

SNV



Design Workshop Report National Irrigation Acceleration Platform

"Promoting Farmer-led and Market based Smart Water Solutions for improving smallholder irrigation in Kenya"

Date: 12th April 2018 Venue: Azure Hotel, Lantana Road, Westlands, Nairobi

SWA is implemented by:











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Introduction

Smart Water for Agriculture (SWA) is a 4 year program implemented by a Consortium of partners that consist of SNV Kenya, MetaMeta, The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Practica and Aqua for All. The program aims to improve food security through optimized water availability and efficiency by small and medium farmers and businesses. SWA promotes more effective irrigation development jointly with farmers, and interaction, joint learning, coordination and cooperation among stakeholders involved in the development of farmer-led irrigation.

It is widely acknowledged that no one will be able to solve the water stress alone, stakeholders will need to come together. The SWA program has thus helped facilitate stakeholder collaboration at the county level through helping to set up Irrigation Acceleration Platforms (IAPs) in five program Counties. Many issues experienced at the local and county level, however, need to be addressed at the national level. The SWA program and its key partners have therefore joined hands with WARREC, the Water Research and Resource Center of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, to work towards setting up and launching some form of irrigation acceleration platform at the national level.

This platform would aim to improve interaction and collaboration between stakeholders involved in farmer-led irrigation at the national level, with the explicit objective to accelerate the uptake of effective smart water solutions (SWS). The platform is envisaged as a place where the supply and demand side can meet and interact, where innovation can be initiated and supported, and where the private sector, farming communities and actors of the enabling environment can engage, to analyze problems and propose strategies that work. It will be a place that will stimulate knowledge networking and evidence based advocacy in farmer-led irrigation development in Kenya.

To this end, WARREC and SNV organized a workshop "Promoting Farmer-led and Market based Smart Water Solutions for improving smallholder irrigation in Kenya" at Azure Hotel, Nairobi, the 12th April, 2018. The workshop brought together close to 50 key national level stakeholders involved in smallholder irrigation development, analyzed key developments in the space, and deliberated on the strategies to upscale Smart Water Solutions in Kenya. This document provides a report on the design of the workshop, presentations made during the workshop and the discussions that took place, along with deliberations on the next steps to continue engaging with all the stakeholders.

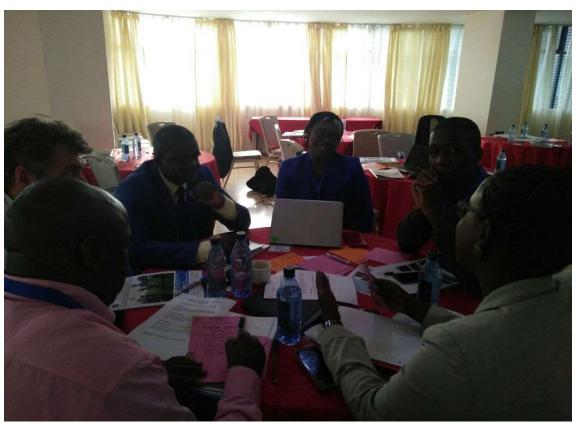
Workshop Design and Program

The main aim of the workshop was to review the need for a National Irrigation Acceleration Platform and its agenda and reach agreement on main topics and activities that would help accelerate farmer-led irrigation development in Kenya, while generating interest and commitment from all stakeholders.

Towards this, the workshop program was designed to gather inputs and information from the stakeholders and build consensus – a bottom-up approach to foster a "pull" effect in stakeholder uptake of platform activities based on their personal interests. This was realized by creating ample space for stakeholder specific working groups to formulate their views.



Photos from the group discussions



Time	Agenda	Facilitator
12.30	Registration	
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Welcoming Remarks by WARREC	Prof. Bancy Mati
14:10	Welcoming Remarks by SNV	Mr. Jeen Kootstra
14:20	Introduction to the Members in the audience	Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen
14:30	Introduction to the Smart Water for Agriculture program	Eng. Sebastian Oggema
14:40	Focus of our workshop: Irrigation Acceleration Platforms	Ms. Vandana Thottoli
14:50	Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration at the County level to improve Farmer-led irrigation development	Mr. Stanley Kirimi / Mr. James Mwangi
15:15	Need for a National level Irrigation Acceleration Platform	Ms. Vandana Thottoli
15:30	Break and Quick scan of partner publications	
16:00	Breakout sessions – Discussions on Mandates, Roles, Activities of the NIAP	Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen
17:00	Plenary feedback	Ms. Vandana Thottoli
17:15	Options for Virtual Communication Platforms	Mr. Mark De Blois
17:30	Wrap-Up and Networking Drinks	Prof. Bancy Mati

Presentations and Q&A

The first presentations from WARREC and SNV provided a background to the idea of setting up an irrigation acceleration platform at the National level.

Prof. Bancy Mati, Director of WARREC, welcomed the participants to the workshop, introduced WARREC and its vision, and provided information on their existing partnerships with different government and non-government stakeholders. She also presented details of collaboration with SNV's SWA program and the expected outcomes from the workshop, and mentioned that JKUAT is dedicated to promote research and innovation, and will continue working with various stakeholders to achieve its mandate. Prof. Bancy applauded the intention of forming of the National Irrigation Acceleration platform as a step towards the right direction in promoting farmer-led irrigation in Kenya and improving food security. "It will allow expert knowledge to reach farmers while ensuring that issues affecting the famers reach the decision makers, for a more harmonized and targeted intervention," Prof. Mati said. The platform, she added, would be critical in advancing irrigation agenda in the country.



Collaboration between WARREC and SNV

- Joint student research in the Smart Water for Agriculture program
- Facilitating the National Irrigation Acceleration Platform



She concluded her presentation by presenting the workshop design and program as:



Workshop Design

Purpose: Understand the need for and strategize the development of improved stakeholder collaboration in farmerled and business supported irrigation development.

Expected outputs

- Clear agreement on need for a platform and its role
- Identification of key issues and topics to be addressed
- General strategy for way forward and our contributions to it

Program: As given in the invitation

In his remarks, the SNV Kenya Country Director Mr. Jeen Kootstra, welcomed the invitees to the workshop and applauded the Smart Water for Agriculture Program for its innovations ranging from using solar energy in pumping, application of drones and financial products among others that can help to promote farmer-led irrigation in Kenya. On the formation of the National Irrigation Acceleration Platform (NIAP), Mr. Jeen registered his confidence that the platform will help to bring various irrigation stakeholders together to help accelerate farmer-led irrigation in Kenya. He wished the participants a fruitful workshop deliberations.

Eng. Sebastian Oggema introduced the Smart Water for Agriculture program giving details of the outcome areas of the program and about the business case approach the program takes. In his presentation Eng. Oggema highlighted on the following areas:

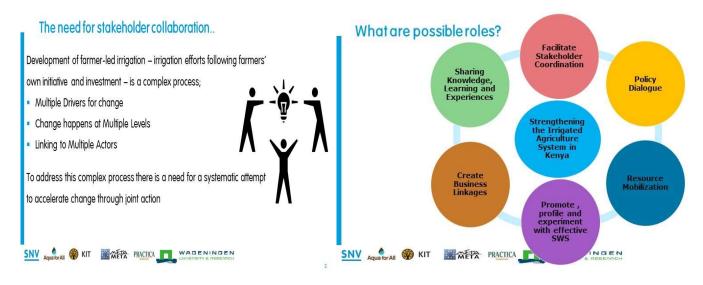
- Design of the SWA programme.
- Partners to the programme
- SWA objectives and activities.
- Projected evolution of irrigation capacity in Kenya.
- Over. Innovations, view of the Smart Water solution Package
- SWA resource and
- SWA progress innovations, structures etc.

Concerns raised

- How SWA project areas were selected.
- How the program handles energy component eg. use of solar pumps.

Suggested: Need to embrace technology in handling irrigation issues like selection of pump that is suited to the individual needs of the farmer, among other things.

Ms. Vandana Thottoli provided a background on the Irrigation Acceleration Platforms that have been set up in the SWA program Counties in Kenya. The need for such multi-stakeholder platforms as well as the possible roles that an IAP at the National level could undertake. She stated that the County IAP have helped to increase need articulation, brokered business deals and has made marketing easier.



Concerns raised:

- How to constitute the platform what are the challenges?
- Did you make any connection/contact with the NIB?
- How the NIAP will be sustained? It was noted that this could be done through resource mobilization and working with institutions like WARREC of which one of its mandate is networking and promoting collaborations.
- Existence of such kind of platform in the country to avoid replication

- Need to ensure that the platform is dynamic and not static allowing people to leave and new ones to join if needed, since even the farmer's problems are dynamic
- Involvement of key line Ministries like Ministry of water and Irrigation

The Laikipia Wildlife Forum presented the experiences and activities of a County level IAP and showed participants the possibilities of what an IAP can do and achieve at the National level. The introduction to LWF was made by Stanley Kirimi and he highlighted the work that LWF undertakes as a forum organization. James Mwangi, the Laikipia IAP coordinator from LWF, presented the activities undertaken by the IAP so far, its sustainability as well as the need for a National IAP:

- Profile of Laikipia County.
- Challenges experienced by the County Water insecurity, unreliable markets, conflicts, climate change among others.
- Establishment of Laikipia County IAP.
- Activities undertaken- reconnaissance visits, educational tours, expos, contribution to CIDP, awards and recognitions etc.



CIAP expectation for the NIAP

- · Enabling environment for IAP
- L&A at National level
- Promote cross county IAP engagement
- Nurture emerging CIAP
- Facilitate linkage with national irrigated agriculture stakeholders

Concerns raised:

- How do you ensure sustainability of the platforms beyond project period?
- Examples of the added value from the platforms?

These presentations encouraged questions from the audience and helped in giving a direction to the breakout sessions that followed after the break.

IAP mandate, roles and activities: Breakout Groups

In smaller groups, participants discussed the following three key questions:

Action

How do we further strengthen stakeholder collaboration at the national level to accelerate farmer-led irrigation development in the country?

Focus and Agenda

What are issues - challenges that you face in your role/work in contributing to accelerate farmer-led irrigation - that a national level stakeholder platform should help to address? What could a platform do to address these?

Way Forward

Your recommendations for developing and setting-up the multi-stakeholder platform? What could be your (organization) role / contribution to it?

Suggest additional stakeholders that should be involved if possible with contact name.

The groups were designed to gather information on specific outputs and expectations from different stakeholder groups. The groups were as follows:

- Group 1: Financial Institutions
- Group 2: Technology Providers
- Group 3: Government and Research Organizations
- Group 4: Farmers and NGOs
- Group 5: Communication service providers and other stakeholders

The plenary feedback session provided a quick synthesis of discussions from the breakout groups and this was given by the facilitators of the groups.

Feedback

Group 1: Financial institutions

- Action: Encourage lending to small scale farmers doing irrigation
- Challenges- unavailability of cheap capital to finance the small scale farmers.
- Way forward- have a pool of fund for the financing institutions to borrow from and lend to the farmers at the same rate.

Group 2: technology Providers

- Noted: Lack of a forum that brings together the irrigation stakeholders. Need to come up with a forum for irrigation in the country.
- Focus& agenda: Need to standardize the equipment/ need to come up with irrigation equipment standards.
- Way forward: Need to come up with terms of reference on who are the stakeholders to easy interactions

Group 3: Government and Researchers

- Action: Need for a focal point that can stand up to irrigation in the country to coordinate irrigation activities in the country.
- Focus and Agenda: need for enough representation of the farmer-led irrigation
- Way forward: Need to lobbying for irrigation

Group 4: Farmers plus NGOs

Key issue raised: Need for improved information sharing and dissemination to advice on policy and decision making.

Group 5: Networks + Donors

- Lack of an aggregated system for entire value chain.
- Harmonizing the legislative framework that affects irrigated agriculture in the Country.
- Lack of access to finance- Need to look for ways to enable farmers to access cheap and sustainable financing.

The full notes and recommendations from the 5 groups are added in Annex 1 of this report. The workshop organizers reviewed all findings, prepared a more operational synthesis as a basis for further planning and shared this with all participants for their comments. Pages 9 and 10 present this synthesis.

Synthesis from the Group Discussions

If one compares and combines the issues raised and recommendations made in the 5 working groups a number of common conclusions and recommendations seem to emerge:

On the need and relevance of strengthening national level stakeholder collaboration

There is considerable agreement on the need to strengthen collaboration and interaction among stakeholders in the farmer-led irrigation sector, bringing the diverse set of actors in this field together. People feel that the irrigated SME farmer sector remains fragmented. A focal point is also needed. Existing networks or fora on water do not cover this yet.

There is some debate it seems whether or not the aim is for a new formally organised National Irrigation Association, though the suggestion to plan towards this comes from several groups including the government and private sector ones.

Focus and agenda

Issues and important areas of work for a national stakeholder platform on farmer-led irrigation suggested by the groups can be summarized as below. Issues to be addressed by individual organizations or stakeholder groups themselves are listed in the last paragraph.

Policy review dialogue and advocacy: To address systemic constraints that prevent rapid growth of farmer-led irrigation policy related changes needing attention include a/o taxation on irrigation products, ensuring government budget allocations for farmer-led irrigation development, encouragement of Kenyan based assembly of irrigation equipment to reduce costs.

Monitoring and promoting implementation of existing rules and regulations: At national level but particularly also related to what is happening at county level. Devolution has created, according to some, a vacuum in structures to support farmer-led irrigation.

Information mobilization, organization and communication: Create easy access to information; Open forums for stakeholders, so that information can be shared; Service providers need information to access farmers practicing irrigation. Ensure that projects and experiences on the ground are known; Create online platform (via whatsapp etc). Question is what info to focus on, what are the boundaries? Also suggested to prepare and spread guidelines on good ways to implement (irrigation) projects, that they should be based on community priorities, prevent overlap.

Addressing value chain bottlenecks:

- Issues around access to finance, perceived versus real risks; support development of new financing products focused on farmer-led irrigations given high R&D costs and risks; access of all FI to funds at reasonable rates to allow lending to farmers at lower rates, possibly through creation of common "Pool of Funds".
- Improving linkages e.g. between FI and service providers, e.g. through forums
- Standardization for farming technologies including irrigation weeding out cheap and bad imported products through (self?)-regulations;

Capacity issues: At the level of stakeholder organizations (which?); At farmer level create or lobby for a national programmes to empower farmers with technical as well as business planning and accounting skills. This would increase demand for irrigation products and financial services.

Coordination: among activities, projects and organizations

Representation: Ensure adequate representation of farmer-led irrigation development at all levels

On the development process of a N-IAP

The following activities and steps have been suggested to gradually develop this initiative:

- 1. Continue awareness creation among stakeholders so as to encourage membership and participation. Profiling stakeholders involved to determine the key needs/challenges. As part of this publish information on the need for more attention for farmer-led irrigation development.
- 2. Establish basic database and communication channel for stakeholder during development stage (whatsapp group, Email group?)
- 3. Formation of a working group to oversee and support the further development of this initiative including 1) selecting and strategizing first activities 2) further defining objectives, TOR for stakeholder involvement and platform guidelines.
- 4. Organize involvement and backstopping from the national level Government
- 5. Mobilizing resources for activities, for forums to discuss and develop farmer-led.
- 6. Possible first activities
- Forming of (thematic) working groups on specific challenges and agenda items identified; for knowledge sharing) and working together: e.g. on addressing challenges of access to finance
- National SME-led irrigation networking day for sharing technologies, research updates, new products.
- Create a platform to train individuals, staff of stakeholders
- On-line communication and information platform

IAP design considerations

- Create a mechanism for commitment: subscription/membership based platform
- Need to focus on and mainstream smallholder farmers in the national irrigation platform
- Use PPP approach of e.g. KEWASNET
- Platform domesticated at one of the organizations (e.g. KIWASH)
- Activity focused, not a talk-shop
- Consider sustainability from the start; platform as a business case

Stakeholder or participants' own suggested activities

- De-risking the investment required by FI's to encourage lending to farmers under irrigation
- Customizing financial products to meet mid-long term financial needs

The feedback session was followed by a final presentation on Options for Virtual Communication Platforms by Mr. Mark De Blois, Director of Upande.

In his presentation Mr. Blois looked at:

- The need for an online platform
- Status of the stakeholders in irrigation who are they, what level are they in term so savviness etc.
- Role of extension officers
- Pain points customers
- Knowledge dissemination
- Various communication platforms/channels.

The following were raised by the audience as the data requirements for a NIAP online platform:

- Data relevant for investors
- Locations of demo farms, technology suppliers, value chain actors etc.
- Irrigation manuals and policy documents.
- Laws and regulations
- On-going projects
- Upcoming events
- Deals by partners
- Research and innovations
- Regionalized breakdown of information
- Climate information services
- Linkages to other websites

Conclusion and Way Forward

In their concluding words the workshop organizers noted that the participants and their working groups very much confirmed the need to strengthen stakeholder collaboration on farmer-led irrigation development in Kenya. They feel encouraged to take this initiative forward in close collaboration with participating organizations.

They agreed to the following next steps:

- The organizers will prepare the workshop report and share with all in the next few weeks
- All will continue to spread information on this initiative and the emerging NIAP
- Organizers will take steps to ensure involvement of National and County Governments
- Participants to suggest to the organizers other organizations that need to be included in this initiative.

After further processing of the workshop results and matching recommendations with available resources, the organizers will communicate again with all for their further interest and possible contribution to shaping the NIAP and its activities.

The workshop was closed with a vote of thanks by Prof. Bancy giving a recap of the NIAP workshop and its deliberations. She also pointed out that an irrigation platform had been missing in Kenya but formation of NIAP had bridged the gap and thanked all the participants and facilitators.

About the Organizers:

WARREC - JKUAT

JKUAT is an Institution of higher learning established in Kenya under the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012, through the JKUAT Charter signed on 1st March 2013. The University's objectives and functions include inter alia, to provide directly or indirectly, or in collaboration with other institutions of higher learning; facilities for quality training, research and innovation in agriculture, engineering, technology, enterprise development, health sciences, social sciences and other applied sciences, and integration in teaching, research and effective application of knowledge and skills to the life, work and welfare of the citizens of Kenya. JKUAT has established the Water Research and Resource Center (WARREC) as a center of excellence for research, science, technology and innovation in the broad fields of the water sector.

SNV

SNV is a not-for-profit international development organization, working in Agriculture, Energy, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Founded in The Netherlands in 1965, SNV has built a long-term, local presence in 38 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. SNV's global team of advisors work with local partners to equip communities, businesses and organisations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services – empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development.

Annex 1 – Notes and recommendation from the breakout groups

Group 1: Financial institutions

Participants: Acre africa, SNV (Florence and Jeen), Juhudi, Eclof

1. Action

Challenges

- Availability of friendly loan period
- Affordability of the product accessibility of fund; lack of cheap source of funding
- Willingness of stakeholders to collaborate
- Risk in agribusiness real risks and perceived risks
- Existing negative perceptions about financial institutions collecting
- Product development fear to come up with new products research is expensive;
 system configuration; staff training etc
- Getting ..help the industries..face...
- Collaboration/competition not able to share all information amongst FIs
- 2. Agenda for national platform
- County Governments
- Market linkage forums
- Funds to have a "Pool of Funds" where financial institutions could borrow at the same rates
- FIs to share success areas which would be a learning point for others
- Thematic working groups (for knowledge sharing) and working together

3. Way forward:

- Encouraging membership and participation
- Publish research on the need for farmer-led irrigation development
- Mobilizing resources to set up forums to discuss and develop farmer-led
- De-risking the investment required by FI's to encourage lending to farmers under irrigation
- Customizing financial products to meet mid-long term financial needs
- Profiling stakeholders involved to determine the key needs/challenges
- Documentation of knowledge sharing create easy access to information
- General training and capacity building of farmers to generate demand for financial products

Group 2: Technology Providers

Participants: Amiran, Irrico, Koppert, Upande, SNV, LWF Intern (Natasha as note keeper)

1. Action

- Farmer led irrigation vs. government led irrigation
- What steps must be taken to ensure farmer led irrigation development
- Farmers don't see benefit of irrigation must see return from investments
- Highlight benefits of successes of farmer led irrigation
- Open forums for stakeholders, so that information can be shared
- Financial inclusion is the main challenge to farmers
- Transition from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture initiatives
- Trickle down from National level to County level and recognize each County has unique needs
- Align to certain crops to proper lending systems
- Standardization for new farming initiatives weeding out bad products through self regluations
- Structure a business model for proper facilitation
- Membership associations across different sectors both online and offline

- 2. Agenda for national platform
- Financial inclusions so as to support farmers
- Produce but can't sell, and financial system collapses. Platform and infrastructure for training and sustainable ventures
- Weather/politics/information
- More innovative solutions to smallscale farmers
- Challenge of Government taxation
- Cheap and substandard goods being imported
- Few agro-economists therefore lack of support
- Challenge of water availability and Government's role in water regulation while changing mindset of farmers
- Service provider access to irrigation farmers
- 3. Way forward:
- · Bring stakeholders together
- Backstopping from Government
- Standards to help farmers and companies to create a platform to train individuals
- Terms of reference for stakeholder engagement
- Mapping value chain, create online platform (via whatsapp etc)
- Compilation of discussion:
 - Trickle down to Counties
 - National irrigation association that will educate, mobilize
 - Business case / create on enabling environment/policy
 - Membership organization for national online platform also offline
 - o Map value chain, identify all players
 - o Financial challenges and mobility to afford solutions for most farmers
 - Create standards and regulate technologies
 - o Weather, finances, politics, information
 - o Holistic Approaches
 - o Buy-in from all stakeholders SNV should assist
 - Develop rationale for stakeholder involvement

Group 3: Research and government organisations

Participants: M.O. Opondo (MoAI-SDI), Leah Mukiite (WRA), (Faith Livingston) UTANRMP, Wellington Muluye (KALRO), Anthony O. Esilaba (KALRO), Bancy Mati (WARREC), Jospeph Sang (JKUAT)

1. Action

Note: farmer-led not necessarily farmer initiated

- NB There is no focal point so far for farmer-led irrigation or irrigation network like KIWASH or KEWASNET (for lobbying!)
- There is a need for national focal point cq network; enablers; parliaments
- Use PPP approach of e.g. KEWASNET
- Coordinations

2. Agenda for national platform

- Coordination (among activities, projects and organizations)
- Lobbying around legislation; policy reviews
- Resource mobilization
- Enhance representation of farmer-led irrigation development at all levels

3. Way forward:

- Develop the platform agenda; domesticated at one of the organizations (KIWASH)
- Actualize the platform led by private sector (?).

Group 4: Farmers, CBO, NGOs

Participants: Farmer, youth group leader, WN, LWF (2), KIT

1. Action

There is a clear need to strengthen stakeholder collaboration at national level in the area of farmer-led irrigation. There are important issues at this level and though there are quite a few initiatives around water, there is nothing on irrigation.

- 2. Agenda for national platform
- Policy influence: E.g. on the issue of taxation of irrigation technologies; on prioritizing local (Kenyan) assembly of irrigation technologies; on realising government budget allocations;
- Law enforcement: Monitoring and raising the issue of enforcing the current water law
- Monitoring (irrigation implementation) at county level and lobbying to counties where needed
- Development and promotion of guidelines / code of conduct in implementing (irrigation) projects, in this notes that they should be based on community priorities, prevent overlap;
- Information mobilization and sharing and dissemination: Question is what info to focus on; what are the boundaries?
- 3. Way forward:
- Continue awareness creation among stakeholders
- Create a mechanism for commitment: subscription cg membership
- Formation of a task force to oversee 1) the process of establishment, 2) defining shared objectives, 3) platform guidelines, 4) official launch.

Group 5: Networks, Donors and Others

Participants: Aqua for All, Water Resources Group 2030, JKUAT, Africa Agribusiness Academy, Yielder/Waterwatch, SNV

1. Action

- Smallholder farmers have not been focus of the Government
- Devolution has created a vacuum in structures to support farmer-led irrigation
- Access to financing by smallholder farmers perceived risks
- Lack of aggregated platforms that addess value chains markets, finances, water, tech, inputs
- Different stakeholders handling different mandates NIB/County programs
- 2. Agenda for national platform
- ...
- 3. Way forward:
- Need to focus on and mainstream smallholder farmers in the national irrigation platform
- Operationalization of County programmes targeting farmer-led irrigation
- Creation of National programmes to empower farmers with technical skills, business plans and accounting
- Creation of national platforms that takes care of aggregated elements markets, finances, water and tech
- National platform to bring the players together NIB, COG, NGOs

Photos of notes from the groups

