# Support for Climate-Smart Irrigated Agriculture in Togo

## The challenge

Togo's irrigation potential remains largely untapped, despite a growing need for increased food production and climate resilience. The project aims to help rural farmers adopt climate-smart irrigation practices, boost food security, and strengthen the capacities of both public and private actors, with a focus on women and youth.

## Our approach

We collaborate with national partners to develop an inclusive irrigation strategy, strengthen stakeholder capacities through targeted training and model farms, and promote modern, sustainable irrigation technologies. Our work prioritizes cooperation, gender equality, and environmental sustainability to ensure lasting impact for rural communities.

## The goal

Our key goal is to empower 8,000 to 10,000 rural farmers in Togo — many of whom face low productivity, limited resources, and vulnerability to climate change — by enabling them to adopt climate-smart, sustainable irrigation practices. The project aims to improve food security, increase incomes, and build resilience among smallholder families and agricultural communities most affected by erratic rainfall and economic challenges.

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| Project name | Support for Climate-Smart Irrigated Agriculture in Togo |
| Project region | Togo |
| Financed by | BMZ / EU |
| Implemented by | GOPA AFC |
| Duration | 04/2024 – 12/2026 |
| Partners | ECO-Consult |

## Key highlights

- ✓ Developing a national, inclusive irrigation strategy in collaboration with key ministries and agencies.
- ✓ Strengthening capacities of public and private stakeholders through targeted training, modular learning, and establishment of model farms as training centers.
- ✓ Advising on and supporting the installation of modern, resource-efficient irrigation systems at selected sites, including 20 "ZAAP d'excellence".
- ✓ Designing and implementing demonstration farms to serve as hubs for farmer training and technology transfer.
- ✓ Promoting climate-smart, agro-ecological production systems and best practices.
- ✓ Providing technical support to partners for site identification, planning, and implementation of irrigation infrastructure.
- ✓ Supervising and monitoring the installation and operation of irrigation systems, ensuring environmental and economic sustainability.
- ✓ Facilitating cooperation and knowledge-sharing among all project stakeholders.
- ✓ Integrating cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility into all activities.
- ✓ Regular monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to ensure progress, accountability, and impact.

## Expected results

By the end of the project, the following results are expected:

- ✓ 4,000 to 6,000 rural farmers, with gender balance, have directly benefited from improved access to climate-smart irrigation and training.
- ✓ At least 30% of supported farms, including 16% led by women, have adopted climate-smart irrigation practices.
- ✓ A national strategy for inclusive and sustainable irrigated agriculture has been developed and validated with public and private stakeholders.
- ✓ Development of (3) three farmer training manuals on small-scale active irrigation
- ✓ Technical and organizational capacities of about 200 key actors (farmers, advisors, institutions) have been strengthened.
- ✓ At least two innovative irrigation systems have been implemented in collaboration with the private sector.
- ✓ Farm incomes on irrigated land have increased by 30%.
- ✓ Food security and resilience have improved for 20,000 to 30,000 people in key agricultural zones.
- ✓ Environmental and gender safeguards have been integrated into all project activities.
- ✓ Knowledge and best practices have been disseminated through model farms, training modules, and demonstration sites.

## Voices from the field

*" As the Team Leader, I witness every day the positive impact of our work in a challenging climate context, characterized by a lack of hydro-agricultural infrastructure. Thanks to the dedication of our team and the support of GOPA AFC technical assistance, we have established a constructive dialogue with Togolese stakeholders, objectively analyzed field needs, and implemented efficient irrigation systems within the model ZAAPs.*

*The use of the SWOT tool and our focus on capacity building have helped align the understanding of issues related to hydro-agricultural infrastructure development, while ensuring the active participation of beneficiaries at every stage of the project. Transparency in planning and budget management has strengthened trust and local ownership.*

*Reaching 9 operational AHA and 16 at the tendering stage is a real source of pride. This project has enabled me to develop a systemic vision of rural development and to contribute innovative and sustainable solutions for Togolese farmers. It is a rewarding experience that perfectly illustrates the power of collaboration and the transformative potential of the agricultural sector"*

*Vincent Adant, Project Team Leader, GOPA AFC*

## Impact story

The picture captures a pivotal moment during a session where we shared the results of borehole analyses conducted at the ZAAP of Ignikping in Northern Togo. Following this presentation, we launched further investigations to design a tailored irrigation system for the site. This collaborative process not only empowered local stakeholders with critical information but also laid the groundwork for sustainable water management solutions that will directly benefit the community's agricultural productivity and resilience.

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Baunscheidtstr. 17
53113 Bonn
Germany

For further information, please contact:
AnnieStephanie.Nana@gopa.eu

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