

# **World Water Day 2012**

## **Water and Food Security: Water Allocation, Productivity and Risk Management**

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# Water and food security and economic, food and water security

A multi-sectoral approach is needed for water and food security:

- Rapid socio-economic transitions
- eradicating hunger has become more complex and challenging.
- By 2050, the region's population will swell to five billion.
- nearly 600 million people suffering from hunger and malnutrition in the Asia-Pacific. This number has not decreased in 20 years
- Urbanization, climate change, natural disasters, trade policies, increased water and energy demand, soaring crude oil prices and biofuel crops



## But also because no water security for other sectors without addressing agricultural water management first

- magnitude of agriculture's use of freshwater: 70-90%
- no integrated solution to local water scarcity can ignore the agriculture water use variable
- our task:
  - improving the efficiency and productivity of water use in agriculture - and reducing environmental impact.
  - Getting the agriculture sector to account for both its use and pollution of water
- Agriculture has the power to destroy all other productive uses of water



# **Towards a renewed framework for action**

- Decision-makers and users need to review broad social, economic and environmental objectives through a water lens
- improve their understating of water availability and use
- in order to guide bulk water allocation, sectoral policies, productivity targets, and policy instruments and investments in all productive sectors including revitalizing irrigation in the region.



# Evolving a coherent, effective and feasible set of policies, strategies and interventions

Solutions in practice, not on paper

- A solid water accounting foundation;
- Improved processes for decision-making and negotiation among stakeholders;
- Addressing the Water, Food, Energy and Climate nexus in an integrated approach;
- Risk management strategies for national food security policies;
- Progress on monitoring of investment and results.



## Explicitly addressing policy dilemmas, trade-offs and difficulties

- Managing transitions
- Managing the informality of the water economies
- Economic water productivity vs. equity
- National vs. local and river basin objectives
- “ideal” vs. Plan B and second-best options
- support green growth WITH food and nutrition insecurity and poverty reduction targets
- Realistic financial arrangements for water operators: smart subsidies



## FAO proposes solutions

- a greener economy through sustainable intensification of agriculture
- Working on the nexus between water, climate change, energy and food security as an integrated approach
- new investments in water for food through climate-smart
- transparent and accountable governance of natural resources
- building the institutions and capacities that make a difference.



## Securing political commitment

- FAO 31st Asia Pacific Regional Conference
- FAO regional initiative to build partnerships for regional cooperation and forward-looking national and river basin initiatives
- Rio+20
- 2nd Asia Pacific Water Summit

**No water security without addressing the challenges in agricultural water management first**