



Global Water Initiative - East Africa

Secure Water for Smallholder Agriculture

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Partners establish Regional Charter on Investment in Water for Smallholder Agriculture in Eastern Africa

Participants at a regional workshop on water for smallholder agriculture, held in Morogoro, Tanzania on August 27, 2013 agreed to establish a regional charter on investment in water for smallholder agriculture. The charter specifically calls on governments and other institutions in the East Africa region to invest in water for smallholder agriculture. The Charter is established under the auspices of the Global Water Initiative East Africa (GWI EA) – *Secure Water for Sustainable Agriculture*, funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

Hon. Mathias Kasamba, Chairperson of Agriculture Committee Parliament of Uganda said, “The key link between water, crop production, livestock and livelihoods means investing in agriculture water management is central to attaining local, national and regional development objectives.” In spite of this fact, investments levels in the East African region remain low, revealing lack of prioritization within sector budgets and investment plans at all levels.

The unveiled charter urges key stakeholders to work together to increase public sector investment for smallholder agriculture in real terms and to provide tangible support to the capacity building of all institutions in Eastern Africa that address water management for smallholder farmers. The charter also aims at enhancing the exchange of knowledge and evidence on best practices in agriculture water management across the region, including a specific focus on the role of women farmers. In Uganda, women farmers produce 60 percent of the country’s food requirements.

The established regional charter will contribute to global initiatives aimed at smarter options to achieve sustainable water productivity within the context of post-2015 development agenda.

A statement from global partners at World Water Week held in Stockholm-Sweden from September 1-6, 2013, states that integrating water resource management at all levels in the planning, building and governing of our societies will save livelihoods and assets.



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Global water actors therefore called on the United Nations to propose a dedicated development goal on water since water is at the core of sustainable global development and is a cross cutting resource.

This echoes the commitment to stronger coordination, communication and joint development and planning between water, agriculture and all other relevant sector institutions at all levels made in the **Charter on Investment in Water for Smallholder Agriculture in Eastern Africa**, signatories to which include key government agencies as well as media, research and NGO representatives in water and agriculture from Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The Global Water Initiative East Africa- Secure Water for Sustainable Agriculture is a five year program of action research that influences policy on managing and using water for agriculture in support of small-scale farmers. The initiative is funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

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