



www.wahara.eu

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Water HARvesting for Rainfed Africa (WAHARA) Investing in dryland agriculture for growth and resilience

In the variety of contexts in Africa – from arid to humid – the availability of water has become an increasingly important problem, making an improved capture and usage of water essential. To ensure a continuous water supply for agricultural crops, water harvesting has been carried out in the earliest agricultural practices; however the environment has changed, as well as the number of people depending on the scarce water resources. This is where the WAHARA project tries to make a difference: four countries, four pilot projects, one goal: increasing the potential of water harvesting.





WAHARA Project

This project aims to study local water harvesting solutions, in order to innovate and develop appropriate water harvesting technologies that are replicable in the different geographical regions of rain fed Africa. The project aims to develop solutions applicable beyond local study sites and across the continent. In order to reach this objective, representative study sites are selected: Tunisia in the North, Burkina Faso in the West, Zambia in the South and Ethiopia in the East. Working with a trans disciplinary perspective that takes into account not only bio-physical aspects, but also socio-economic aspects and political conditions, the project will work closely together with various stakeholders, to make sure that selected solutions really meet their needs.

Some of the main activities that this research, pilot and knowledge dissemination project will conduct are to:

- Design at least eight water harvesting technologies that have synergies with existing rain fed farming systems, adapted to local conditions. These technologies also serve as an example for continental up-scaling,
- Assess the on-site and downstream impact of water harvesting technologies in four different catchments and for different scenarios,
- Develop criteria for sustainable impact on improving livelihoods with water harvesting technologies under various pressures, considering economic development,
- Develop guidelines to facilitate stakeholder learning and action on water harvesting technologies in various (biophysical and socio-economic) conditions.

WAHARA consortium

The project is supported by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Commission and by governments of participating countries, and is carried out by Alterra (Netherlands), Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (Zambia), Institute de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (Burkina Faso), Institute des Régions Arides (Tunisia), Leeds University (UK), Mekelle University (Ethiopia), MetaMeta (Netherlands), Wageningen University (Netherlands).

Learn more about the project on the project website www.wahara.eu or about water harvesting at www.thewaterchannel.tv, or contact the following people:

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