

During the 5th African regional Conference for the ICID organised by ANAFIDE  
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SIDE EVENT COORDINATED BY



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**WATER**

Efficiency, Productivity,  
and Sustainability

In the Near East and North Africa countries



Side Event

Nexus –eau-Energie-Agriculture : experience du  
Souss Massa

24 November 2021 (14h-17h)

KENZI ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

Salle ATLAS 2

Marrakech, Maroc

(In the framework of the 5th Regional Conference for Africa of the  
International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage organised by  
ANAFIDE )



Sweden  
Sverige

## Summary

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals have given a strong impetus to the debate on the nexus between several sectors and have highlighted the practical need for increased coordination, cooperation and cross-sectoral policy coherence to achieve sustainable development. These processes provide a unique opportunity to advance policy coherence between water, agriculture and energy - to mention just the three sectors critical to poverty reduction and sustainable development. The Nexus approach has been used in a variety of contexts as a tool offered to policy makers to exchange information, better understand and frame the links between relevant sectors with the ambition to align policies for sustainable development. While the nexus debate has been useful in drawing attention to the challenges of sustainability and the interdependencies between them, addressing the governance of the nexus has proven difficult. The session will address the issue of using the Nexus approach to identify and describe the complex water-agriculture-energy interconnections and discuss current and innovative institutional and governance mechanisms that can help reconcile the competing water needs of economic activities, in particular agriculture and energy, and different interests and perspectives of relevant stakeholders, while preserving the sustainability of water resources in the current context of water scarcity and climate change in the NENA region. The session will combine experience sharing (presentations) and practical exercise.

## Context

Global projections indicate that the demand for fresh water, energy and food will increase dramatically over the coming decades under pressure from population growth and mobility, economic development, international trade, urbanization, dietary diversification, cultural and technological changes and climate change. As demand increases, competition for resources increases with unpredictable impacts on livelihoods and the environment. Progress in developing ways to improve policy coherence and coordination between the water and water consuming sectors, including agriculture and energy, and their relevant stakeholders has been limited. The behaviors of the various actors are the result of political and political choices in sectors which often remain disconnected. This lack of cross-sectoral policy coherence and integrated decision-making often comes with high economic, environmental and social costs, especially for small producers and the rural poor.

Today, many governments are engaged in adapting institutional frameworks to implement coherent policies that effectively address the complex interconnections and trade-offs between water, agriculture, food production, food security and energy, while finding ways to involve diverse stakeholders to foster cross-sectoral coordination at the regional level, at national and local levels. In this context, the debate on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus has gained ground as a means of tackling the old challenges of interdependencies. What separates the link from the other approaches is the integration of multiple sectoral objectives at the policy level. What is often missing in the debate is practical advice on how to move from concepts to practical action, i.e how to bring relevant stakeholders together at regional, national and local levels, identify issues multiple and sometimes conflicting issues that should be addressed and integrated and how integration should be done in practice. This raises important questions about the socio-political context in which integration must be achieved: what must be integrated, by whom, for whom and how concretely? A key challenge for the nexus is governance: who decides what issues are handled, when and how. Managing the link therefore requires focusing on institutional and social processes, and power relations.

Participants will be engaged in the discussion in managing linkages to advance effective coordination and policy coherence between water, agriculture and energy for sustainable development.

## Objectives

The event will be an opportunity to learn from Morocco's experience and discuss concrete ways to move from concepts to practical action on Nexus and to develop innovative strategies, policy measures and governance arrangements for the coherence of policies for sustainable development.

## Program

Time	Intervention	Speaker
14h	Opening	Mr. Noureddine Kassa (Directeur ORMVASM) Mr Hamid Echilabi, FAO-MA
14h15	Introduction on the Nexus WEF and Q &A	Domitille Vallée, FAO
14h30	Water-agriculture-energy link: advancing policy coherence for sustainable development (case study - Souss Massa-Morocco)	Lahcen Kenny, IAV Hassan II
15h00	Reflection of the three sectors on the added value of the Nexus and the prospects for Souss Massa and the country and discussion	Panel Mr. EL Mehdi El Arabi (ORMVA-SM) Mr. Mohamed Nehmadou (ABH-SM) Mme. Khadija Sami (DRE-SM) Mme. Samia EL MOUADDIB (DRM-SM)
15h45	Governance and Technologies for a Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Water Nexus	Mme Bahije, World Bank
16h15	Work on WEF compromises. Innovative solutions and identification of priority actions	Participatory discussion
17h00	Findings and synthesis	Rapporteurs
	Remarques de cloture	Représentant Région Souss Massa

**Plus d'information sur le projet WEPS-NENA**

**Contact:** [RNE-WEPS-NENA@fao.org](mailto:RNE-WEPS-NENA@fao.org)

**Website:** [www.fao.org/in-action/water-efficiency-nena/en/](http://www.fao.org/in-action/water-efficiency-nena/en/)

**For more information on the Water Scarcity Initiative**

**Website:** <http://www.fao.org/neareast/perspectives/water-scarcity/en/>

