



AT A GLANCE



Participants during the national and local stakeholders workshop held in Tanzania (Photo - SUA).

Table 1: WHaTeR Stakeholder’s workshops held in 2012

| Country and Dates | No. of Participants | Stakeholder category |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Burkina Faso 29 Oct. 20 Nov. | 47 | Farmers, NGOs, national and local government officials, researchers, academia and media |
| Ethiopia 26-30 Sept. | 32 | Local and national government officials from Ministry of Agriculture and MERET programme, farmers and media |
| South Africa 6-7 Dec. | 19 | Academia, researchers, NGOs |
| Tanzania 11-14 Apr. | 40 | Academia, researchers, local government, parastatal organizations, NGOs, farmers and media |

WHaTeR

WP3: STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION

THE CHALLENGE

The WHaTeR project is currently implementing research activities that require input and support of various stakeholders at regional, national and local levels. Stakeholder interaction and communication is paramount for effective knowledge exchange and experience sharing amongst experts and effective dissemination of information to beneficiaries. Deliberate effort is required to create favourable conditions for stakeholders to interact and support upscaling of water harvesting technologies (WHTs) on the ground. In order to determine the extent to which such conditions exist in the target countries, the project undertook an assessment based on the objectives below.

OBJECTIVES

- To investigate and assess means of interaction and communication currently used by rainwater harvesting practitioners and stakeholders
- To determine how these communication channels influence or affect the upscaling of best WHT practices
- To produce recommendations for optimizing WHT stakeholder interaction and communication in order to facilitate WHT upscaling and uptake

METHODOLOGY

The objectives are addressed by conducting a stakeholder analysis, including the mapping of stakeholders and identification of their networking



framework and capacity. In addition, the current communication status of individual stakeholders is assessed, taking account of the effects of communication on other stakeholders. The stakeholder analysis serves in fact to help identifying a number of aspects such as stakeholders' interests; (communication) mechanisms to influence other stakeholders; potential risks, barriers and constraints to WHT uptake and upscaling; and key people to be informed about the project during the implementation phase. Since this work package is aimed at enhancing the upscaling of WHT at regional, national and local levels, the activities will be organized in close cooperation with the consortium partners in the four case study countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, South Africa and Tanzania) and the work package on uptake and up-scaling (WP7) of WHTs, which addresses the design of guidelines and a framework for stakeholder interaction and communication.

During the year 2012, the first series of multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted in each of the four countries to introduce the WHaTeR project to key stakeholders, deliberate on project outputs and develop robust plans of action for upgrading the selected water harvesting under the research and technological development (RTD) component of the project (See Table 1). These workshops bestowed SearNet, in close consultation with the country partners, the opportunity to take stock of key stakeholders both at national and project site levels. A second series of multi-stakeholder workshops will be organized in the third project year to discuss and evaluate the RTD activities undertaken so far and share knowledge and experiences. The workshops will be instrumental in designing guidelines and policy strategies for WHT uptake and upscaling. Interaction and coordination amongst consortium partners is further organized on a regular basis through e-conferences using the WebEx tool, the WHaTeR website and periodic project workshops.

RESULTS SO FAR

Assessment of current communication and interaction has been concurrently conducted during four national and local stakeholders workshops organized in the case study countries of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, South Africa and Tanzania. The workshops were held to gather

stakeholders' inputs and perceptions on WHTs and associated policies serving, amongst others, as feedback to action researchers. The results are varied as herein explained.

In South Africa, where there is literally no existing forum at which water harvesting is discussed at national level, the multi-stakeholder workshop provided an opportunity to organize such a forum. Participants who attended the workshop, hosted by the Water Research Commission (WRC), committed to promote networking and information exchange between researchers in the sector from the timing of this workshop onwards. Owing to their admirable work and reputation on water harvesting research, documentation, publication and dissemination, participants also proposed that the WRC takes the lead role of convening water-harvesting stakeholders in South Africa. It is not clear at this stage which model South Africa will adopt for facilitating future national stakeholders' interaction and communication. Ecolink, a local NGO that hosted the 14th SearNet conference in 2011, has also been pursuing the registration of a national water-harvesting network in South Africa. During 2013, Searnet will follow up this matter so as to support any efforts that will result in improved stakeholder interaction at national level. At local level the University of KwaZulu Natal successfully mobilized stakeholders and beneficiaries to participate in the RTD activities, which will be reviewed in 2013.

In Ethiopia WHT stakeholders convene around the government and the donor funded programme: Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transitions to More Sustainable Livelihoods (MERET). This national programme uses watershed management approaches to conserve land and water resources, and water harvesting is considered an important component within the broader watershed management approach. Ethiopia also has a national rainwater harvesting association (ERHA), a registered national network responsible for providing leadership on policy and capacity building. At local implementation level, Arba Minch University is well on course to implement the RTD activities after very successful deliberations with local and national stakeholders during the multi-stakeholder workshop held on 26-30 September 2012. A field trip to WHTs reinforced and enriched deliberations on the RTD plans. The video footage



taken during this workshop will be used during the production of visual documentary in 2013.



Multi-stakeholders and farmers tour a silted spate irrigation intake on Yanda River at the WHaTeR RTD site in Konso, Ethiopia. (Photo - M. Malesu)

In Tanzania, Sokoine University of Agricultural Sciences (SUA) leads the work on WHT research, documentation and networking. The Rainwater Harvesting Association of Tanzania, i.e., a forum hosted by SUA, serves the role of knowledge sharing and networking at national level. SUA successfully convened stakeholders including NGOs, local extension staff, district planners, village and ward executive officers, ward councillors, district and zone irrigation engineers and farmers from the two villages where RTD activities will be carried out. Involving these participants in both workshop sessions and field visits enabled SUA and Searnnet to develop an action plan for RTD activities to be implemented and reviewed in 2013.

Like in South Africa, Burkina Faso has no national forum serving as interactive platform for communication and networking among WHT stakeholders. However, INERA successfully conducted two regional multi-stakeholder workshops that convened forty-seven participants, including farmers, NGOs, national and local government officials, researchers and academia and the media. After the workshop, INERA facilitated the publication of two newspaper articles for wider dissemination of WHaTeR project activities. In the next set of workshops it is anticipated that discussions will lead to the establishment of a national water-harvesting forum for Burkina Faso.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

This work package will result in the identification of all key stakeholders in the target case study countries for the purpose of assessing stakeholders' attitude towards WHT improvement, identifying success criteria for WHT uptake and upscaling and designing effective strategies for communication within the framework of the project. The results and recommendations of the WHaTeR project will be communicated to these stakeholders so as to get their feedback and involvement at well-established national forums. The ultimate outcome will be in the form of guidelines and recommendations for strengthening and sustaining stakeholder interaction and communication for widespread implementation of WHT in sub-Saharan Africa.



| PROJECT PARTNERS IN WORK PACKAGE ... | |
|---|-------------------|
| Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) and Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), VU University Amsterdam | NL |
| School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, University of Newcastle upon Tyne | GB |
| Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), Stockholm University | SE |
| School of Bioresources Engineering and Environmental Hydrology (BEEH), University of Kwazulu Natal | (South Africa) ZA |
| Department of Agricultural Engineering, Sokoine University of Agriculture | (Tanzania) TZ |
| Southern and Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (SEARNET), ICRAF | (Kenya) KE |
| National Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA) | (Burkina Faso) BF |
| Arba Minch institute of Technology (AMIT), Arba Minch University | (Ethiopia) ET |

