



FANRPAN
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network



Limpopo River Basin Focal Project

Intervention Matrix

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Limpopo Basin Focal Project Intervention Matrix

The Limpopo Basin Focal Project's (LBFP) main objective is to identify what practical water management interventions, if any, can be scaled up and out to improve food security and agricultural growth. There are already examples of such interventions. For example, in South Africa's Limpopo Province, the Water for Food Movement pioneered an approach that enables women to capture and use water through household level rainwater harvesting and storage; the government is now rolling out a larger program to promote this technology. Another is the introduction of low-cost individualized pumping and water application technologies such as treadle pumps and drip irrigation kits, targeted to particularly vulnerable groups. While these and probably other interventions seem promising, we do not have sufficient evidence to provide clear guidance in scaling up and out.

This brief paper presents an emerging methodology for compiling, sorting, and synthesizing water management interventions as a necessary step toward generating evidence for scaling up and out. The intervention matrix herein described was developed as a preliminary step toward Output #1 of the Interventions Work Package of the LBFP—*A list of potential significant intervention packages for the basin.*

The working matrix emerged from discussions amongst the project team of how best to elicit, organize, and give a first 'sort' to known water management interventions. The resulting matrix is a practical and useful way to identify which organizations and institutions are doing which sorts of activity, organize and store what is known on the subject and identify knowledge gaps.

The goal was to first cast the net broadly and be as inclusive as possible. Therefore no geographic limitations were set, and input was not limited to intervention packages known to be used in the Limpopo Basin. Nor were suggestions limited to interventions previously tested or implemented.

Inputs for the matrix were first solicited from LBFP partners including the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa, Global Water Partnership SA, University of Eduardo Mondlane, University of Botswana and IWMI, among others. Further inputs were sought from a wider audience of Limpopo Basin stakeholders and network partners including representatives from basin governmental institutions, NGOs, research institutions, current CPWF projects, and farmer organizations. These responses were augmented by data and other resources from websites and professional networks.

The matrix is structured with each row representing a specific intervention and the following columns across the top of the page:

1. Name or brief description of the **intervention package**
2. **Associated institution(s)** with contact information, web sites, etc.
3. **Infrastructure** - related interventions that affect water availability, productivity or access
4. **Technology** - related interventions affecting water availability, productivity or access

5. **Policies and institutions** - related interventions affecting water availability, productivity or access
6. **New knowledge** - related interventions affecting water availability, productivity or access.

Intervention Package	Associated Institutions	Infrastructure			Technology			Policies & Institutions			New Knowledge		
(list package)	Name of institution, contact information, links to related web sites or documents	Check boxes below that apply			Check boxes below that apply			Check boxes below that apply			Check boxes below that apply		
		availability	productivity	Access	avail	prod	acc	avail	prod	acc	avail	prod	acc
Small Reservoirs	IFAD www.ruralpovertyportal.org IWM/SRP	XX											
Multi-Stakeholder Forum	DEAT, DWAF, ARC, WRC, NGOs									XX			

Respondents are asked to report any water management interventions they recall from their experiences, along with corresponding institutional or contact information. For the sake of synthesis, respondents are asked to categorize each intervention package as pertaining mainly to: infrastructure; technology; policies and institutions; or new knowledge, depending upon the primary focus of the intervention¹. Each intervention package is further refined by classification as impacting on: water availability; water productivity; or water access within its particular category.

In the example provided above, small reservoirs were identified as an *infrastructure* intervention, primarily affecting *water availability*. While new technology, institutions, and knowledge are necessary pre-conditions for making small reservoirs productive, they are first and foremost an infrastructure development. The second example offers multi-stakeholder forums for water resources management as *policies and institutions* that primarily affect *access* to water.

Some interventions are more easily categorized than others, and many actually belong in more than one category or type simultaneously depending upon the perspective of the respondent or stage of implementation. Nonetheless, this first ‘sort’ gives the Limpopo Basin Focal Project Team sufficient information to follow up on suggestions and conduct in-depth research into promising intervention packages for specific audiences within the basin. At this stage interventions have not been ranked in any way.

Compiling the matrix is an iterative process with presentations at project meetings and other stakeholder forums. The most current version will be placed on the FANRPAN and LBFP websites (www.fanrpan.org; and www.agis.agric.za/limpopo, respectively) for greater visibility and wider participation. It will serve as the basis for a thorough literature review of potential significant intervention packages for water management in the Limpopo Basin. The literature review will focus on which intervention packages have been tested, where, and what results indicate for uptake by various audiences. The project team will focus on a number of target audiences and ascertain which intervention packages could benefit them given their particular configuration of resources and requirements.

¹ These categories emerged from the Limpopo Basin Focal Project Inception Workshop and were deemed broad enough categories to capture all suggestions.