

## **Summary**

Much of Africa and more particularly, Sub-Saharan Africa is burdened with physical and economic water scarcity where less than four percent (<4%) of Africa's renewable water resources are withdrawn for agriculture. Investments in agricultural water management can contribute in several ways to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring environmental sustainability. Increased yield and cropping area and shifts to higher valued crops could help boost the income of rural households, generate more employment, and lower consumer food prices. Factors constraining such potential, in terms of scarcity and degradation of land and water resources, and poor governance and weak institutions are a key pathway to enhance agricultural productivity and to catalyze agricultural and economic growth for effective poverty alleviation.

The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) seeks to extend the area under sustainable land management and water control systems (SLWM) through (i) the promotion of coalition-building among key stakeholders; (ii) empowerment of national and regional stakeholders; (iii) improvement of collection, management and dissemination of knowledge; (iv) identification, mobilization and harmonization of investment funds; and (v) scaling up of investments. This process is supported through a common framework reflected in a set of key principles and targets that have been defined and set by African heads of state and governments in order to: (i) guide country strategies and investment programs; (ii) allow regional peer learning and review; and (iii) facilitate greater alignment and harmonization of development efforts. The CAADP Initiative on Agricultural Water through SLWM is an important development and we hope and believe it can make a significant contribution to revitalize energy on sustainable agriculture development on the African continent.