



# Irrigation Management

Irrigation management aims at increasing food production, contributing to economic development and reducing poverty through improvements in performance, productivity and sustainability of irrigated agriculture and irrigation systems.

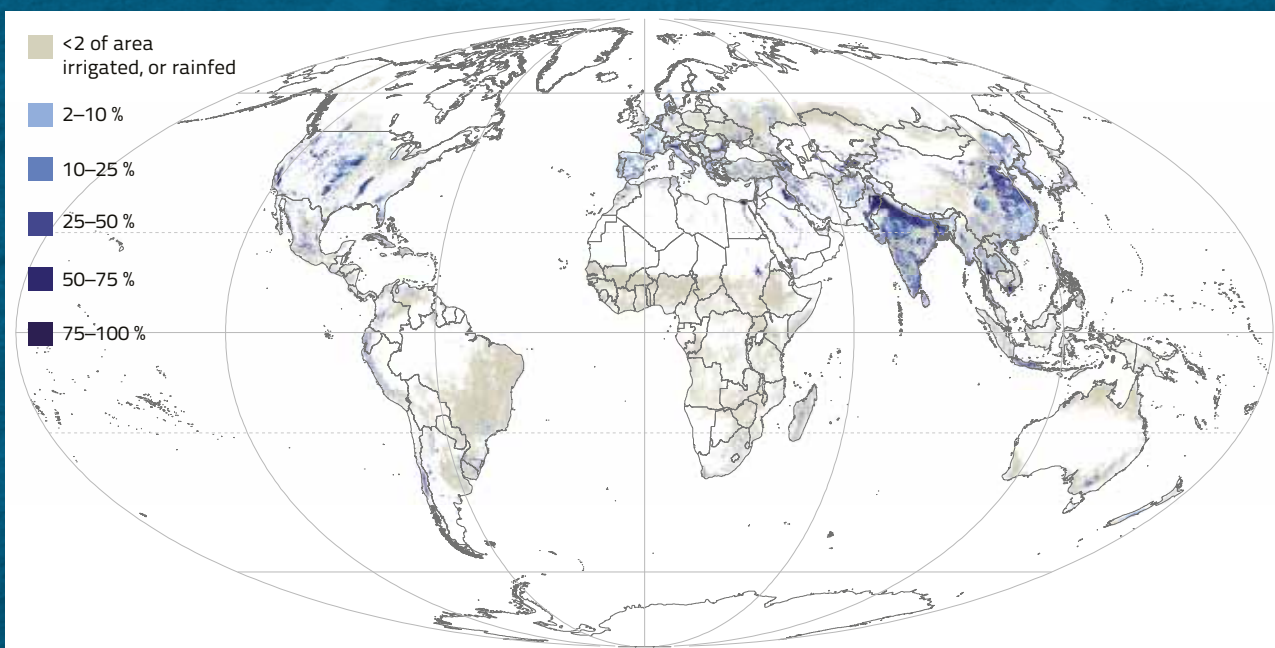
## What we do

We work towards a global initiative on irrigation modernization aimed at improving the governance of irrigation at local, national and global levels. We provide policy and technical support to Member Countries on irrigation development and management and produce guidelines, methodologies and tools on irrigation performance assessment and modernization.



We develop partnerships and provide a platform for the discussion of irrigation perspectives. And we offer professional support to enhance the technical and managerial capacities of irrigation institutions and professionals, including accreditation of centres of excellence and certification of individuals in FAO's methods and tools.

### Area equipped for irrigation as a percentage of land area





## Understanding the context

The last 60 years have seen remarkable developments in water resources use in agriculture in response to population growth and increased demand for food. While the world population grew from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 7 billion today, the irrigated area doubled and water withdrawals tripled through massive developments in hydraulic infrastructure.

Irrigation is the major water user at a global scale, accounting for about 70 percent of the total water withdrawal. The irrigated area at global level represents around 20 percent of the total agricultural land and contributes 40 percent of the total food production. However the performance of the majority of existing irrigation systems remains low.

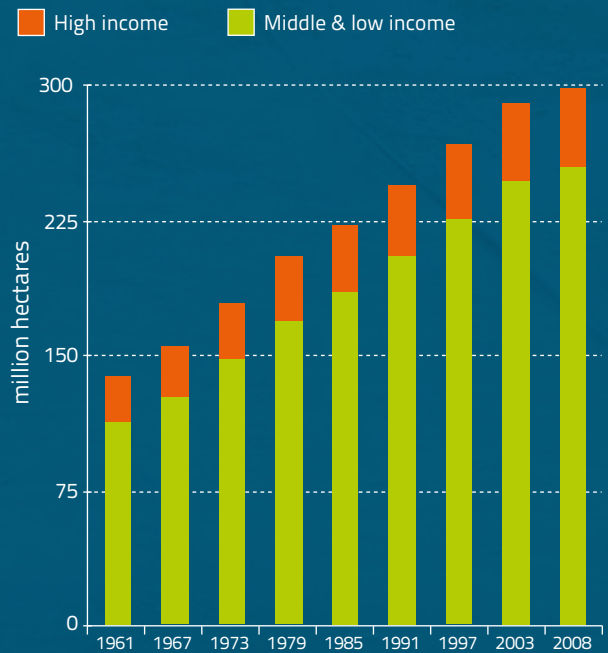
With increasing competition from other sectors, irrigation is under pressure to reduce its share of water use. At the same time irrigation is regarded as one of the main means for increasing food production and rural incomes. This is why it is imperative to modernize irrigation systems and improve irrigation governance in order to achieve high water productivity and sustain the resources base.



## Partners

ICID; WB; ADB; UNESCO-IHE; IWMI; National irrigation and agriculture ministries; irrigation agencies.

Total land used for irrigation



FAO programme on irrigation modernization has played a lead role in global and regional discourse on the topic. The Organization has over the last 2 decades assisted several Member Countries in strategizing and implementing the modernization of their irrigation systems. It has also developed the capacities of thousands of irrigation managers and professionals in modern concepts and technologies and developed methodologies and tools for assessing irrigation system performance as well as for planning and implementing modernization.

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### MORE INFORMATION

[http://www.fao.org/nr/water/topics\\_irrigation.html](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/topics_irrigation.html)