THE WORLD BANK

A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM OF AFDB, FAO, IFAD, IWMI, AND THE WORLD BANK

Investment in Agricultural Water for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Synthesis Report

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Washington, DC

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Although the world as a whole is roughly on track to reach the MDG targets, Sub-Saharan Africa is unlikely on present trends to do so. If nothing changes, the absolute numbers of poor in the region will continue to increase and by 2015 close to one-half of the world's poor will live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is generally recognized that agricultural water could make a substantial contribution to poverty reduction and economic growth. Yet, there has been less agricultural water development to date in Sub-Saharan Africa than in any other region.

This report summarizes past experience of agricultural water investment in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report analyses the contribution to date of agricultural water management to poverty reduction and growth in the region, the reasons for its slow expansion and apparently poor track record, as well as the ways in which increased investment in agricultural water management could make a sustainable contribution to further poverty reduction and growth.

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