



2 pages

26 January 2011

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For further information, contact:  
Nicole Lefore  
Tel : 302-784753  
E-mail: [nlefore@cgiar.org](mailto:nlefore@cgiar.org)

### **New Director for Africa Region**

The International Water Management Institute is pleased to announce that a new Director will be leading its team of agricultural water management researchers and specialists in Africa. Dr. Timothy Olalekan Williams joined IWMI on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2011. He will be located in the IWMI-West Africa office in Accra, Ghana but will also provide oversight for IWMI-East and Southern Africa offices

Dr, Williams is an agricultural economist with over 25 years of experience in agricultural policy analysis and policy advisory work. His professional work over the years has focused on assisting smallholder farmers, small-scale entrepreneurs and governments in developing countries to address the challenges they face in improving agricultural productivity and food security and in setting up competitive, modern farm and non-farm businesses.

Prior to joining IWMI, Dr. Williams headed and coordinated the Enterprise and Agriculture Section at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, United Kingdom, where he served as the Chief Adviser on agricultural and enterprise development issues to the Commonwealth Secretary General. In the past, Dr. Williams also previously held the position of Regional Representative and Research Team Leader (West Africa) of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Dr. Williams has extensive experience in Africa, having worked at field level with smallholder farmers and government advisers in more than 12 English and French speaking countries, as well as in 6 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean and the South Pacific. He has a comprehensive knowledge of the opportunities and challenges facing many developing countries in their quest to eliminate extreme hunger and poverty.

Dr. Williams holds a doctorate degree in agricultural economics from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. He has published widely in scientific journals and has received numerous fellowships and awards for his work.

As IWMI's Director for Africa, Dr. Williams' emphasis will be on "working with national and international partners to improve the adoption of land and water productivity-enhancing technologies and the implementation of policies that will make water a key cross-sectoral input for growth, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability".

#### **Notes to Editors**

**About IWMI:** IWMI is a nonprofit, scientific research organization focusing on the sustainable use of water and land resources in agriculture, to benefit poor people in developing countries. IWMI's mission is "Improving the management of water and land resources for food, livelihoods and the environment." IWMI has its headquarters in Sri Lanka and regional offices in Africa and Asia. The Institute works in partnership with developing countries, international and national research institutes, universities and other organizations to develop tools and technologies that contribute to poverty reduction as well as food and livelihood security. See [www.iwmi.org](http://www.iwmi.org).

**About the CGIAR:** The CGIAR, established in 1971, is a strategic partnership of countries, international and regional organizations and private foundations supporting the work of 15 international Centers, of which IWMI is one.. In collaboration with national agricultural research systems, civil society and the private sector, the CGIAR fosters sustainable agricultural growth through high-quality science aimed at benefiting the poor through stronger food security, better human nutrition and health, higher incomes and improved management of natural resources. See [www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)

**IWMI West Africa  
Martin Odei Block, CSIR Campus  
Airport Residential Area, Accra  
PMB CT 112, Cantonments  
Accra, Ghana  
Tel: 302 784 753/4**