

# Integrated Water Resources Management and Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria: A Study of The Sokoto-Rima Basin

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## Introduction

- The Sokoto Rima basin (SRB) located ( $4^{\circ}7^{\circ}\text{E}; 11^{\circ}14^{\circ}\text{N}$ ) is a part of the Niger river basin
- A “top down” approach has been used in developing water resources.
- The result has been the building of very large dams and irrigation schemes that have, after many years reached only 10 to 20% of their potential.

## Water and Agriculture in the SRB

Farming practices in the SRB are not eco-friendly and have a tremendous impact on water resources



Most large scale irrigation projects are in a sorry state



## Integrated Water Management Strategies



**A simple properly aligned windbreak would have prevented this ‘accident’.**

- Over the years farmers who practice irrigated agriculture in the SRB have been pampered getting most of the development aid.

## What about forming Land Users Associations?

- Must water resources development always be linked to large dams?
- What about other water sources (groundwater)?
- Dams have lead to the degradation of valuable wetlands (*Fadama*) in the SRB
- Poverty is also a major factor in the degradation of land and water resources

## Conclusion

Strategies must be adopted to improve upland farming practices for sustainable integrated water management in the basin