



CHARTER FOR MEMBERS

THE COSTEA IDENTITY

COSTEA is a think tank dedicated to water for food in the face of climate change.

This international community for reflection and action brings together experts, scientists, agricultural water managers, contracting authorities, public officials, and technical and financial partners. It aims to produce, share, and promote knowledge and public policy recommendations to support sustainable irrigated agriculture.

Created in 2013 in France, under the auspices of Eau, Agriculture et Territoires (formerly AFEID), and funded by technical and financial partners, including the French Development Agency (AFD), it has gradually expanded through the networking of these partners within a scientific and technical council comprising nearly 800 members from several countries.

Its geographical focus is primarily on sub-Saharan Africa, the Mediterranean and South-East Asia.

COSTEA also relies on regional coordinators, who are responsible for strengthening local roots, ensuring close ties with local stakeholders and promoting the experiences and knowledge drawn from national contexts.

Its specific objectives are to generate new knowledge on the agroecological transition, the adaptation of irrigated agriculture to climate change and the mitigation of its impacts; to promote COSTEA's expertise and outputs internationally; to institutionalise COSTEA, make it visible and inclusive; and to strengthen the network of practitioners and public decision-makers in the irrigated agriculture sector.

OUR VISION AND OUR ETHICS

Our belief is simple: the challenges relating to water for food can only be overcome through cooperation, the sharing of knowledge and dialogue between the various stakeholders involved.

The think tank relies on its members' commitment to contributing their expertise, experience and perspectives to a collective process of reflection that transcends individual or institutional interests. This collaborative approach forms the very foundation of the think tank and its way of operating.

Our work is part of a systemic approach to irrigated agriculture. It is based on the idea that the challenges of food security, food sovereignty and regional resilience require a rethinking of public policies and practices. Irrigated systems cannot be viewed solely from a technical perspective: they must take into account the environmental, social, institutional, economic, land-use and regional dimensions that determine their sustainability.

COSTEA also considers that adapting to climate change and reducing the environmental footprint of irrigated agriculture are key priorities for the coming years.

With this in mind, agroecology represents a vital approach for supporting the transition of agricultural systems, strengthening their resilience and reconciling productive performance, the conservation of natural resources and food security.

OUR GOVERNANCE AND HOW WE OPERATE

Eau, Agriculture et Territoires (formerly AFEID) is responsible for project management of the COSTEA.

The governing bodies and operating procedures are designed to ensure that the organisation functions efficiently, collaboratively and fairly, whilst respecting the diversity of its members. COSTEA has a Steering Committee, a Scientific and Technical Council and a Permanent Technical Secretariat.

- The Steering Committee (COFIL) is composed of appointed representatives from COSTEA's member countries. It is open to Technical and Financial Partners, provided they contribute to the funding of COSTEA. It is also open to the project management carried out by Eau, Agriculture et Territoires (formerly AFEID). It sets COSTEA's broad strategic and budgetary guidelines, approves the objectives and scope of actions, as well as the budget and annual work programme. It is chaired by one of the member countries. Its operating rules are set out in its rules of procedure.
- The Scientific and Technical Council (CST) is an advisory body comprising institutions and individuals, hereinafter referred to as 'COSTEA members'. It is the forum in which the initiatives supported by COSTEA are defined and monitored. The CST meets periodically in various formats (plenary sessions or working groups, in person or remotely). It is chaired by the Director of COSTEA.
- The Permanent Technical Secretariat (STP) coordinates and manages COSTEA. It is headed by the Director of COSTEA and supported by an executive team and regional coordinators. The STP ensures, on an ongoing basis, the identification and formulation, monitoring and evaluation, promotion, consistency and cross-cutting nature of COSTEA's activities. It coordinates the network and ensures its visibility through active communication. Eau, Agriculture et Territoires (formerly AFEID) is governed by the French Public Procurement Code and, as such, is required to draw up contracts in accordance with the competitive tendering procedures set out in its procedures manual.

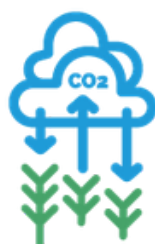
OUR ACTIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

Since its inception, COSTEA has developed its activities through several successive phases, characterised by the gradual expansion of its network, its areas of focus and its international reach:

- 2013–2017: Phase 1
- 2017–2023: Phase 2
- Since 2023: Phase 3

COSTEA sets up working groups, implements field studies, and organizes cross-learning exchanges and training on four main themes :

- Agroecological reengineering and management of collective irrigation systems
- Reuse of wastewater for agriculture
- Mitigation of the impacts of irrigated agriculture on climate change
- Participatory and inclusive territorial governance of waterscapes



OUR ACTIONS AND PRODUCTIONS *(continued)*

COSTEA implements initiatives that enable it to:

- generate knowledge and best practice through multi-year structural initiatives
- promote the expertise and experiences of its members through collaborative initiatives resulting in various forms of publications
- provide operational expertise and advice in response to requests from member states
- offer training and capacity-building programmes on certain topics addressed by COSTEA
- communicate its activities to members and stakeholders in the irrigated agriculture sector
- participate in international events related to the irrigated agriculture sector

The deliverables and outputs resulting from COSTEA-funded activities are public, accessible to all and intended to be disseminated freely and widely by COSTEA, its members and its partners.

OUR MEMBERS AND HOW WE COLLABORATE

The following may therefore join us within the CST: public, voluntary or private organisations active in the fields of agricultural water, research, training, engineering, rural development or public policy, as well as individual members recognised for their skills, experience or contributions in the areas of interest to COSTEA.

The admission of new members is managed by the Permanent Technical Secretariat (STP), which ensures a balance is maintained between the regions represented, the diversity of profiles and the complementarity of expertise within the community.

Joining COSTEA means, above all, becoming part of a forum for dialogue and knowledge-sharing on an international scale. Members enjoy privileged access to news, publications, studies and resources produced by the think tank. They are also kept informed about COSTEA Talks, meetings of the Scientific and Technical Council, workshops, training courses and events organised by the think tank and its partners.

Membership of COSTEA also offers opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange, for showcasing expertise and for contributing to collective discussions. Members can share their experiences, publicise their work, take part in working groups or help to develop new initiatives.

In return, COSTEA relies on the commitment of its community. Members are invited to share their knowledge, participate in the think tank's activities according to their availability, promote COSTEA's outputs within their own networks, and help identify emerging issues in their regions and sectors of activity.

OUR MEMBERS AND HOW WE COLLABORATE *(continued)*

This collective dynamic is one of the think tank's greatest assets.

Membership of the think tank is based on adherence to the values set out in this charter: dialogue, mutual respect, openness, cooperation and the pursuit of the common good. Discussions within COSTEA should facilitate a constructive exchange of views in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

Finally, COSTEA is committed to recognising, promoting and highlighting the contributions of its members. It believes that its influence rests as much on the quality of its work as on the commitment of those who bring it to life on a daily basis.

