

# National Irrigation Acceleration Platform (NIAP)

**NIAP** is a multi-stakeholder holder consultation framework, which aims to initiate, support and scale innovations around smallholder irrigation in Kenya and is hosted by the Water Research and Resource Center (WARREC) of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, in collaboration with SNV's Smart Water for Agriculture program. Our focus remains to create an enabling environment for the private sector, farming communities and other smart water solution actors can engage, to analyse problems and propose strategies that work.

The platform is envisaged as a place where the supply and demand side can meet, interact and engage in constructive and open exchange on the adoption of smart irrigation solutions by smallholder farmers in Kenya.

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## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The NIAP secretariat wishes to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and active participation as our member. It's been through your support that we have successful continues to provide a platform for irrigation stakeholders to deliberate on the way forward in farmer led irrigation and adoption of smart water solutions in Kenya. This was evident in your active participation during the various masterclasses, workshops and field visits that N.I.A.P has held since its launch in April 2018.

### **The Launch**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the National Irrigation Acceleration Programme (NIAP) was formed at a convening of stakeholders drawn from government institutions, research, academia, private sector, NGOs,

farmer association in Nairobi. The initiative which is spearheaded by the JKUAT based Water Research and Resource Centre and the not-for-profit international development organization, SNV is the



*Jeen Kootstra SNV county director giving his remarks*

first in the country to bring together relevant stakeholders at the national level.

## Master Class on Financing Smart irrigation



On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the National Irrigation Acceleration Platform (NIAP) NIAP organized its first

master class with the theme "**smart finance for smart water solution**". This forum brought together financial institutions, investors and market off-takers to share insights, gather inputs and information from the stakeholders and build

consensus on way forward in relation to financing smallholder irrigation.

The full Master Class report: <http://niap.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Masterclass-Report-Finance.pdf>

## Solar Pump Technology Master Class

**"This is actually a great time to talk about this because currently there are two major issues. Climate change and fuel costs." Kinya Kimathi Futurepump**

To explore on solar pump technology on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, NIAP held a master class titled "**SWA Learning and Field Experiences of Solar Pump Usage by Smallholder**". This forum brought together Solar pump irrigation tech companies, policy makers, private sector, financiers of irrigation, service providers as well as development partners, with an aim to

share information on new technology in solar pump irrigation, farmer experiences and feedback on the pumps and lessons learned and way forward.

The full Master Class report: [Masterclass - "SWA Learning and Field Experiences of Solar Pump Usage by Smallholder Farmers" Report](#)

## Finance working group workshop

To explore more on the Smart Finance for Smart Water Solutions, a finance working group workshop dubbed "**Exploring Innovative finance models to scale Smart Water Solutions**" was held

on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The objective of this workshop was to brainstorm over the proposed working financial models during the master class and also look at some working financial models with the aim of creating



Group discussions ongoing during the workshop; the groups came up with four different financial models as elaborated in the workshop report.

or adopting a financial model that is suitable and scalable, with this working group. The working group developed several models to be explored further.

The Workshop report: <http://niap.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Financial-Working-Group-Report.pdf>

## **The National Stakeholders' Workshop**

NIAP and the SWA program conducted a workshop titled "**Partnerships for scaling up smart water solutions for irrigation as an enabler of the Big Four Agenda on Food and Nutrition Security**" on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The objective of the workshop was to share knowledge and



discuss actions and ways forward by all stakeholders (policy makers, universities, private sector, financial institutions, development partners) towards infusing science, technology and innovation in irrigation and thus propelling achievement of the Big Four Agenda. This workshop saw the attendance and active participation of Prof. Fred Segor, the Principal Secretary Irrigation.

The full Workshop Report: <http://niap.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NIAP-NATIONAL-STAKEHOLDERS-WORKSHOP.pdf>

## **NIAP stakeholders learning visit to Meru**

NIAP organized a **learning visit to Meru County** between Wednesday 29 May to Friday 31 May, 2019. The aim of the learning visit was to take policymakers, government leaders,

private sector actors and change-makers on a short but intensive tour, where they can meet the people who are behind the statistics of progress in farmer-led irrigation development. We believe

that this initiative will inspire and motivate NIAP members to lead the change in the irrigated agriculture sector in Kenya.

For more information: <https://rsr.akvo.org/en/project/4296/update/27162/>

*" A few little flowers will spring up briefly in the dry gully through which torrents of water pass occasionally. But it is steady streams that bring thick and needed crops. In the agriculture of the soul that has to do with nurturing attributes, flash floods are no substitute for regular irrigation." Neal A. Maxwell*

**Location:**  
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Water Research and Resource Center  
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