

**SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTRY GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP
"WATER FOR FOOD"
31 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2004 KOPANONG HOTEL, BENONI**

Summary of Workshop Proceedings

Introduction

South African Country Water Partnership in association with Global Water Partnership and International Water Management Institute presented a workshop on Water for Food. The aim of the workshop was to contribute to tangible improvements in the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor, by facilitating dialogue between all relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders on the best sectoral and integrated strategies to improve household food security especially for the poor.

The programme comprised of presentations relating to International, Southern Africa and South Africa Water Policies and Strategies on water harvesting. Also case studies from Zambia and South Africa on water harvesting and food security were shared.

Expected outputs

The following were the expected outcomes for the two-days workshop

1. Increased *awareness about the potential of water harvesting for poverty eradication*, in particular the approach applied by the Water for Food Movement
2. Improved *common understanding of the merits of an integrated effort to massively spread* the tested methods, and identification of *next steps* to reach that better integration
3. Improved *capacity of supporting agencies* to reach and empower the poorest of the poor and to provide sound training, including mind mobilization, for homestead production
4. New *horizontal and vertical linkages* between all relevant stakeholders, including poor water harvesters.
5. Wider *application of water harvesting by the poorest of the poor* and more livelihood improvements.
6. *Strategies for achieving household food security* in South Africa.
7. Contribution to the *understanding of the Southern Africa Vision and initiation of the development of a FFA for South Africa* with specific focus on the sub-vision on Food Security for all households

Issues and Recommendations

The issues and recommendations outlined below were the result of plenary discussions and small group work

Workshop delegates recognised the importance for South Africa to be part of the Global Water Partnership (GWP)

- GWP SA needs to develop a work plan for the way forward
- A proper home should be found for food security
- Strategic partnerships and alliances need to be formed
- New forms of advocacy need to be explored
- Communication networks need to be established
- Mindsets need to be changed

GWP is committed to action for impact

- Implementation of priority areas should inform the funding of projects.
- There need to be integrated approaches and enhanced engagements between different sectors
- Ensure support and capacity building at all levels

DAY ONE

1. The conference was opened by Ms. Ethné Davey, chairperson of the Interim Global Water Partnership (GWP) South Africa Interim Steering Committee. She highlighted the theme of the workshop “Water for Food” by stressing that food security played the major role in GWP, as without water there could be no food security. She also stated that the workshop was a way to put the issue of food security on the map.
2. Ms. Zeria Banda, Communications Officer of GWP presented an overview of the global water partnership in which she dealt with the membership of GWP, its objectives, outputs and activities.
3. Mr. Jean Boroto presented the GWP Framework for Action (FFA) entitled Southern Africa Vision for Water, Life and Environment in the 21st Century. The main purpose of the presentation was to give a brief overview of the FFA process in southern Africa and to guide discussions on the process in the South African context. The presentation dealt with the southern Africa Water Vision. Mr Boroto also reported on the activities in respect of the vision to date, the findings of the regional desktop study and the key issues identified for the FFA. The presentation concluded with a focus on South Africa and the GWP expectations of South Africa.

4. Dr. Guy Pegram of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and a member of the team developing the regional water strategy and policy presented the SADC Regional Water Policy and Strategy. The presentation contextualised the Regional Water Policy and Strategy within the SADC Declaration and the Dublin Principles. He outlined the purpose of the policy framework and the process and development of the policy. Dr Pegram stressed that the policy was a public document and that all comments were welcome. Contact details were provided for comment.
5. The presentation on the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the South Africa Country Water Partnership was presented by Dr Daniel Yawson on behalf of Ms. Barbara van Koppen. The presentation covered the role of IWMI on the continent and in South Africa. The modules offered by IWMI for rainwater harvesting were presented. An interesting fact mentioned by the presenter was that the rainfall in the Netherlands was comparable to that in the Olifants River Basin which emphasises the importance of rainwater harvesting.
6. Presentations were followed by question and answer sessions. Questions revolved around the following issues:
 - What mechanisms were in place for ensuring that the FFA as well as resources trickled down to the grassroots
 - How could people at grassroots level contribute towards the FFA
 - How to ensure organizational participation particularly in the case of bureaucracies like government departments
 - How to address the issue of the quality of water, particularly in rural areas
 - Are ecosystems and aquatic habitats being taken into consideration in the Policies

DAY TWO

1. The proceedings of the second day of the conference began with a presentation by Mr. George Phiri of the Zambian Water Partnership on Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) and Food Security in Zambia. His presentation included networking activities with regard to RWH as well as capacity building, awareness programmes and field activities. Phiri emphasised that although Zambia's rainfall was quite high it only fell over a period of four months, and RWH was therefore essential to food security in Zambia.
2. In her reflections of the proceedings of the first day, Ms. Mankone Ntsaba raised the following points:
 - South Africa's positioning to the Global Water Partnership
 - Communicating South Africa's priorities so that they can be included in GWP outputs

- South Africa's contribution on the themes and issues of the region raised in the FFA presentation
 - The level of consultation with stakeholders
 - Strategies that will ensure the distribution of resources for the FFA
 - GWP South Africa to build strategic partnerships and ensure accountability
3. Ms. Ethné Davey began the next presentation by quoting an old Chinese proverb: *"When man is hungry he has only one problem. When he has lots to eat he has many problems"*. After the presentation Mma Tshepo Khumbane answered delegates' questions regarding the Water for Food Movement's five-year "helicopter" plan for food security.
4. The last session of the workshop was the round tables discussion groups with full report of these discussions. Groups had to ensure that their recommendations are people and action orientated, as the output from the groups would contribute to the FFA for GWP South Africa.
- The discussion topics were:
- Partnerships/integration of programmes and capacity development
 - Water harvesting for poverty alleviation
 - Household food security

Conclusion

The workshop recognised the significance of the GWP South Africa in translating the vision of GWP Southern Africa Framework For Action into practice. Various challenges were raised with reference to the powers and the limited authority of the GWP South Africa Steering Committee. A need to strengthen and formalise the GWP South Africa was raised. It was proposed that the interim committee should continue in its present form and a consultative process be embarked upon to solicit nominations towards establishing a formalised structure.