HELPING AGRIBUSINESS COMPANIES BECOME MORE WATER EFFICIENT IS URGENT. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TYPICALLY ACCOUNTS FOR 90 PERCENT OR MORE OF WATER CONSUMED IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN.

Improving efficiency involves training farmers to adopt specific production methods and technologies like efficient irrigation, helping them access financing, and ensuring that the appropriate technology is available in developing markets. With Africa identified as an emerging agribusiness player, efficient irrigation will play an important role in this sector’s growth.

IFC is collaborating with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on an irrigation diagnostic in Africa to further inform IFC on private sector investment and advisory opportunities for introducing water-efficient agriculture in Africa. The diagnostic feeds into the development of Global Irrigation Program (GIP), a program to be funded with $250 million from IFC. It is expected to leverage funds from GAFSP, commercial banks, and others to create a $1 billion facility.

EXPECTED RESULTS:
The FAO-led diagnostic is expected to identify up to five crops that have the best potential for efficient irrigation in five countries. It will also shortlist up to two crops for which to develop business plans and identify potential partners, such as irrigation companies and major producer companies, for the introduction of water-efficient agriculture.