



## What does it take to accelerate investment in Water-Energy-Food Nexus Projects?

**COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh, 14 November 2022, 17h00 – 18h30 GMT+2  
Blue Zone, RCREEE Pavilion**

*A RCREEE - RES4Africa Joint COP27 Event*

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### Setting the context

In recent years, the **Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus** approach has become an integral part of international development agendas (14 out of 17 SDGs are interlinked or have repercussions on the water-energy-food nexus) and in the narrative of international and financial institutions. But why is this happening? The WEF Nexus approach considers how water, energy and food systems are connected and can reveal business models that respond to essential development needs. If applied and scaled up, these business models can increase economic productive capacity and drive socio-economic welfare, in support of countries' ability to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Rapidly growing populations and economies in Africa are adding stress on existing infrastructure and countries' supply systems, expected to lead to a surge in demand over basic resources such as water, food and energy in coming years. It is estimated that by 2030 Africa's water consumption will grow by 283% compared to 2005 levels, food demand by 60% compared to 2015 levels, and electricity demand by 70% compared to 2016 levels<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, this hike in demand for resources risks to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change to which MENA and Sub-Saharan African countries are particularly vulnerable.

**RCREEE and RES4Africa organise this joint event in the framework of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, to present and discuss the state of art in the nexus "scene",** analysing existing business models and financing mechanisms to provide a solid understanding of the current opportunities and obstacles in the MENA and Sub-Saharan African regions to deploy integrated projects from agrivoltaics to precision irrigation and cold storage solutions.

### Objectives of the event

The event aims to contribute to accelerating the uptake of Water-Energy-Food Nexus solutions such as agrivoltaics, precision irrigation and cold storage solutions powered by renewables. Specific objectives include:

- Gather private and public stakeholders for an open dialogue on existing Water-Energy-Food Nexus projects in MENA and Sub-Saharan regions.
- Take stock of stakeholders' perspectives and lessons learnt on development of innovative technologies, business models and investment opportunities, while understanding key challenges to accelerate project deployment.



- Present the findings of reports on WEF Nexus business models and financing mechanisms RES4Africa is carrying out on behalf of the **GIZ Programme "Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme"**, which is co-funded by the EU and BMZ.

The event will take place in-person and comprises presentations and open discussions about business and technologies development, policy and regulation, and financing mechanisms.

## Agenda

The session will gather representatives from the public sector, financial institutions, and international experts to discuss barriers and possible entry points to leverage financing and business integrated approaches for Nexus solutions at scale.

Time	Topics and speakers
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jauad El Kharraz, Executive Director, RCREEE</li> <li>- Silvia D'Ovidio, Head of Strategy, Governance &amp; Institutional Relations, RES4Africa</li> <li>- Jihad Al-Mahamid, Secretary General, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan</li> <li>- Mathias Toll, Senior Policy Officer of the Division Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, BMZ</li> </ul>
17:30 - 18:20	<b>Key note speaker:</b> Luca Traini, Area Manager, Access to Energy, RES4Africa <b>Panel discussion:</b> <i>Moderator:</i> Khalid Salmi, Sustainable Energy Management Expert, RCREEE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diala Hawila, Programme Officer – Policy Advice, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA</li> <li>- Edith Kirumba, Environment and Climate Programme Officer, IFAD</li> <li>- Jacob Waslander, Envoy of the Netherlands for the Middle East on WEF</li> <li>- Amos Winter, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology</li> </ul>
18:20 - 18:30	<b>Wrap up and conclusion</b>

<sup>i</sup> "Options for decoupling economic growth from water use and water pollution" UNEP & IRP, 2016