



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

WASAG | The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

Water scarcity is one of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century.

Agriculture, encompassing crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, is both a cause and a victim of water scarcity. It accounts for the bulk of global water withdrawals.

With rising temperatures intensifying demand, in combination with more frequent and severe weather extremes impacting production, the need to address water scarcity in agriculture is apparent.

Water withdrawals increased at almost twice the rate of the population in the twentieth century, and a 50 percent surge in food demand is expected by 2050. These matters most severely affect water-scarce regions, as well as areas where a lack of infrastructure or capacity prevents sufficient access to water. It is clear that there is an urgent need to address water scarcity.



WASAG at a glance

The Global Framework for Action to Cope with Water Scarcity in Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change – in short, the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) – is a Partnership established in April 2017 and hosted by FAO, consisting of government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, advocacy groups and professional/membership organizations.

WASAG fosters collaboration among partners for the development and deployment of policies, strategies, and programmes, enhancing field capacity for the adaptation of agriculture to water scarcity. WASAG uses context-specific approaches and processes tailored to specific circumstances and needs, including support for the formulation of transformational projects. WASAG is a fast-growing network that has more than 65 partners engaged in implementing projects and formulating new ideas to jointly address the increasing pressure of global change on water scarcity in agriculture.

A primary objective of WASAG is to support governments and stakeholders in the achievement of the water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with particular emphasis on SDG 6 'Clean water and Sanitation' and SDG 2 'Zero hunger'. WASAG also contributes to SDG 1 'No poverty', SDG 13 'Climate action', SDG 15 'Life on land', and SDG 17 'Partnerships for the goals'.

Many countries have listed water scarcity as an important issue in their Nationally Determined Contribution submissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Investments made in dealing with water scarcity in agriculture will provide immediate short-term benefits towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, and long-term pay-offs for sustainable development and economic growth.

WASAG Timeline

October 2016

Endorsed by the Summit of Water Ministers at the Second World Irrigation Forum, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

November 2016

Officially launched during UNFCCC COP22, Marrakech, Morocco.

January 2017

Endorsed by 83 Ministers of Agriculture during the 9th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture and recognised by the Agriculture Ministers of the G20, Bonn, Germany.

April 2017

First Partners Meeting, adoption of the Rome Statement on Water Scarcity, and establishment of the Interim Steering Committee, Rome, Italy.

September 2017

Endorsed as a knowledge-sharing partnership to help countries develop their drought preparedness plans by the UNCCD COP 13, Ordos, China.

October 2018

Endorsed and supported by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) as a key coordination mechanism to adapt to the effects of water scarcity in agriculture in a changing climate, Rome, Italy.

March 2019

First International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture, where partners adopted the 17 Praia Commitments, Praia, Cabo Verde.

Vision:

A world whose food systems are secure and resilient to increasing water scarcity in a changing climate.

Mission:

Support measurable, significant and sustainable progress on improving and adapting agricultural systems in conditions of increasing water scarcity and a changing climate, using the combined expertise and resources of the partners.

Objective:

Address the following work areas at international and country levels:

- Advocating for political prioritization.
- Cooperating on work programmes.
- Sharing and disseminating knowledge and experience.
- Developing new or improved solutions.
- Promoting sustainable and integrated water resources management.
- Building capacity of partners and countries and other stakeholders.
- Contributing to consistent monitoring systems.



WASAG at Work

WASAG has established the following thematic working groups, which are led by its partners:



Water & Migration

which aims to identify practicable solutions to alleviate the pressure caused by water scarcity and migration, and consequent impact on agriculture and livestock, food and nutrition security.



Drought Preparedness

which aims to identify practicable solutions to deal with droughts and their impact on agriculture, livestock, food security and nutrition.



Financing Mechanisms

which aims to identify innovative financial mechanisms for interventions dealing with water scarcity in agriculture in the context of climate change.



Water & Nutrition

which aims to create awareness, capacity and evidence on the linkage between water and nutrition.



Sustainable Agriculture Water Use

which aims to increase awareness and action by agriculture and related ministries for more sustainable agricultural water use to address water scarcity for enhanced food security and nutrition.



Saline Agriculture

which aims to explore the opportunities offered by saline environments -water and soil- for agriculture.

In addition to the working groups, the WASAG partners have developed a comprehensive work plan for delivering the following:

- Innovative and new solutions
- Support to stakeholder activities on the ground
- Pilot projects
- New methodologies, concepts, guidelines and tools
- Technology development
- Training and capacity building material
- Conference, HL-Panel etc.

WASAG promotes and supports partnerships to harness the knowledge and experiences of stakeholders and enables targeted actions for the sustainable use of water in agriculture, thereby addressing the challenges for agricultural production and livelihoods posed by climate change.



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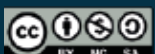


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WASAG PARTNERS

African Union Commission (AUC)
American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon
Amsterdam Centre for World Food Studies (ACWFS), The Netherlands
Argentina - Instituto Nacional del Agua (INA)
Arizona State University, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, USA
Brazil - National Water Agency (ANA)
Cape Verde - Government of Cabo Verde
Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) (by Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems)
EIT Climate-KIC European Headquarters
European Investment Bank (EIB)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
France – Permanent Representation of France to FAO
Fundación Gran Chaco
Global Water Partnership (GWP)
IFOAM Organics International
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)
International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)
International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC)
International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID)
International Desalination Association (IDA)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
International Foundation for Science (IFS)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) – Water Program
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
International-Cooperative Alliance (ICA)
Italy - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Italy
John Paul II Foundation for the Sahel
Jordan - Water Authority of Jordan
Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Jordan
McGill University, Water Innovation Lab, Canada
Mexico - Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA)
MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, USA
Morocco - General Council of Agricultural Development,
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One World One Water, USA
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Songhai Centre
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Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
Texas A&M University, AgriLife Research, USA
The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)
The Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tunisia - Ministry of Agriculture
UMR G-EAU (Water Resource Management, Actors, and Uses), France
United Nations Environment (UNEP)
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)
United Nations University - Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)
United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
University of New South Wales Global Water Institute (UNSW-GWI), Australia
Water Academy SDR
Water Future, Griffith University, Australia
Water Joint Programme Initiative (Water JPI)
Water Youth Network (WYN)
West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
World Food Centre, University of California, USA
World Resources Institute (WRI)
World Water Council (WWC)

You can be a partner of WASAG. Be informed and get involved!
For more information, please contact FAO at Water-Scarcity@fao.org or visit www.fao.org/land-water/overview/WASAG



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