



Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 6

“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

Agricultural activities account for more than 70 percent of global water withdrawals.

Agriculture and aquaculture are a major source of water pollution.

Water and climate change are inextricably linked.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 has eight target areas. FAO's work contributes to all of these and FAO is custodian of SDG indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 related to water use efficiency and water stress.

There remains much to be done to achieve the targets. Recent reports have revealed that 129 countries are not on track to achieve the objectives set by 2030.

Billions still lack access to safe water and sanitation. Water quality and quantity continues to degrade. 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries.



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

The evaluation covers the work of FAO related to SDG 6 from 2016 - 2021

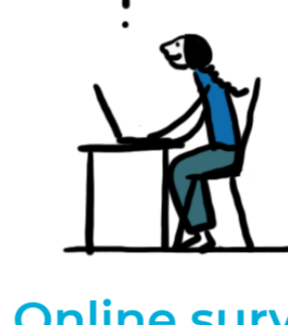
EVALUATION METHODS



Desk reviews



200+ interviews



Online surveys



- 5 regional assessments
- 10 thematic assessments
- 89 project case studies

EVALUATION FOCUS



FAO's strategic positioning and comparative advantages



Relevance of FAO's support to the needs and demands of Members and their citizens



Key SDG 6-related results contributed by FAO

KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

Strategic positioning



FAO is in a strategic position to support Members in pursuing their SDG 6 targets. However, its comparative advantages in terms of global experience, technical and analytical capacities and political neutrality have not been fully utilized.

Despite the central roles of water resources management in sustainable food and agriculture, FAO's work related to SDG 6 is not framed by a clear strategy including the links to climate change action and the links between agricultural activities and water quality and pollution.

FAO has fostered effective global and regional partnerships, especially those related to water use efficiency (target 6.4) and integrated water resources management (target 6.5).

FAO's work on water governance could be transformative, but results are limited by poor integration of governance in projects and lack of coherence in the overall approach.

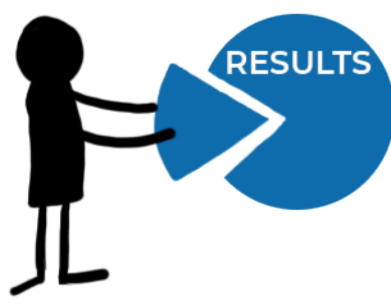
Relevance



FAO has addressed needs and demands from its Members in all eight SDG 6 targets, especially in supporting irrigated agriculture through modernization, rehabilitation and climate proofing (target 6.4). Demands for support in this area are high.

Regional initiatives and programmes are an effective mechanism to respond to specific regional challenges.

FAO's contribution



FAO has effectively fulfilled its role as the custodian of SDG indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 (water use efficiency and water stress)

FAO has contributed to enhancing awareness, knowledge and capacities of governments in addressing water-related challenges.

FAO's comprehensive policies and strategies to ensure no one is left behind have not been effectively applied at the project level.

TAKEAWAYS

How can FAO enhance its contribution to SDG 6?



Strengthen the recognition of water resources management in the Strategic Framework and its programme priority areas.



Consolidate and further develop work on the key areas of irrigated agriculture. Enhance the visibility of FAO's work in this area.



Develop a more explicit approach to water governance.



Integrate the consideration of water quality and pollution into all aspects of FAO's work on agriculture, aquaculture and natural resources management.



Revise and implement tools and procedures for a more coherent and effective project design process for water-related activities.



Strengthen the application of policies and strategies on inclusion, participation and gender at the project level.