

Managing Water Scarcity for Agriculture

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Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, President Women for Water Partnership

(Slide: 2,3,4) Water scarcity is recognized as one of the major challenges to sustainable development efforts, for countries, for farmers and for the business sectors. FAO and its partners created WASAG after the COP22 in Marrakesh – this Global framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture has been designed to bring together key players across the globe and across sectors to tackle the collective challenge of using water better in agriculture so to ensure food security for all. Especially now we know that the world population is estimated to grow to 8.5 billion people in 2030 and even to 9.7 billion in 2050.

(Slide: 5) The Global Framework started three working groups with a focus on – 1) Water and Migration; - 2) Drought Preparedness and 3) Financial Mechanisms. We are aimed at finding solutions to alleviate the fate of vulnerable livelihoods and enhancing their resilience through sustainable, affordable and innovative interventions. *(Our overall objective is to bring together partners, key stakeholders and country representatives to present success stories in dealing with water scarcity in agriculture, to report progress made towards achieving the objectives of WASAG, and to trigger further commitment and action).*

(Slide: 6) WASAG has partners from all fields and backgrounds. All are aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, The Paris Climate Agreement and other programmes in relation to Agriculture and Water, especially with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2 and 6 and contributes to SDGs 5, 12, 13, and 17. Water scarcity is the main objective of the Global Framework. One key dimension comprises agriculture and food systems, which includes

crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, as well as value and supply chains, consumption and trade. The second dimension is climate change, encompassing both adaptation and a mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

(Slide: 7) My organisations WfWP and Soroptimist International use water and agriculture as an entry point to women's empowerment and to improve equitable access to water for all, for all uses. Ensuring women's empowerment and engagement at all levels will encourage them to reach their potential as agents of change. Women traditionally have vast experience in the water and agricultural sector *(and the crucial role they play in effective and efficient water management is increasingly acknowledged and supported by evidence)*. Involving both women and men in decision-making and integrated water resources initiatives leads to better sustainability, governance and efficiency. **Women should be seen as key allies and the access to sustainable behavioral change in the water dimensions of climate adaptation.**

(Slide: 7) Collaborative action of the WASAG Platform towards tackling water scarcity in agriculture is an opportunity for agriculture to become a part of the solution to climate change. WASAG aims to bring partners together to assist countries and stakeholders, through solutions in agriculture and the food value chain, and thus creating adaptation and mitigation benefits.

(Slide: 7) WASAG targets many stake-holders, including young farmers and women farmers, highlighting opportunities in agriculture and the agribusiness. Women's lives are the most impacted when facing the adverse effects of Climate Change but they are also crucial agents of change.

(Slide: 8) By coordinating work plans among partners, actively engage and contribute, prioritize the most vulnerable, ensuring due consideration of water governance and politics, using the combined

expertise and resources of its partners, this will create a world whose food systems are secure and resilient to increasing water scarcity in a changing climate.

(Slide: 9) Eduardo Mansur, Director, Land and Water Division at FAO stated "We must produce more food with less water. The WASAG Global Framework will bring together key players from across the globe to design and implement integrated strategies to do just that and prevent water scarcity from setting back our ambitious vision of a future of peace and plenty for all."