

Curriculum Vitae

Jean-Marc Faurès

Expert in water and sustainable agriculture

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Summary of experience, qualifications and skills

More than 30 years of experience in the field of agriculture and water resources management in support to food security and sustainable development. Excellent analytical and strategic skills, backed by field experience from policy and technical assistance projects in the Mediterranean, Central Asian, Sub-Saharan African and Asian countries for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Academic background: Agricultural engineering, agronomy, water resources administration.

Fields of expertise: sustainable development and related international processes, agriculture, cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, land and water governance and institutions, climate change adaptation, water/irrigation technologies and management, water policies and strategies.

Managerial experience as Regional Programme Leader for FAO in the Near East and North Africa Region, supervising about 60 staff from the Regional Office.

Most recent work focused on: strategic planning and foresights, contribution to global perspective studies on trends analysis and future development pathways in agriculture and rural development, and development of theories of change in support to institutional planning.

Professional experience

1. Current

2023-now: Chief, Water Department, Engineers without Borders- Belgium. Part time.
Coordinates the team in charge of projects in the field of water supply and sanitation and agricultural water management in several countries of Africa.

2. Long term assignments

2019-2023: Regional Programme Leader, Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, FAO, Cairo, Egypt. Responsible for the whole technical programme of the Regional Office.

Tasks include: Leading the team in charge of formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the programme of work of FAO in the region, guiding the establishment of regional priorities in close consultation with member countries, and ensuring the overall coherence, effectiveness and strategic fit of the work of FAO at regional level in response to country priorities. Key achievements: Development of regional priorities and a theory of change for FAO action in support to food systems transformation in the region.

2015-2019: Senior Programme Officer, Strategic Programme on Sustainable Agriculture, FAO, Rome. As part of the Management Team of FAO's Strategic Programme on Sustainable Agriculture, I coordinated activities aiming at mainstreaming the Sustainable Food and Agriculture approach in national programmes, advocating for a multi-objective, inclusive multi-sectoral approach to agriculture, and better aligning agriculture with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Key achievements: FAO Guidance document on agriculture and food transformation to achieve the SDGs. Development, in collaboration with the Chief Statistician Office, of the SDG indicator on sustainable agriculture (2.4.1)

2001-2015: Senior Water Resources Management Officer, Land and Water Division, FAO, Rome. In charge of FAO programmes related to information, policy, perspective studies and strategies for water management in agriculture, with special focus on water for rural poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation and agricultural strategies for coping with water scarcity.

In the framework of the above topics, I provided technical and policy assistance to countries through strategy development, adaptive research or projects aiming at testing new water management approaches. Contribution to FAO cross-sectoral works, in particular in the field of climate change, energy and bioenergy, statistics and livelihood analysis. Contribution to numerous FAO initiatives and development of strategies, and representation of FAO in several international water-related conferences.

After 2013, the focus of work has shifted towards much more integrated and inter-disciplinary work as part of FAO result-based programme. Activities included contribution to the development and mainstreaming of FAO's vision and approach towards sustainable agriculture.

1991-2000: Water Resources Officer, Land and Water Development Division, FAO, Rome. In charge of the design, testing and development of a global information system on water and irrigation (AQUASTAT), allowing for dissemination of key information on water and irrigation. The programme contributed to several international initiatives to monitor and predict current and future use of freshwater resources for agriculture and the role of irrigation in agricultural production. Technical assistance to field projects in Mediterranean, Central Asian and sub-Saharan African countries on topics covering on-farm irrigation management, extension, water resources assessment, river basin management, irrigation policy, rural water supply, water harvesting, etc. (see details in Annex). Participation in several WFP and World Bank appraisal missions in irrigation and water resources management.

1989-90: Research assistant, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Tucson, Arizona. Study of the impact of rainfall variability on the behaviour of a physically based hydrological model. The study included a theoretical approach, followed by the installation of field measure network, data gathering and analysis, and model adaptation.

1985-1989: Expert in operational and agricultural hydrology for the World Meteorological Organization in Cape Verde, West Africa. In charge of a project aiming at improving the countries' capacities to provide meteorological and hydrological information to assess crop production potential and for early warning systems in the Sahel. Coordination of the activities of the Hydrology Section, including rehabilitation of the country's hydrological network, data collection, processing, rating curves, development of hydrological databases, production of yearbooks, etc.). Also in charge of experiments in the fields of agrometeorology and agricultural hydrology.

3. Consultations, main missions and major projects

(See list in Annex 1)

Education, training and skills

1. Formal education

1989-90: Master of Science in Water Resources Administration, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA. Curriculum included basic hydrological sciences (surface water and groundwater hydrology), water resources management and administration, including legal and institutional aspects.

1984-85: Brussels Free University, Belgium. Post-graduate training in economics (8 months, interrupted before the end to take up job opportunity in Cape Verde).

1979-84: Agricultural Engineer, Brussels Free University, Belgium. Graduated with the highest score. Curriculum included mechanical and rural engineering, agronomy, ecology, plant and animal production, etc. The thesis concentrated on hydrological study of small watershed in Southern Belgium to assess impact of land use on water resources.

2. Short training courses

2012-2013: FAO. Leadership and management courses: MAC Assessment; Career Development; Effective Leadership.

1994-2012: FAO. Various short courses in communication, facilitation and negotiations skills, team role theory (Belbin) and participatory appraisal methods.

1998: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, Bari, Italy. Three-week training in and strategies for implementation of irrigation management transfer in developing countries (World Bank).

3. Language skills

French: mother tongue

English, Italian: working knowledge.

Portuguese: basic knowledge

Spanish: limited knowledge

4. Computer skills

All standard software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), MSProject, Access (basic knowledge), several hydrological and irrigation software, conceptual knowledge of GIS.

Publications

(See list in Annex 2)

Last update: 27/1/2025

Annex 1: Consultations, main missions and major projects - Details

2024-now: Consultation in water governance, Morocco, FAO, Rome.

2024: Feb-June: Support the FAO GEF Unit in designing a new programme based on small grant, FAO, Rome.

2023: FAO-Rome: Support to the Governance Unit of FAO to mainstream complement accelerator within FAO programme and provide advice to the governance unit.

2017: Rwanda: drafting of the 4th Strategic Programme for Agricultural Transformation (several missions). Contributing to national process and developing a theory of change for agricultural transformation towards a modern, efficient, inclusive and sustainable agricultural sector aligned with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

2013: India (Rajasthan): Irrigation modernisation. Irrigation specialist for a World Bank Water Supply project in Bhilwara District, Rajasthan. The purpose of the mission was to identify options to enhance productivity of large scale irrigation schemes in conditions of reduced water supply.

2012: Land and Water Days at FAO. Initiator and coordinator of the organisation of the first Land and Water Days at FAO, gathering 250 FAO, IFAD and WFP experts and partners, of which 100 field experts on the theme "Improving the impact of our projects in the field".

2011: Bonn Conference on the Water-food-energy nexus. Prepared FAO contribution to the Conference and represent FAO in the International Steering Committee.

2009-2012: Agricultural water management solutions project. Project funded by the Gates Foundation and implemented by several Research Institutions and FAO. Member of the Steering Committee and coordinator of the FAO contribution.

2009:FAO Climate change days. Participated as co-organiser in the preparation of the FAO climate change days, an internal capacity building process aimed at better mainstreaming climate change-related activities within FAO projects and programmes.

2009: Asia: Workshop on revitalising Asia's irrigation. Joint Workshop with FAO-RAP and IWMI on challenges for Asia's irrigation.

2007-2011: Morocco: On farm water management in large irrigation scheme. Project funded by Spain to improve water management at farm level in irrigation scheme affected by severe water shortage in the Doukkala area. In parallel, policy advice for the development of national strategy for water saving in irrigation.

2005-2008: FAO-IFAD Programme on water and poverty. In charge of a study funded by IFAD to assess options for investment in irrigation in support to rural poverty alleviation.

2004-2008: Turkmenistan, FAO. Soil and water management in irrigation systems. In charge of an FAO project aiming at improving soil and water management in large scale surface irrigation systems.

2004-2008: Malta, FAO. Groundwater legislation. In charge of an FAO project to assess groundwater resources status in Malta, design water conservation policy and propose legislative adaptation in order to secure long term sustainability of the country's water resources.

2004-2007: Comprehensive assessment of water management in agriculture. Member of the Steering Committee of the Comprehensive Assessment of water management in agriculture, responsible for the Chapter on irrigation.

2000-2003: Cyprus, FAO. Reassessment of water resources and use. In charge of a TCP project to reassess the country's water resources and uses, and contribute to the review of the national water policy in a context of increasing water scarcity and climate change.

2000: Madagascar, FAO/World Bank. Watershed management. Identification mission for a project aimed at linking watershed management activities with irrigation rehabilitation through an integrated water resources management approach.

1999-present: Morocco, ONEP. Rural water supply and sanitation. In charge of a major project to review and improve the approach of the *Office national de l'eau potable* in rural water supply and sanitation. The project includes several components: evaluation of current approaches, rural water supply management strategy, wastewater and environmental issues, solid waste disposal, data management and GIS, training, etc.

1999-2000: Global, FAO. Assessment of current and future agricultural water needs. Contribution to the FAO study *Agriculture towards 2015/30. Review of national irrigation policies and programmes, assessment of current and future irrigation water needs, as FAO contribution to the 2nd World Water Forum, The Hague, March 2000.*

1998-99: Côte d'Ivoire, FAO. Water resources information system. In charge of the design and implementation of a TCP project to assist the *Haut Commissariat à l'hydraulique* to set up a national water information system in support to integrated water resources management.

1998-99: Burkina Faso, UNDP. Wetland inventory. Inventory of wetland in the Southwestern part of the country as part of the implementation of the National rice production strategy. More than 5.000 wetland units surveyed by a multi-disciplinary team over two years.

1998: Morocco, FAO. Irrigation water management. In charge of a TCP project to test and demonstrate on-farm irrigation techniques for water use efficiency in a large irrigation scheme in the Loukkos region. The project proposed a farmer field school approach to technology transfer, integrating research and development activities with farmer-led demonstrations. The results of the project served as basis for the development of a national water saving strategy for irrigation designed in 2000.

1998: Burkina Faso, World Bank/FAO. Private irrigation. Participate in a joint FAO/World Bank mission for the formulation of a private irrigation project in Burkina Faso. In charge of the technical aspects of the project.

1997-99: Cape Verde, FAO. Irrigation master plan. In charge of the design and implementation of a TCP project for the development of a national irrigation master plan in the framework of the national water resources management strategy. The master plan has since then been used as a reference for irrigation development projects in the country.

1995: Niger, FAO. Arid zone hydrology. Study of the impact of a major soil and water development project (Keita project) on the hydrology of rivers and aquifer recharge. Supervision of one Associate Professional Officer during two years, and field mission in 1995. Development of a simple hydrology model based on the Unit Hydrograph theory.

1994: Mozambique, UNDP. River basin management. Mission for the development of river basin authorities and integrated river basin management in the framework of the UNDP project *Water resources for development*. Technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Works for the design of river basin authorities and water development programmes.

1994 : Morocco, World Bank. Watershed management. Participate in a World Bank formulation mission in Morocco to review the impact of watershed management activities on sedimentation in large reservoirs, as part of the evaluation of the downstream benefits of the proposed project.

1994 : China, WFP. Integrated agricultural development. Participate as irrigation expert in a WFP appraisal mission for a project of integrated agricultural development in Wuling Mountains, Guizhou Province. Recommendations on irrigation and drainage, waterlogging, soil and water conservation, road construction and drinking water supply.

1993: China, WFP. Technical assistance to large scale irrigation project. Technical assistance mission for irrigation management in large scale irrigation project in Jingtaishuan, Gansu Province. Review and recommendations on main issues and problems related to irrigation management (water users associations, water management, salinity, waterlogging and drainage).

1992: Burkina Faso, FAO. Irrigation policy. In charge of a TCP project to develop a national policy for irrigation development, following major discrepancy of views between the Government and main donors. The irrigation policy developed by the project was later adopted by the Government.

1991-95: West Africa, FAO. Guidelines for hydrological assessment of small watersheds. In charge of the overall co-ordination of a research project for the review and updating of methodologies for flood and annual runoff assessment in small catchments of West Africa. Collaboration between FAO, CIEH, ORSTOM and Cemagref.

1991-94: Tunisia, UNDP. Training in irrigation. In charge of a four year project to develop training to improve water use efficiency in large scale irrigation schemes. The training programme was directed at professionals all levels (farmers, extensionists, technicians, engineers), and was supported by a National Committee for Water Saving in Irrigation. The programme was later adopted as part of the National strategy for water saving and demand management in irrigation.

1991: China, WFP. Appraisal mission for soil and water conservation works. Participate in a WFP appraisal mission in Shanxi Province. Review of the technical issues related to irrigation, drinking water supply and road construction.

1991: Burundi, FAO. Wetland hydrology. Follow-up mission to the mission of 1989. Processing and analysis of hydrological measurements made between the two mission. Conclusions and recommendations in terms of design of hydraulic structures for wetland development.

1989: Burundi, FAO. Wetland Hydrology. Mission to assess the hydrological behaviour of small river basins for the design of wetland management structures. Review of available hydrological information; development of simple model and database for flood assessment, hydrological measurements, design of an experimental hydrological network, training of hydrometrists.

Annex 2: Selected Publications

(FAO publications as co-ordinator or main contributor)

- FAO. 2018. Transforming food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs. 20 interconnected actions (as coordinator).
- FAO. 2013. Sourcebook on climate smart agriculture. Chapter on water management (as Lead Author).

- FAO. 2012. Coping with water scarcity. An action framework for agriculture and food security. FAO Water Report No 38. FAO, Rome.
- FAO. 2011. The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome.
- Turrall, H. J. Burke and J.M. Faurès. 2011. Climate change, water and food security. FAO Water Report 36. FAO. Rome.
- Molden D, Vithanage M, de Fraiture C, Faures JM, Finlayson M, Gordon L, Molle F, Peden D and Stentiford D (2011) Water Availability and Its Use in Agriculture. In: Peter Wilderer (ed.) Treatise on Water Science, vol. 4, pp. 707–732 Oxford: Academic Press.
- Turrall, Hugh, Svendsen, Mark and Faures, Jean Marc, (2010), Investing in irrigation: Reviewing the past and looking to the future, Agricultural Water Management, 97, issue 4, p. 551-560, <http://econpapers.repec.org/RePEc:eee:agiwat:v:97:y:2010:i:4:p:551-560>.
- Siebert, S., Burke, J., Faurès, J.-M., Frenken, K., Hoogeveen, J., Döll, P., Portmann, F.T. 2010.: Groundwater use for irrigation - a global inventory. Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 14, 1863-1880.
- Sullivan C. A., A. Cohen, J.-M. Faurès, and G. Santini. 2010. The Rural Water Livelihoods Index: A Tool to Prioritize Water related Interventions for Poverty education. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- Mukherji, Aditi; Facon, T.; Burke, J.; de Fraiture, Charlotte; Faurès, J. M.; Fuleki, Blanka; Giordano, Mark; Molden, David; Shah, Tushaar. 2009. Revitalizing Asia's irrigation: to sustainably meet tomorrow's food needs. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Rome, Italy: FAO. 39p.
- Hoogeveen, J., J.-M. Faurès, and N. van de Giesse. 2009. Increased Biofuel Production in the Coming Decade: to What Extent Will It Affect Global Freshwater Resources? Irrigation and Drainage Journal.
- Faurès, Jean-Marc and Guido Santini (editors). 2008. Water and the Rural Poor. Interventions for Improving Livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa. Land and Water Division, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation. Rome.
- Faurès, J.M., M. Svendsen and H. Turrall. 2007. Reinventing irrigation. In D. Molden (ed) Water for Food, Water for Life: A Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture. London: Earthscan, and Colombo: International Water Management Institute.
- Siebert, S., Döll, P., Hoogeveen, J., Faures, J.-M., Frenken, K. 2006.: The Global Map of Irrigation Areas. Poster presented at the International Workshop on Global Irrigated Area Mapping held 25 - 26 September 2006 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and at the Tropentag conference 2006 held in Bonn, Germany.
- Eliasson, A., Faurès, J.M., Frenken, K. and Hoogeveen, J. 2005. Aquastat - Getting To Grips With Water Information For Agriculture. IWG-Env, International Work Session on Water Statistics, Vienna, June 20-22 2005.
- Margat, J., Frenken, K. and Faurès, J.M. 2005. Key Water Resources Statistics In Aquastat. FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture. IWG-Env, International Work Session on Water Statistics, Vienna, June 20-22 2005.

- Faurès, J. M., Hoogeveen, J. and Bruinsma, J. 2003. The FAO Irrigated Area Forecast for 2030. Rome, FAO www.fao.org/ag/agl/aglw/aquastat/reports/index.htm
- Lipton, M., Litchfield, J. and Faurès, J.M., 2003. The effects of irrigation on poverty: a framework for analysis. Water Policy 5 Number 5 413-427.
- FAO. 2001. Atlas of irrigation and water resources in Africa. FAO Land and Water Digital Media Series .CD-Rom No 13. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 2000. Valorisation de l'eau d'irrigation dans les grands périmètres du Maghreb. Synthèse de l'atelier régional organisé au Loukkos, Maroc, du 20 au 22 octobre 1999. Ministère de l'agriculture du Maroc, IAM-Bari. 18 pages. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 2000. Irrigation in Latin America and the Caribbean in Figures. Water Report No 20, 349 pages. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 1999. Irrigation in Asia in Figures. Water Report No , 336 pages. (*as main editor*).
- Frenken, K. and Faurès, J.M. 1997. Irrigation potential in Africa: a basin approach. FAO Land and Water Bulletin No 4, FAO, Rome.
- FAO. 1997. Irrigation in the countries of the Former Soviet Union in Figures. Water Report No 15, 226 pages. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 1997. Remote sensing and water resources. Water Report 16. 93 pages + CD Rom. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 1996. Crues et apports. Bulletin FAO d'irrigation et drainage No 54. 244 pages. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 1996. Irrigation in the Near East Region in Figures. Water Report No 9, 281 pages. (*as main editor*).
- FAO. 1995. Irrigation in Africa in Figures. Water Report No 7, 336 pages. (*as main editor*).