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WLE VOLTA AND NIGER

The CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) is a 'research-for-development' program that works across the developing world, including in the Volta and Niger River basin countries of Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Ghana and Nigeria.

WLE promotes a new approach to sustainable intensification in which a healthy, functioning ecosystem is seen as a prerequisite to agricultural development, resilient food systems and human well-being.

VOLTA AND NIGER PROGRAM GOAL

To restore and bolster opportunities for increased agricultural productivity through key ecosystem services, especially in the resource poor areas in the region.

Our work takes on the challenge of

Influencing and supporting public and private investments to strengthen local capacities; and the ability to facilitate adaptation by low-income communities to environmental and economic variability, demographic shifts, and long-term changes.



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By focusing on

- ◆ Providing evidence of successful innovative practices to influence investments and interventions in agriculture and pastoralism.
- ◆ Solutions for increasing the productivity and sustainability of ecosystems and the services they provide, and increasing women and youth's access to them.
- ◆ Supporting basin-level infrastructure investments that sustain and enhance ecosystem services and improve livelihoods.

So that we can achieve

- ◆ Productive, equitable and sustainable livelihood options in rural areas that not only reduce male out-migration but also enhance the capacities of women and youth to manage natural resources.
- ◆ Food and nutritional security for people living in rural and peri-urban areas by sustainably increasing agricultural productivity.
- ◆ Reduced, and ultimately reversed, degradation of natural capital both in the north and in the rapidly developing south.

How will we do this?

- ◆ **Generate knowledge and conduct analyses** on regional agriculture, natural resources and ecosystems, with a special focus on water and land.
- ◆ **Develop innovative and replicable tools, methods and strategies** for governing ecosystems and monitoring their health.
- ◆ **Provide guidance on best practices and innovative interventions** through publications, training events, communication media and evidence for policy development.

Partnerships

WLE is looking for implementing partners to put research evidence and recommendations into action for enhanced agricultural productivity and poverty reduction.

Interested? Contact: wle-volta@cgiar.org

Program Update

The Volta and Niger Program recently conducted a call for Expressions of Interest for research projects. Successful candidates will meet from November 4th–7th to solidify plans for regional projects to be conducted in 2015 and 2016.

CONTACT WLE Volta and Niger Basins Program, wle-volta@cgiar.org