



Low-Cost Irrigation Systems for Drought-Prone Mali: An Engineering Design Paradigm

Timiha Dembele^{1,2}, Sogoba Sissoco¹, Hamadoun Traoré^{2,3}

¹ Department of Sustainable Systems, USTTB Bamako (University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies)

² University of Bamako (consolidated)

³ Department of Civil Engineering, USTTB Bamako (University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies)

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Correspondence: tdembele@outlook.com

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Author notes

Timiha Dembele is affiliated with Department of Sustainable Systems, USTTB Bamako (University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies) and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.

Sogoba Sissoco is affiliated with Department of Sustainable Systems, USTTB Bamako (University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies) and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.

Hamadoun Traoré is affiliated with Department of Civil Engineering, USTTB Bamako (University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies) and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.

Abstract

Drought-prone regions in Mali face significant challenges in agricultural productivity due to water scarcity. A mixed-method approach combining field surveys, cost-benefit analysis, and prototype testing was employed to develop and assess the efficacy of the proposed irrigation solutions. The designed low-cost drip irrigation system reduced water usage by approximately 30% compared to traditional flood irrigation methods in local conditions. The study demonstrated that a tailored engineering design approach can significantly improve agricultural productivity in Mali's arid regions, with cost-effective and sustainable outcomes. Future research should focus on scaling up the implementation of these systems in various climates and socio-economic contexts. The maintenance outcome was modelled as $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + u_i + \varepsilon_i$, with robustness checked using heteroskedasticity-consistent errors.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Agricultural Engineering, Sustainable, Sprinkler Systems, Hydraulic Modelling, Water Harvesting, Geographic Information Systems*

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