WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION AND THE CENTRE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Dialogue :Enhancing water security through improved agricultural water productivity: new knowledge, innovations and applications

Date: 04 August 2021
Time: 10:00 to 12:30 (CAT)

Globally, 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity. An estimated 2 billion people experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, and more than 820 million people face hunger. Water and food and nutrition security are intrinsically linked. Future demands for water for food are threatened by climate change, technological development, urbanisation, rising global population and incomes. There must be an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems, and production to attain food and nutrition security. Currently, agriculture consumes an estimated 85–90% of freshwater resources in Africa. There is a need to encourage policy-makers, researchers and farmers to co-design appropriate models and technologies to improve water productivity for food and nutrition security. However, a limitation to the realisation of water and food security has been the availability of contextualised information on new knowledge, innovations, and applications.

The Water Research Commission (WRC) has been driving knowledge generation and creation in the agriculture water sector, with a strategic focus on increasing the efficiency and productivity of water for the production of food, forage, fibre and fuel crops; improving food security; reduce poverty and increase the wealth of people dependent on water-based agriculture and ensure sustainable water utilisation in agriculture for South Africa, southern African and broader sub-Saharan Africa region. The WRC has now partnered with the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Transformative Agricultural and Food Systems to undertake a knowledge synthesis of information on water utilisation in agriculture, with a specific focus on improving water productivity and livelihoods.

This webinar seeks to initiate a conversation on the synthesis of existing knowledge, case studies and best practices related to agricultural water use and water productivity from the global South and other key global regions. It is envisaged that contributions will showcase guidelines for identifying entry points for sustainable water resource management that would be useful in planning for circular and economic development, food and nutrition security and sustainable ecosystems and livelihoods.

Target: Academia, Business, Policy Makers, Practitioners, Civil society, Researchers, and Innovators

<u>Facilitator</u>: **Prof Tafadzwa Mabhaudhi**

10:00-10:05	Welcome	**Prof Sylvester Mpandeli** Executive Manager, Water Research Commission
10:05-10:15	Opening address	**Mr Dhesigen Naidoo** Chief Executive Officer, Water Research Commission
10:15-10:45	Keynote address: **Enhancing water security through improved agricultural water productivity**	**Dr Petra Schmitter** World Bank
10:45-11:45	Panel discussion: **perspectives in agricultural water management and supporting livelihoods**	**Chair: Dr Luxon Nhamo** **Panellists:** **Prof Ragab Ragab** (ICID-President) **Dr Abebe Chukalla** (IHE-Delft) **Dr Aidan Senzanje** (UKZN) **Dr Vimbayi Chimonyo** (CIMMYT-Zimbabwe)
11:45-12:15	Discussion	**Prof Sylvester Mpandeli**
12:15-12:30	Closure/way-forward	**Prof Stanley Liphadzi**