



Call for papers

FOURTH EDITION OF THE AFRICAN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE EXHIBITION

**“ Successful irrigation experiences in Western and Central Africa;
approaches, lessons learned and perspectives ”**

Novembre 28 to Decembre 02, 2022

Niamey, Niger

Abstract submission deadline extended to September 31, 2022

I. Background

The population of the Sahel is exposed to a set of unique climatic and environmental risk factors. The region's high and sustained population growth translates into an increased pressure on its natural resources. Indeed, despite a rapid urbanization, 64% of the population of the Sahel still lives in rural areas and relies mainly on rain-fed agriculture and agro-pastoralism for their livelihoods. Rainfall in the region varies greatly from year to year, with irregular, unpredictable and short rainy seasons. Continual erosion, deforestation and unsustainable agricultural practices lead to widespread land degradation and low agricultural yields. Rural populations are regularly faced with food shortages and, urban populations for their part, are increasingly dependent on food imports, that exposes them to price spikes. Finally, climate change is expected to amplify the frequency and magnitude of droughts and floods with negative impacts for agricultural productivity, food security and rural poverty in the region.

Agriculture is a high priority for the countries of the Sahel and will remain the backbone of their economy, despite its volatile performances. In the Sahel, the agricultural sector still represents a large part of the gross domestic product (GDP) and remains the main source of job creation.

Agricultural water management (AWM) is crucial for improving agricultural performance. Despite erratic rains, the countries of the Sahel benefit from relatively abundant water resources. Current water withdrawals for irrigation of agricultural land represent less than 6% of total renewable water resources, and groundwater withdrawals constitute about 6% of annual recharge. In addition, irrigated land represents less than 5% of agricultural land in the Sahel, compared to around 20% globally. In addition, the Sahel benefits from favorable ecological conditions for high-yields production of vegetables and rice.

The current context of the Sahel is characterized by low productivity of irrigated lands due to a combination of multiple unfavorable factors, including: the high cost of land management; the weak equipment capacity of actors; market access difficulties; difficulties in accessing inputs; actors low level of technicity; difficulties in managing hydraulic systems.

This complex situation seriously handicaps the development of irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa. However, there is an urgent need to increase and intensify agricultural production in a sustainable manner to meet the ever-increasing food needs. Therefore, in 2005, 2008 and 2011, ARID initiated and organized three editions of the African Irrigation and Drainage Fair to enable African experts to define a regional strategy for the sustainable development of irrigated agriculture.

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Today yet, the countries of the Sahel are facing a food crisis exacerbated by climate change, the security situation and the crisis linked to COVID 19. Therefore, the 4th African Irrigation and Drainage Exhibition appears as a space for mobilization and popular expression around the issues of irrigation and drainage. Stakeholders in the irrigation and drainage sector will thus have the opportunity to consult each other, share concerns and solutions to be scaled up.

II. Objectives

The general objective of African Irrigation and Drainage Exhibition (SAFID) 2022 is to stimulate debate and initiate African multi-stakeholder reflection upon major challenges in the irrigation and drainage sector.

The general objective of the African Irrigation and Drainage Exhibition (SAFID) 2022 is to stimulate debate and engage multi-stakeholder African reflection on the major issues of the irrigation and drainage sector.

Specifically, it will aim to:

- Share and capitalize on different experiences, innovations and good practices in the field of irrigation and drainage in sub-Saharan Africa through conferences, panels, exhibitions and visits;
- To propose strategies and policies that will allow irrigation to fully play its role in securing agricultural production.

III. Theme/Sub-themes

The central theme of SAFID 2022 is: *“Successful irrigation experiences in Western and Central Africa; approach, lessons learned and perspectives”*.

The selected Sub-themes are as follows:

N°	Sub-themes	Brief description
1	Successful experience of planning hydro-agricultural land management	Land management planning and programming process: Approaches, Tools, Actors, roles of actors, periodicities, results (lessons learnt)
2	Successful experiences and practices in Hydro-Agricultural Management	Administrative, economic and financial management, supply of production factors, marketing of products, management actors (Professional Agricultural Organizations)
3	Successful experiences in water management and infrastructure maintenance of irrigated systems	Organization of irrigation on the facilities : actors, organization, financing. Organization of maintenance : diagnosis, financing, actors,

4	Resilient solutions for irrigated systems in the face of climate change (micro irrigation by solar pumping, etc.)	Presentation of equipment, supply, cost, results, ownership by producers, maintenance, etc.
5	Successful experiences in empowering producer organizations in the operation of irrigated systems	
6	Successtories in environmental management in small-scale irrigation	Environmental and social impacts, ESMP, ESMP implementation, etc.

Proposals for abstracts and full papers are expected and encouraged from professionals of all kinds: researchers, experts and practitioners; managers and decision-makers in public and private structures and institutions; bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies; NGOs and civil society organizations; companies and consultancies; producers and their organizations.

IV. SCHEDULE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS / FULL PAPERS

- i. Abstract submission (max. 500 words) : september 31, 2022
- ii. Notification of acceptance of abstracts : october 07, 2022
- iii. Submission of full papers (max. 10 pages A-4 format) : october 20, 2022
- iv. Notification of acceptance of full papers : october 30, 2022

V. Contact-coordinates:

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