



working for Zero Hunger

# WATER & FOOD: AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Water scarcity affects large portions of the planet's population. Driven by economic development, and growing and increasingly mobile populations, water use grew twice as fast as the world's population during the last century. Agricultural water use accounts for 70% of our total water withdrawals. Lifestyle adjustments and changing diets may further increase global demand for water by 50 percent by 2030.

As the international community gathers for the World Water Forum in Brasilia, we must act together, and with urgency, to manage our water wisely. Sustainable agriculture and food systems have a great role to play. They will enable us to feed the planet, increase cooperation and manage competition through good water governance, and help make migration a preference rather than a necessity for survival.

Join us in discussing the challenges in managing water to achieve zero hunger as well as during our publication launches during the week.

Pass by our booth to learn more about FAO's work directly from our officers and to discover the recent knowledge on water and food security.





## WATER AND MIGRATION ARE INTERLINKED

Migration can be an option to adapt to water stress; adaptation strategies addressing water scarcity will equally contribute to reducing migration.

Water scarcity and droughts can also trigger forced migration, as stated in a new FAO-Global Water Partnership paper linking water stress-related reductions in agricultural productivity to movements of populations.

FAO is now taking the baton to bring these issues to the table as it takes up joint leadership of the UN Global Migration Group, with the International Organization for Migration, in 2018. FAO will also launch a new publication on Water stress and human migration during the forum, as well as a second paper on the topic of Water accounting, a subject which has developed a growing interest at a time when improved water management becomes of paramount importance.

According to recent research, by 2025 two-thirds of us may face water stress, while 1.8 billion people may be living with absolute water scarcity. Climate change will further reduce water availability by altering rainfall patterns and the hydrological cycle. Climate change impacts are expected to increase floods and droughts which can both destroy harvests and have negative impacts on agricultural production.

Actions and strategies must address water use, agricultural production, food security and climate change in an integrated manner. The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), a partnership hosted by FAO brings together several governments, international agencies, research institutions, advocacy groups and other stakeholders, committed to collaborate in designing these strategies and fostering the required actions.

The range of actions to address water scarcity in agriculture include crop choices, better irrigation management, use of emerging technologies (including the reuse of wastewater and solar powered irrigation systems), better livestock management, more-efficient water use, sustainable land management, soil conservation techniques, reductions in food losses and waste as well as supporting interventions such as advocacy, capacity development and innovative financing.

**FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON FAO'S PRESENCE AT WORLD WATER FORUM 8, PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW.FAO.ORG/LAND-WATER/EVENTS/WWF8](http://WWW.FAO.ORG/LAND-WATER/EVENTS/WWF8) - OR CONTACT [LAND-WATER@FAO.ORG](mailto:LAND-WATER@FAO.ORG)**