Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture

Supporting farmers, the frontline water managers of Africa
Focus on ‘green water’ as an essential part of the water cycle (Falkenmark & Rockström, 2006)

Water is only absorbed by plants at the root zone

Water availability & soil moisture management are key determinants of crop yields and agricultural productivity

The hydrological cycle has been altered by climate change – faster, more intense

#slowwater
WHY TRANSFORM INVESTMENTS?

Food production

- 5% Irrigation
- 95% Rainfed

95% of food produced in Africa is by rainfed agriculture

Public Agriculture Water Investment

- 95% Irrigation
- 5% Rainfed

BUT

95% of public money spent on agricultural water is spent on irrigation!
THE BUSINESS CASE

- **RoI for the farmer:**
  - Increased yield (typically from 1 ton/ha to 3 ton/ha)
  - Reduced risk of moisture variability
  - Higher initial labour costs
  - Construction materials

- **Environmental benefits:**
  - Reduced soil erosion
  - Lower sedimentation of watercourses
  - Increased infiltration and percolation of rainwater
  - Aquifer recharge
  - Carbon sequestration in soils
  - Vegetation & biodiversity increase

- **Social benefits:**
  - Local agricultural value chains strengthened
  - Job opportunities created in rural communities
Nested benefits & impacts
Raising awareness through knowledge

• Series of reports available for download at https://siwi.org/transforming-investment-in-africas-rainfed-agriculture-tiara/

• Unlocking the Potential of Enhanced Rainfed Agriculture

• Mapping Financial Mechanisms for Enhanced Rainfed Agriculture in Africa

• Virtual Jobs
FUNDRAISING:

- Projected total grant of **USD 2 million** over 5 years
- Estimated increased investment in Zambezi: **USD 10 million** allocation of additional money during 2021-2025, using 2020 as baseline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Source funding</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon finance</td>
<td>Governments (NDC or REDD+), corporates or institutions</td>
<td>• Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi</td>
<td>1-3 mil USD/yr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| PES        | Governments, corporates                                                        | • “Integrated River Basin Rehabilitation for Soil erosion control through Deep Bed Farming”
|            |                                                                                 | • Northern Region Water Board – Malawi                                         | 5 year – 1 mil USD/yr |
|            |                                                                                 | • Climate Smart Agriculture method – ZAMBEZI basin                           | Prefeasibility phase (est. 5M USD) |
TIARA is a partnership between ZAMCOM, CIFOR-ICRAF, and NGOs supporting the implementation of The Zambezi Strategic Plan’s Livelihoods component.

Who else do we need on board?

Governments & policy makers  Development finance institutions  Private sector  Farmers & farmer organisations  Community & advocates  Market & connectivity experts
Africa Rainfed Agriculture Finance and Investment Forum

• Date and location: July 2023, Gaborone, Botswana (TBC)

• Host: Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services, Botswana

• Convenors: Zambezi Watercourse Commission

CONTACT US

Kasonde Mulenga
Programme Manager, SIWI

kasonde.mulenga@siwi.org

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