

**Learning from the past: rainwater management in smallholder
crop-livestock systems of the Volta basin**

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Framework

The CPWF - Volta Basin Development Challenge:

Integrated Management of Rainwater and Small Reservoirs for Multiple Uses

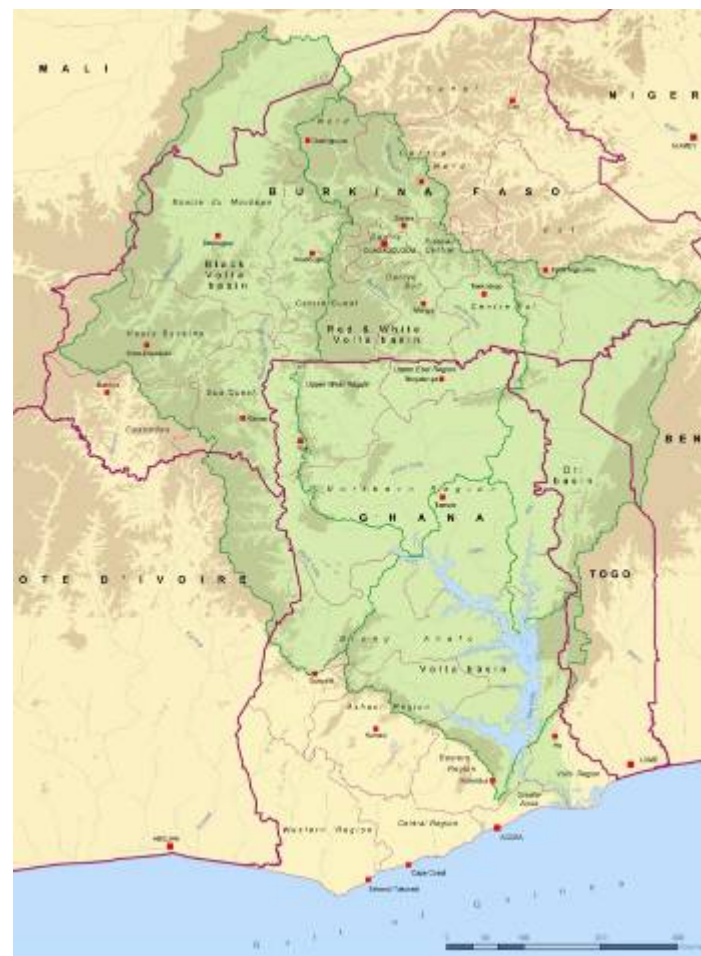
Aim: improving rainwater and small reservoir management in Burkina Faso and Northern Ghana to contribute to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods resilience while taking account of downstream and upstream water users including ecosystem services.

→ one of the 5 subprojects is the **V2 project**:

Lead Institution: ILRI

Partners: IWMI, WUR-PPS, INERA, ARI and SNV

Aim: identify, evaluate, adapt, and disseminate best-fit integrated rainwater management strategies (RMS), comprising of technological solutions, strengthened by enabling institutional and policy environments and linked to market incentives that can drive adoption.



Review « Learning from the past »

Observations

- RMS extensively studied and promoted in the Volta Basin during the last decades
- Still, water scarcity limits agricultural production

Objective

to synthesize existing knowledge, interventions, lessons, and gaps in knowledge regarding rainwater management in the Volta basin

Basic questions

- Who did what, how, where, why, with which results?
- What are the knowledge gaps?
- What are the underlying causes for success and failure of research and development projects from the past?
- What are the pertinent lessons for the Volta BDC?



Stone rows



Half-moons



Small dam

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Sources of information

- research literature
- documentation on development projects and government initiatives
- interviews with key informants (ministries, NGOs, WB, research organizations,...)

What is included

- evolution in technical, institutional and political aspects of rainwater management for agricultural development from the 1970s to present, illustrated by key development and research projects
- outcomes of major rainwater management research and development programs and projects
- potential and limitations of RMS
- practical recommendations
- database on useful information sources on rainwater management for VBDC projects.



« Zai » or pit



« Bouli » or pond

Review « Learning from the past »

Progress

- research papers reviewed
- key Burkinabe informants interviews completed
- currently sorting documentation on development projects in Burkina Faso
- interviews and documentation on projects in Ghana: should be done end of August

The review will be delivered by
October-November 2011



Thank you!