



Name: *Bahri Akissa*

Current Appointment: Professor, National Research Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Water and Forestry, Tunis, Tunisia

E-mail: bahri.akissa@planet.tn

Area of Research/Teaching

Water Resources Management, Water Reuse, Water Quality, Integrated Urban Water Management

Biography/Tell us about yourself

38 years in research into use, institutional and partnership building

Akissa Bahri has academic and professional experience in water resources management and water reuse. She holds a degree in agricultural engineering from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie de Toulouse (France), a Doctor-Engineer degree from the Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse (France) and a PhD in Water Resources Engineering from the Institute of Science and Technology of Lund University (Sweden).

She has worked in water research in the fields of water resources development and management, agricultural use of marginal waters and biosolids, and their impacts on the environment with a focus on water quality and water use efficiency.

She has been dealing with the double-sided problems of dwindling water resources and the risks of soil deterioration associated with land application of brackish and reclaimed waters and sewage sludge. She was able to arrive at best practices for using marginal waters and biosolids. The findings were communicated to government authorities and transferred into standards and directives to farmers for practical application.

Akissa Bahri has a long-standing interest in how a more integrated approach to managing water and wastewater can contribute to meeting water demand and protecting the environment. From her position as Laboratory Chief at the National Research Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Water and Forestry and the National Commission for Agricultural Water Research Programming and Evaluation she was leading, she was able to influence the research directions and the results' transfer with a strong focus on efficient agricultural water use. This has involved addressing the use of appropriate technology for the conditions of Tunisia, the high salinity content of most Tunisian waters, and the environmental impacts of reclaimed water and biosolids on soils, crops and groundwater.

She has authored numerous papers and reports on the topic.

Policy and legislative issues regarding water reuse and land application of biosolids

She was a member of the team that contributed to the adoption of regulations for water reuse and land application of biosolids in Tunisia. The results derived from her research work have been used for drafting the Tunisian policy and

regulations regarding water reuse and biosolids management issued respectively in 1999 and 2007. She has also developed an extensive practical experience in those fields, both in Tunisia, other semi-arid areas of the Mediterranean region, the Middle East and in Africa. This has led her to be also involved in drafting the “Guidelines for municipal water reuse in the Mediterranean countries” and in contributing to the drafting of the “Recycled Water Master Plan for the Abu Dhabi Emirate”.

Managing Research

From 1987 to 2005, at the National Research Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Water, and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in Tunisia, she was responsible: (i) from 2001-2005, for setting up and managing a laboratory for research on sustainable management of agricultural water; (ii) from 1997-2005, for coordinating the research program on irrigation and drainage funded within the context of investment projects of the World Bank, the Agricultural Sector Investment Loan (1992-1997) and the Water Sector Investment Loan (2001-2005); (iii) from 1994-2005, for leading the National Commission for Agricultural Water Research Programming and Evaluation; and (iv) from 1980-1987, for implementing a research project (RAB 80/011) funded by UNDP on reuse of reclaimed water and biosolids in agriculture. She helped to coordinate the utilization of loans to Tunisia targeted on increasing research capability as an element of the country’s infrastructure.

As Director for Africa at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) from 2005-2010, based in Accra (Ghana), she has been responsible to spearhead, direct and oversee research and administration offices in the Africa region (Ghana for West Africa, Ethiopia for East Africa and South Africa for Southern Africa) to achieve IWMI’s goals and act as IWMI’s representative in the geographic region. She developed the IWMI Africa strategy and business development plan and strengthened IWMI’s relationships with other regional and international organizations. She has also developed a sound and strong knowledge of development issues in Africa.

Putting knowledge into action and contributing to institutional and partnership building

As Coordinator of the African Water Facility (AWF) at the African Development Bank from 2010-2015, she was responsible for planning, organizing, directing and supervising the activities undertaken by the AWF, an initiative of the African Ministers’ Council on Water. She managed a portfolio of 98 projects in 51 countries, totaling 124 million euros. She supported the ambitious goal of catalyzing the development of Africa’s water sector to help the continent achieve water security through the multiplication of water projects, in view of achieving the Africa Water Vision 2025. She guided the AWF to transform its annual program to address the new priorities and the technical challenges of new approaches to water resources management as well as to build new international partnerships. With a new Strategic Plan, and launched projects all over the African continent and in Fragile States in high risk regions such as Darfur in Sudan, Somaliland in Somalia, and others, she has put knowledge into action by introducing innovative ideas to create enabling environments and mobilize resources to ultimately help the disadvantaged communities cope with change and generate their own development. She contributed to the engagement of a wide range of formal and informal partners including academia, regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-government organizations, government institutions and community-based organizations through the AWF-funded projects.

Awards

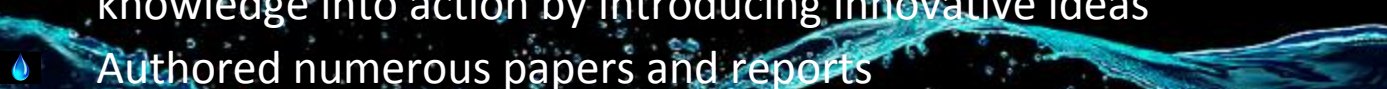
She is a recipient of the Grand Prize of Scientific Merit for Development from the Guinness Foundation (1984), the International Foundation for Science/King Baudouin Award (1993), the Kuwait Prize in the Field of Waste Recycling from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (1996), and the Prof. C.N.R. Rao Prize for Scientific Research awarded by the World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries (2009). She is a member of the World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), and of various scientific committees. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California at Davis from January to June 2005.

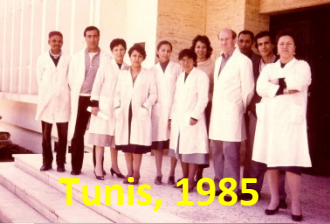
Name: Bahri Akissa

Educational Background: Ph.D., Water Resources Engineering, Institute of Science and Technology, Lund University, Sweden

Current Appointment: Professor, National Research Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Water and Forestry, Tunis, Tunisia

Research Interests & Accomplishments:

- 💧 Water Quality, Water Reuse, Land Application of Biosolids, Integrated Water Resources Management
 - 💧 1999 and 2007: Tunisian policy and regulations regarding water reuse and biosolids management
 - 💧 1994-2005: National Commission for Agricultural Water Research Programming and Evaluation
 - 💧 2005-2010: IWMI Director for Africa - IWMI Africa strategy and business development plan
 - 💧 2010-2015: Coordinator of the AWF at AfDB – AWF Strategic Plan, management of a portfolio of 98 projects in 51 countries, totalling 124 million euros, built new international partnerships, put knowledge into action by introducing innovative ideas
 - 💧 Authored numerous papers and reports
- 



Tunis, 1985



Accra, Jan. 2006



Tunis, 1992



Darfur, Nov. 30, 2012



Harare, Nov. 26, 2013

