



Concept Note

CN 7 - Joint call: “Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) - Water for Food”

Introduction

The mapping of ongoing research activities and consultation with the SPLASH Strategic Management Board (SMB) at the Oslo Meeting June 2008 revealed that most of the SPLASH partner countries fund research on water for food from an IWRM perspective. It is thus a field of shared strategic interest where future collaboration can create synergies, and avoid duplications in the long-run. The Scientific Advisory Council recommended a joint call in this thematic area financed through a real common pot (pooled funding).

It is proposed that the joint call will be implemented under the following general principles:

1. Funding should be pooled together and centrally administered (real common pot funding). This financial arrangement would minimise the administrative burden, facilitate participation from DC researchers and potentially increase the quality of the accepted proposals through unbound competitive bidding.
2. The total call budget should not be less than 2 Mio Euro so that the number and/or size of funded projects allow the programme to show clear impact on development.
3. The call should address a clearly defined research gap, and support South-North research partnerships.
4. The call shall be complemented by specific activities for synthesizing the outcomes of the individual research projects, for joint dissemination of results and transfer into policy and practice. This could be achieved by linkages to existing dissemination networks and policy platforms and actively engage in dialogue with stakeholders.
5. The call should be aligned and linked to an ongoing programme.

Better management of green, blue and grey water in agriculture is necessary to meet the MDGs for income poverty, hunger and a sustainable environment¹. The overarching concept of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) provides the context for this, as it calls for integrating economic, social and environmental functions/impacts of water uses within a water basin as the relevant management unit. Therefore, an IWRM perspective takes the overall basin water efficiency into account rather than improving the crop per drop ratio at the farm level. Technological solutions as well as the institutional set-up and the balance of user interests are important variables in this respect. Climate Change aggravates the challenges for IWRM since one expected effect of Climate Change is a higher variability of precipitation. This means that a region could have to cope with water scarcity in longer periods of droughts as well as with high impact rainfall events over time.

In line with the AMCOW Declaration from March 2008 (Part II, d – i)² the following research needs on technical, governmental, institutional, financial and sustaining behavior changes aspects under the conditions of climate change can be derived for the SPLASH joint call “IWRM – Water for Food”:

- **Coping with water scarcity:** Research in the adaptation of existing and/or development of low-cost technologies for efficient water use in traditional food production. This includes options to optimize on limited water availability such as improved irrigation and drainage techniques, grey water reuse, sustainable use of local groundwater and rainwater harvesting. The focus should be on the social and institutional determinants for sustainable use of these technologies and the transfer of knowledge through dissemination activities and extension services. Traditional food production can include rain-fed and irrigated agriculture as well as livestock production including aquaculture.
- **Coping with more rainfall:** Research in the agricultural water management in areas of higher flood risk and productive use of flood waters, e.g. technologies to capture more rainfall, storing it for use when needed and capacity building activities for better managing rainwater. Again the social, economic and institutional factors of sustained implementation should be in the focus together alongside with the technological solutions.

The geographic focus for research funded under the joint call will be, corresponding to the regional focus of SPLASH, Africa and the Mekong region. The geographical specification will depend on the consultations with AMCOW and ongoing relevant research programmes prior to the final call formulation. Subject of the consultations will be the precise geographical focus of the research funded under the SPLASH joint call as well as the concrete possibilities to join forces with existing research programmes to avoid thematic and regional overlap, while at the same time fostering implementation of research result.

¹ Cp. DAVID MOLDEN FOR COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE (2007): Summary Water for Food – Water for life: A

^c omprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, page 10

² MAIN OUTCOME OF THE FIRST AFRICAN WATER WEEK , TUNIS , APRIL 2008

[HTTP://WWW.AFDB.ORG/PLS/PORTAL/DOCS/PAGE/ADB_ADMIN_PG/DOCUMENTS/NEWS/2008_04_24%20AWW%20FINAL%20DECLARATION](http://www.afdb.org/pls/portal/docs/page/adb_admin_pg/documents/news/2008_04_24%20AWW%20FINAL%20DECLARATION)



Concept Note

2. General objective

The Joint Call contributes to the SPLASH general objective “design collaborative research programs which address identified needs”. “Support the transfer of research into policy and practice” is a secondary objective.

3. Specific objectives

Design, announce and launch a joint call for research on “IWRM – Water for Food” with the thematic specifications mentioned under section 1. Building on the lessons learnt derived from SPLASH work packages the following specific aims should be considered within the procedures of the joint research call:

- Addressing local research needs by applying a demand-led process of project identification
- Applying good research management to enhance effectiveness of the projects funded under the joint call.
- Taking into account knowledge produced by similar ongoing and already finished research activities

4. Expected results

1. Agreement with AMCOW and major ongoing research programmes with similar thematic focus on how to link up activities
2. Formulation of call and creation of a call management secretary with the outcome of enhanced transnational collaboration between European and DC researchers.
3. The short listed project consortia have to conduct a scoping study as a premise for a call application. The results are expected to enable the establishment of a demand-led research process and building the full proposal on a sound stakeholder analysis.
4. Project management for active stakeholder engagement is expected to lead to increased ownership of potential end-users of research results.
5. The expected result of working in North-South research project consortia is capacity building in research skills, research management as well as in various communication dimensions.
6. The funded projects are expected to yield applicable innovative results, support the implementation of these and thereby help to reduce poverty in the focus regions.

5. Activities

After consolidation of this concept note agreement of the call principals and a consensus of funding commitments, the activities for the Joint Call “IWRM - Water for Food” from 2009 – 2013 are:

Activity	Duration	PM
1. Consultation with AMCOW and relevant research programmes, (in particular CGIAR Challenge Programme)	2/2009 – 4/2009	0,5
1. Create Call secretariat	3/2009 – 4/2009)	1,0
2. Design of the Call text (framework of the call and application procedure)	(3/2009 - 6/2009)	1,5
3. Announcement of the call and necessary circulation of the call	(6/2009 - 7/2009))	0,8
4. Evaluation of the proposals through a two-stage process due to a previous scoping study on potential partners (programs or institutions)	(11/2009 - 1/2010; 2 nd stage 05/2010)	1,5
5. Presentation of selected projects to the SMB and TC for information and final funding decision	(SMB 06/2010)	0,5
6. Kick-off workshop for representatives of selected project consortia	(08/2010)	0,5
7. Management of the evaluated and funded projects by Call Secretariat	(08/2010)	> 5
8. Workshop to present the outcomes of the funded projects, dissemination of synthesized results	(08 - 10/2013)	1,0

6. Input

It is estimated that needed person month for the preparation of the joint call could potentially be covered by existing SPLASH WP 6 resources and by the contribution of all SPLASH partners interested in the call. Thus, the existing SPLASH funds from the EC will cover the preparation process of the joint call. The specific research and call management will be financed by the contribution from the call funders.



Concept Note

7. Assumptions and risks

Assumption: The underlying assumption is that, if existing, administrative barriers to real common pot funding can be overcome by a number of SPLASH member countries. The second assumption is that a sufficient number of excellent project proposals are submitted.

Risks: Unforeseen political, social and environmental shocks/drastic changes in the research areas in Developing Countries can occur and hinder research progress and use.