

# Volta Basin Development Challenge

## Documentary Video

### Tentative title

**Strengthening integrated rainwater and small reservoirs management in the Volta Basin**

### Background & introduction

The 15-minute film starts by presenting geographically the Volta River Basin and its landscape, and how water resources are used there (various human activities). It then shows how farmers in the basin are struggling to sustain their livelihoods and income, which are based mainly on rainfed agriculture and livestock farming. To contribute to more equitably share the benefits of the limited water resources in the river basin – allowing more farmers to grow more crops, rear more cattle, or both – the Challenge Program on Water and Food in the Volta Basin (CPWF-Volta) set out to find ways to strengthen integrated management of rainwater and small reservoirs.

### Themes of the story

The film covers successively five action research themes highlighting through testimonies from beneficiaries and researchers and field visits how the VBDC research has contributed to the advancement of each thematic area.

#### Targeting Agricultural Water Management Interventions

In this section, the film describes the web-based decision support tool (the Bayesian model) developed by the CPWF-Volta to facilitate the replication of successful agricultural water management interventions in the Volta Basin.

#### Water Governance Options in the Volta Basin

This section of the film is about understanding the processes that govern IWRM policy-making, practices and research in Ghana and Burkina Faso. CPWF-Volta has developed a multi-level consultative tool to facilitate collective decision making over water resources in Northern Ghana. In Burkina Faso, the program has contributed to operationalise a Local Water Committee (CLE), which is a local entity for implementing government IWRM policies at local level.

#### Using Innovation Platforms to Promote New Farming Practices

Here the film demonstrates how Innovation platforms (IPs) established around value chains seem to be a good approach to promoting new farming practices leading to higher productivity and income for the actors involved. The experiences of developing rainfed crop-livestock value chains through IPs in rural communities in Ghana and Burkina Faso are related.

#### Efficient and Sustainable Use of Small Reservoirs

The story focuses here on the Boura dam in the Center-South region of Burkina Faso. Among other things, the program has assessed health and economic impacts of the dam on Boura community and it has explored innovative ways to measure water quality and losses in and from the dam.

#### Lessons Learned on Implementing Research for Development

What are the key lessons/messages learned on implementing this research for development program in terms of partnerships, multi-stakeholder engagement, innovation and addressing pressing development needs through research? This is what the story is about in this part of the film.

### Conclusion

The film ends by presenting all project partner logos as a way to recognize their contributions in the work done. Then, it invites the audience to seek out further information by visiting the CPWF-Volta website at [www.volta.waterandfood.org](http://www.volta.waterandfood.org)