Irrigation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Issues and Challenges

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Structure of Presentation

- Trends in lending
- Origin of trends
- Responses
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World Bank Commitments on AI projects in Millions US FY2002 Dollars

- Commitment on 2002 dollars based on the Inflation, inflation GDP (annual %) of the United States of America
- Number of Project
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How did we get into this situation?

- Decline in investments in irrigation is similar to decline in investments in ag
- Irrigation ‘hidden’ in multi-sectoral operations (CDD, PRSC, …)
- Changes in global environment, client countries, AFR countries, and World Bank
Changes in global environment

- Low world market prices for staple food, high poverty reduction opportunity costs; yet: increasing awareness of the importance of irrigation to poverty reduction
- Growing competition over water and increasing water scarcity
- Globalization of the economy
- Increased focus on the impact of irrigation on the environment, and allocation of water to environmental maintenance flows
- Proliferation of affordable private irrigation equipment.
Changes in AFR countries

- Decentralization, increased need for capacity building
- Increased focus on democratization, good governance, transparency and accountability
- Increased role of private sector and NGOs
- Decline in public expenditures for agriculture.
- High per hectare costs of irrigation development
- Low percentage of land under irrigation
- Disappointing performance: low returns on investment, low cost recovery, vicious circle of low cost recovery-lack of maintenance-rehabilitation.
Changes in the World Bank

- Increased focus on poverty reduction
- Increased importance of Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- Emergence of new financing tools, such as PRSCs
- Increased focus on partnerships with the development community.
- Emergence of innovative project implementation arrangements that include project implementation responsibility of independent NGOs, as well as community-driven development approaches
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What are the challenges

- Global food production will need to double in next 50 years, but only 10% more land available
- Irrigation water requirements will increase by 15% over the next 25 years
- Only 5% of cultivated land in AFR is irrigated.
- More food with less water, and little bit more land
- Infrastructure gap, vulnerability
- Poverty reduction, high opportunity costs
- Declining investments
- Changed environment
- Challenges
- Irrigation has been slow to respond
Irrigation Strategy for SSA

- Collaboration between ARD and AFTRS
- Collaboration between AfDB, IFAD, IWMI, FAO, WB and NEPAD
- Product = process
- Deliverables:
  - Best practice study
  - Case studies: (i) impact of policy reform on irrigation performance, (ii) irrigation water use in cases of water scarcity, (iii) impact of irrigation on livelihoods
  - E-mail conference
  - ‘VtoA’ support to NEPAD
What we need to do further

- Practical experience with innovative approaches (basin water organizations, PPP, …)
- Scaling up (private irrigation, irrigation reform)
- Product development: make sure our tools are relevant to our operations (CDD, capacity building, PRSP, policy and institutional reform…)
- Clarify Bank’s position on investments for poverty reduction (through grants?)
- Further analytical work (water CAS/ESW, cross-sectoral linkages, poverty impact, private sector involvement, …)
- Mobilize countries for PRSP
- CAS; ESSD CAS; Water CAS