

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and water management in agriculture

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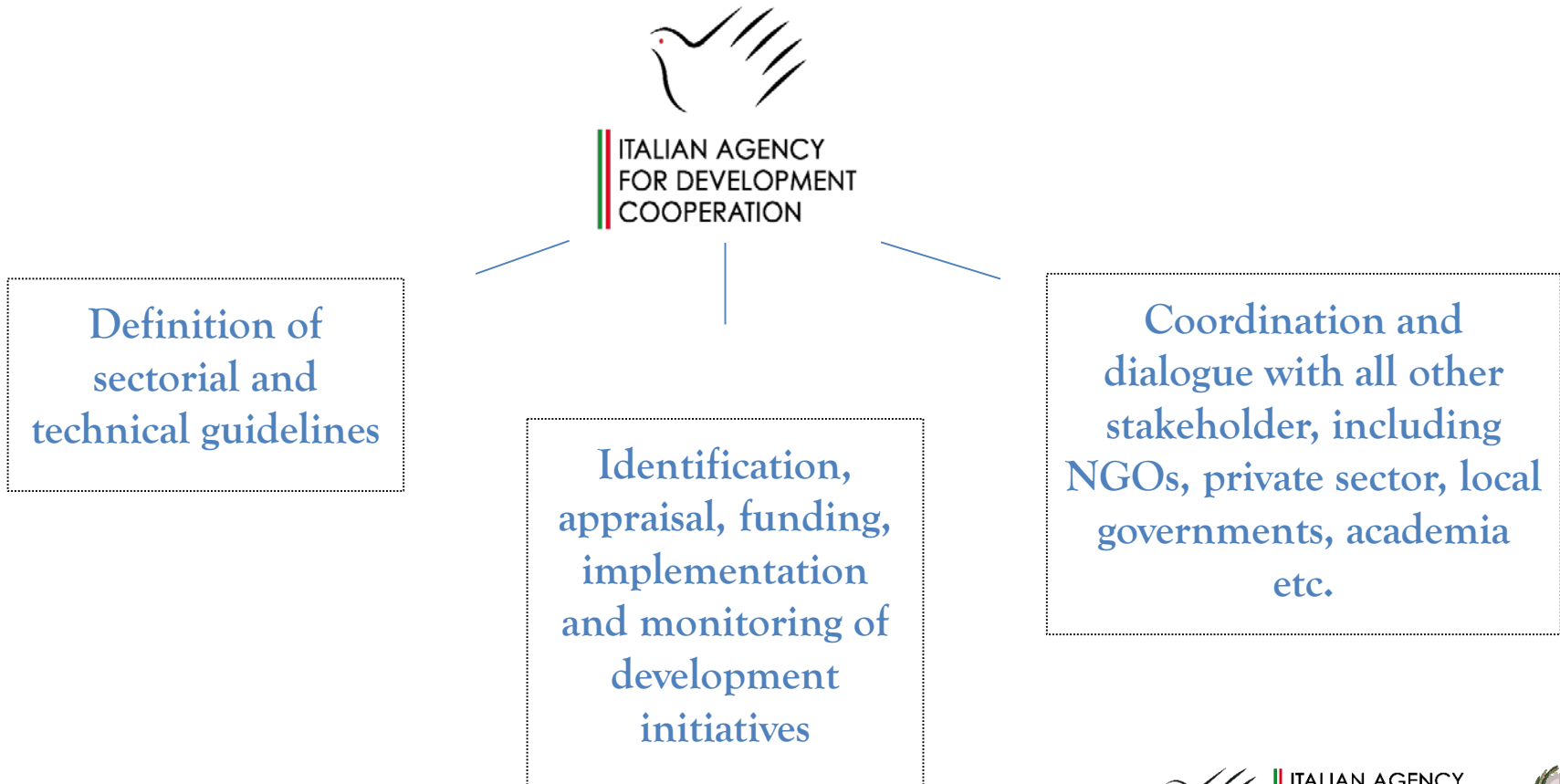
Outlines

- Introduction to AICS;
- The Italian Cooperation “nexus” approach towards rural development;
- The Italian Cooperation expertise within the water management sector in agriculture;
- The AICS contribution to FAO WASAG (*WAter SCarcity in Agriculture*) initiative;
- Conclusions;
- Contacts.

Introduction to AICS – Who we are

- The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) is one of the main innovations brought by the Italian Development Cooperation Reform Act (n. 125/2014) and started operating in January 2016 with the ambition of aligning Italy with the main European and international partners in the commitment to development;
- The task of the Agency is to carry out technical-operational activities related to Project development main phases such as identification, formulation, financing, management and control of the cooperation initiatives;
- The main sectors of activity are: economic development, migration, environment and territory, rural development and food security, human development and emergency.

Introduction to AICS – What we do



Introduction to AICS – Facts and Stats

In che settori abbiamo
investito nel 2017

*(Ripartiti per marker e categorie Ocse-Dac. Un progetto può ricadere
in più categorie quando riguarda in modo significativo diversi aspetti)*



Educazione

21,6 milioni



Salute

83,7 milioni



Gender

23,4 milioni



Sicurezza alimentare e sviluppo rurale

63,6 milioni



Cambiamento climatico e tutela biodiversità

131 milioni



Pace, stabilizzazione

44 milioni

Stanzamenti
per iniziative

2017

545 milioni

2018 PREVISIONI

592 milioni

*(Stanzamenti ordinari maggiorati delle stime
su risorse Fondo missioni internazionali,
Fondo Africa, 8x1000)*

**Oltre 1000
progetti attivi
nel mondo**

più di 200 approvati nel 2017

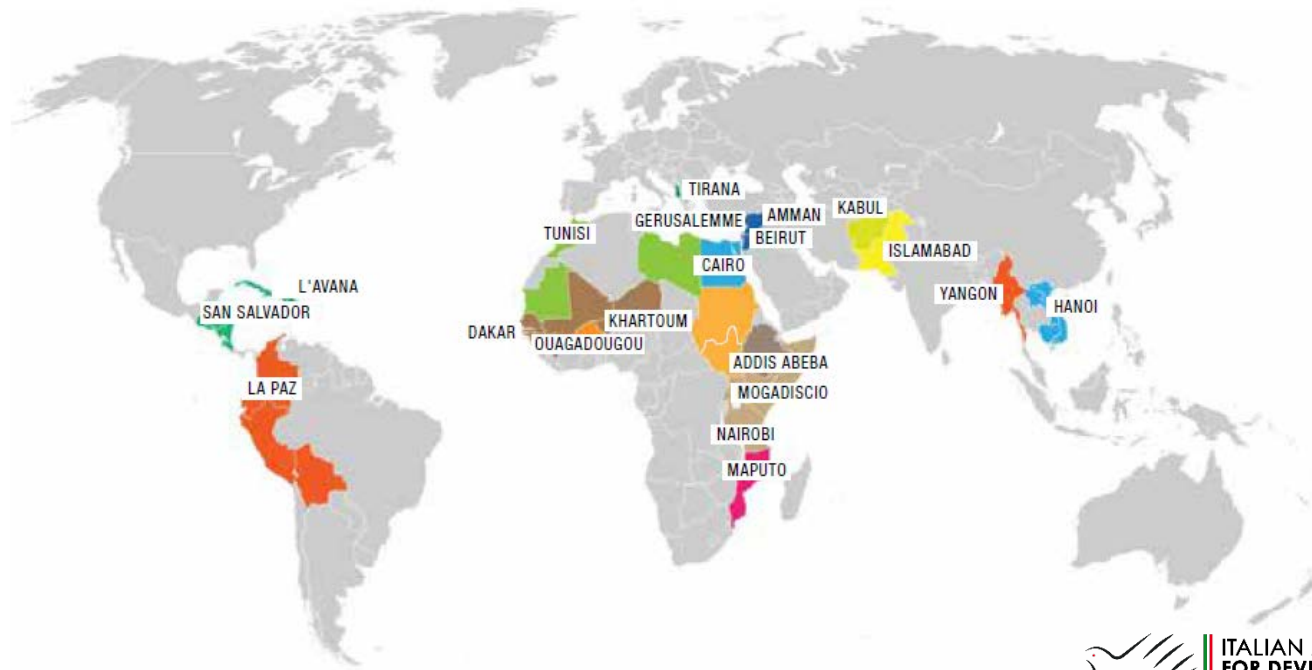


ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



Introduction to AICS – Where we work

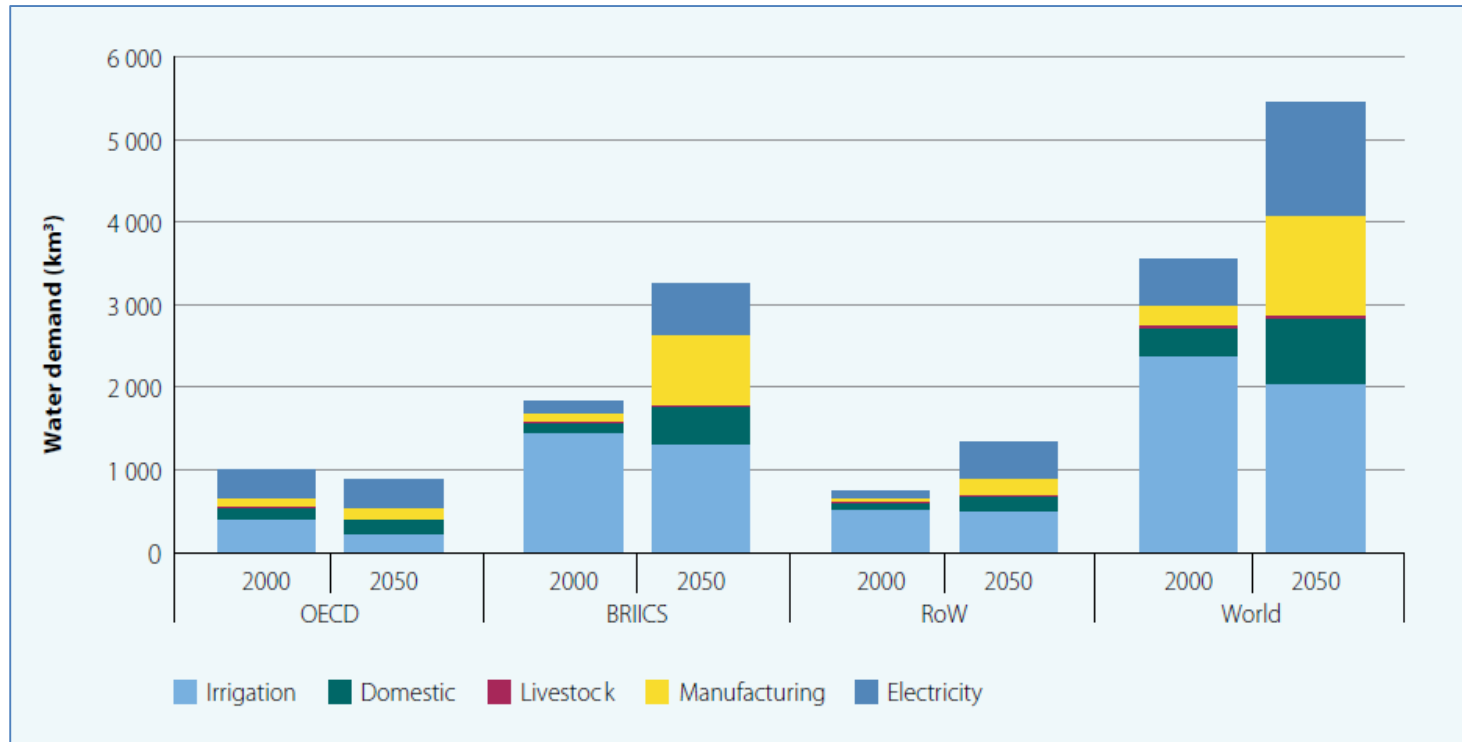
- AICS is headquartered in Rome, with a technical hub in Florence and 20 decentralized offices.



The Italian Cooperation “nexus” approach towards rural development

- The “Nexus-integrated” approach is a milestone for all bodies dealing with cooperation and, moreover, rural development;
- Sectoral “silos” (especially in water, energy and food sectors) are no longer acceptable ways to approach development → solutions based only on one sector will affect others;
- In this context, the “Nexus” approach is very much linked to the concepts of sustainability and integrated development;
- These concepts → familiar to Development Cooperation agencies, mostly working in delicate socio-economic and environmental contexts.

The Italian Cooperation expertise within the water management sector in agriculture



Source: OECD (2012)

The Italian Cooperation expertise within the water management sector in agriculture

- The agricultural sector → largest consumer of water resources ($\pm 70\%$);
- Agriculture has two options to increase water efficiency: **reduce losses** and **increase water productivity**. **First** → increasing efficiency of water use by reducing losses in production process; **Second** → increasing crop productivity by better use of water resources (“*more crops per drop*”), aiming at obtaining higher yields and reducing water consumption;
- The Italian Cooperation is pursuing a systematic approach to the issue. This approach has been reflected in the *"Guidelines for the Italian Cooperation within the water sector"*, prepared by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the MAECI in 2015.

The Italian Cooperation expertise within the water management sector in agriculture

- The Italian Cooperation and AICS, have recently funded several intervention within the sector. Among others:
 - **Sudan:** *"Poverty Alleviation Project for the states of Kassala and Red Sea"*;
 - **Palestine:** *"Emergency rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure as a tool for resilience of agricultural families displaced in the Gaza Strip"*;
 - **Egypt:** *"Matrouh Rural Development Project"*;
 - **Lebanon:** *"Rehabilitation of the irrigation perimeter in the Baalbek Plain"*;
 - **Bolivia:** *"Integrated agri-food system. Promotion of Bolivian Highland Sustainable Community Family Farming"*;
 - **Kenya:** *"Agro-Hydraulic Development Project of Sigor Kerio Valley"*.



Afghanistan – Irrigation canals in Herat - © AICS Kabul



Niger – Water sources community management - © Sertoli P.E.



Palestina - Drip irrigation on cabbage - © AICS Gerusalemme



Sudan – Water distribution - © AICS Khartoum

The AICS contribution to FAO WASAG (*WA*ter *SC*arcity in *AG*riculture) initiative

- AICS, along with other partners, is a member of the so called “*Italian Coordination Group to WASAG*”, leaded by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF and CREA);
- The FAO WASAG is an initiative coordinated by FAO (Land & Water Division), officially launched during the COP22 in Marrakesh.
- So far, 50 international partners have joined the initiative (among others, IFAD, SIWI, CGIAR, UNESCO-IHE). The initiative aims to promote the implementation of policies to improve water use, tackling water scarcity in agriculture and adapting agricultural systems to conditions of limitation.

The AICS contribution to FAO WASAG (*Water Scarcity in Agriculture*) initiative

- AICS, considering its expertise in countries where the issue is of paramount importance, was asked to provide its own contribution, as well as within the coordination (together with, among others, CREA, CNR, ENEA, ISPRA and CIHEAM), also in the Working Group on "Water and Migration";
- For the time being, AICS, based both on agronomic, climatic and social considerations and following the WG ToRs, has provided to FAO a list of ongoing interventions related to the issue, funded and/or implemented by AICS;
- This list, once evaluated by FAO, could contribute to better disseminate the WASAG initiative among partner countries.

Conclusions

- A world population of 7.6 billion inhabitants and a planet with limited natural resources, must necessarily lead economic operators to reflect in a decisive and effective manner on the concrete sustainability of current production processes;
- Main global challenges require a shift from sectoral governance policies and mechanisms to a more integrated “nexus” approach;
- The "transversal" approach of the “Nexus” lends itself very well to being put into practice in development contexts where it is mandatory to have a holistic approach that can mitigate situations of risk, poverty and deprivation.

Contact info

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

<https://www.aics.gov.it/>



*“All the water that will ever be is,
right now”*

National Geographic (October 1993)