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and Development

What is IWRM's Role in Food Security?

USAID's Water Strategy Discussion, "Strate-Chat" Series

Ronald Reagan Building – June 28, 2013

[USAID's Water and Development Strategy](#) focuses on water for health and water for food. This session emphasized the role of water in food security. Together with the member agencies of the [Global Water Initiative](#) (GWI), the session explored the role Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plays in managing water for agricultural sustainability. The panel, moderated by USAID, focused on water and food security programs in East Africa, West Africa and Central America.

Panelists

- Christian Holmes, Global Water Coordinator, [USAID](#)
- Moffat Ngugi, Climate Change and Agriculture Advisor, [USAID](#)
- Alan Nicol, Program Director, GWI East Africa, [CARE](#) – [View Presentation](#)
- Gaye Burpee, Senior Advisor, Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change in Latin America, [Catholic Relief Services](#) – [View Presentation](#)
- Jamie Skinner, Director GWI West Africa, [International Institute for Environment and Development](#) – [View Presentation](#)

Key Messages from Event:

USAID's Water and Development Strategy: Integration is Key

Central to the strategy is studying results in order to create evidence-based programming. The integration of water, food and climate change programs is necessary to meet the objectives of the Strategy. Agricultural programming coordinated by the [Bureau of Food Security](#) is driven primarily through [Feed the Future](#). As the challenges presented by climate change increase, water for food and health become even more important. USAID will need to leverage partnerships and innovation





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to create sustainable approaches.

Integrate Water and Land Management

GWII's East African work in the Same District of Tanzania illustrates how variety in a watershed presents different agricultural challenges for smallholder farmers based on where they are placed upstream or downstream. Given the complexities of this watershed and many others, programming goals do not only face the question of IWRM for food security, but rather a question of integrated water *and* land management to achieve food security.

Stakeholder Involvement is Central to Solutions

The case study in La Trinidad, Nicaragua focused on managing increasing demand for multiple uses of water. Interestingly, proposed solutions from experts in water, agriculture and natural resources varied, and an integrated analysis of user wants and needs to complement expert opinions was utilized. This combination of stakeholder engagement in analysis, planning, and implementation of solutions with experts was key to progress.

Secure Land Rights is Foundation for Increased Food Security and Participation

In the Niger and Volta Basins of West Africa, there are several questions surrounding land rights and their impact on water management for food security. GWII programs are looking at whether or not land tenure policies are supporting smallholder farmers and offering ideas to improve them. Program leaders stressed effective participation in IWRM and secure rights as vital to success.



For more information, please visit the following:

- [USAID Water Office website](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Catholic Relief Services](#)
- [International Institute for Environment and Development](#)
- [Global Water Initiative](#)

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