SaWeL programme

The SaWeL programme is working towards environmentally sustainable food production in Lac Wegnia and the Sourou Basin in Mali and around Lake Ziway in Ethiopia capitalising on healthy wetland ecosystems while creating economically resilient and inclusive smallholder livelihoods.

The programme works with various stakeholders including farmers, cooperatives, input suppliers, buyers and governments. It operates at different scales which allows to balance competing land and water use demands and to integrate policies, technologies, practices and investments within the project areas. The programme seeks to change the way that market networks such as smallholder farmers are included in the benefits of sustainable growth and economic development. It allows for focus on marginalised groups in Sahelian farming systems, especially on women and younger generations. A conflict-sensitive approach is taken as some of these areas experience volatile security contexts.

Creating access for farmers to technologies, information and resources to improve uptake of sustainable agricultural and agro-ecological practices, building knowledge and information systems on hydro-ecological functioning of landscapes to be used by farmers and local governments; establishing ecological buffer zone along part of Lake Ziway to reduce negative impacts from crop production on the lake, facilitating multi-stakeholder platforms on sustainable agriculture and water use, connecting farmers to local and wider markets.

Results and the learning from the projects in Lac Wegnia, Sourou and Ziway will be shared in multi-stakeholder platforms at national and international level to create wider awareness and build support for developing food security in sustainable landscapes and in inclusive markets.

More information

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Partners

SaWeL is carried out by a consortium of Wetlands International, Caritas Switzerland, International Water Management Institute and hydrosolutions GmbH. with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. SaWeL also works through co-leveraging from parallel programmes and other donors’ contributions. The programme runs from 2019-2023.