - Water use efficiency and storage methods;
 - Watershed management;
 - Irrigation and drainage;
 - Soil resource management including tillage practices;
 - Assessment of soil and water resources and mapping of land degradation; and
 - Socio-economic issues e.g., land tenure, etc.
 - SWMnet should concentrate on the compilation and dissemination of results of past research and strengthen communication and collaboration among scientists.

2. SWMnet is not yet operational, therefore the purpose of this report is to describe preparatory activities implemented during the reporting period. These included the first meeting of the Interim Regional Steering Committee, development of LFA, attendance of meetings on behalf of ASARECA, and preparation of country inventories on SWM issues.

PROGRESS 2001

Meeting of Interim Regional Steering Committee

3. The main activity during the reporting period was organisation of first meeting of the Interim Regional Steering Committee (IRSC) in Arusha during June 5th – 7th, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to:
 - (i) Agree on a generic description of SWMnet stakeholders in the ECA.
 - (ii) Revise the strategy plan for SWMnet (specifying goals, purpose(s), outputs and activities).
 - (iii) Draft the elements of the constitution of SWMnet.
 - (iv) Draft a plan of activities for year 1 of operation after funds are made available.
4. The objectives of the meeting were achieved through brainstorming in both plenary and group discussions. To guide and enrich the discussions, paper presentations were made under three categories; namely:
 - Country reports from nine of the ten countries,
 - Programs and initiatives of IWMI in soil and water management, and
 - Soil and water management issues currently being pursued by other ASARECA NPPs.
5. Nine countries of ASARECA were represented in the meeting. The Congo DR was unable to send a delegate to the meeting due to communication difficulties. Furthermore, the Director for Africa and one of its scientists represented IWMI.
6. The meeting elected **Dr. Antony M. Kilewe**, to chair the IRSC until elections are held at the SWMnet stakeholders' workshop.
7. The meeting made an initial identification of primary stakeholders. These were put into three main categories, namely:
 - i) International organizations that are supporting or are implementing soil and water management activities in the region.
 - ii) Organizations and institutions with regional mandate within the ASARECA member countries. This group includes most of the other ASARECA NPPs.
 - iii) National level organisations and institutions. In this group it was emphasized to include capacity that exist outside the NARIs.

SWMnet Strategy and LFA

8. The strategy and LFA of SWMnet was first developed at the meeting of the IRSC. The draft was then presented and amended at the following ASARECA meetings:
 - i) ASARECA Impact Assessment/Orientation and Genderizing Agricultural Research – held in Nairobi, 11-15 June 2001.

- ii) Preparatory Consultative Meeting for non-funded NPPs – held in Entebbe, 23-24 July 2001.
 - iii) ASARECA NPPs Consultative Meeting – held in Dar es Salaam, 3-7 September 2001.
9. The outcome of this exercise is an LFA that is well linked to the strategic objectives of ASARECA. This is given as Appendix 1 of this report.

Attendance of Meetings on Behalf of ASARECA

10. The IRC attended the Workshop on Water for Food, organised by the World Bank in Harare, 13-16 June 2001. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss a draft a World Bank strategy on Water for Food in sub-Saharan Africa.

Inventory of SWM Programs and Issues

11. The Country Papers presented at the meeting of the IRSC have been developed into an inventory of Soil and Water Management issues and programs in the countries. The drafts have been received from eight countries except Uganda and DRC. The manuscript is undergoing technical editing and will be published as SWMnet Discussion Paper No.1.

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES 2002

12. The plan of activities for 2002 as recommended by the meeting of the IRSC are as follows:

ACTIVITY	TIMING	
	Start	Finish
Recruit Regional Coordinator and establish office	January, 2002	March, 2002
Up-grade the SWMnet discussion paper No. 1 into a Directory of Inventory of Soil and Water Management issues, stakeholders, programs and activities in ECA	March, 2002	June, 2002
Refine indicators of impact in the LFA	May, 2002	June, 2002
Finalise planning of the Regional Stakeholders' Workshop (RSHW)	May, 2002	June, 2002
Hold 2 nd Meeting of IRSC to approve plan for RSHW		June, 2001
Hold the RSHW		July, 2002
Develop proposals for CGS from within and outside ASARECA	March, 2002	Continuous

APPENDXI 1: SWMnet LFA

GOAL AND INDICATORS

Goal	INDICATORS
Enhance sustainable agriculture productivity in ECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of income of those working in agriculture and associated industries. • Quality of commodities produced. • Quantities of commodities produced in ECA. • Quantities and quality of land and water available for other uses

PURPOSE AND INDICATORS

Purpose	INDICATORS
Promote sustainable and optimal utilization and conservation of Soil and Water in ECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of utilization of efficient technologies and practices for managing S&W, in terms of number of users and/or area. • Number of SWM technologies adopted. • Levels of pollution from agricultural and range lands. • EVIDENCE OF NON-DECLINING OR INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF S&W IN AGRICULTURAL AND RANGE LANDS.

OUTPUTS AND INDICATORS

Outputs	Indicators
1: Networking at national and regional levels developed and operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of regional collaborative R&D projects in S&WM. • Evidence of proper resource (financial, human and physical) allocation/sharing based on comparative advantage, and value adding. • Number of S&WM technologies generated/introduced from one country and validated/tested in other countries.
2: Availability of appropriate S&WM technological packages in ECA enhanced and increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of technologies, practices and innovations developed and validated. • Number of databases and models developed for regional use. • Number of technologies, practices and innovations disseminated. • Number of partners/organisations disseminating technologies in different member countries.

<p>3: Capacity to manage S&W resources strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of stakeholders at different levels involved in S&WM programmes. • Quality of service from facilities for S&WM (e.g laboratories). • Type and number of training given. • Type and number of scientists and stakeholders trained.
<p>4: Policy recommendations on improved S&WM developed and adopted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of policy initiatives addressed and/or developed. • Number of policy initiatives advocated. • Number of policy initiatives adopted and included in policy and strategy documents.