



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO's water journey towards the 2030 Agenda

## *FAO's new approach to IWRM in agriculture*

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[www.fao.org/land-water](http://www.fao.org/land-water)

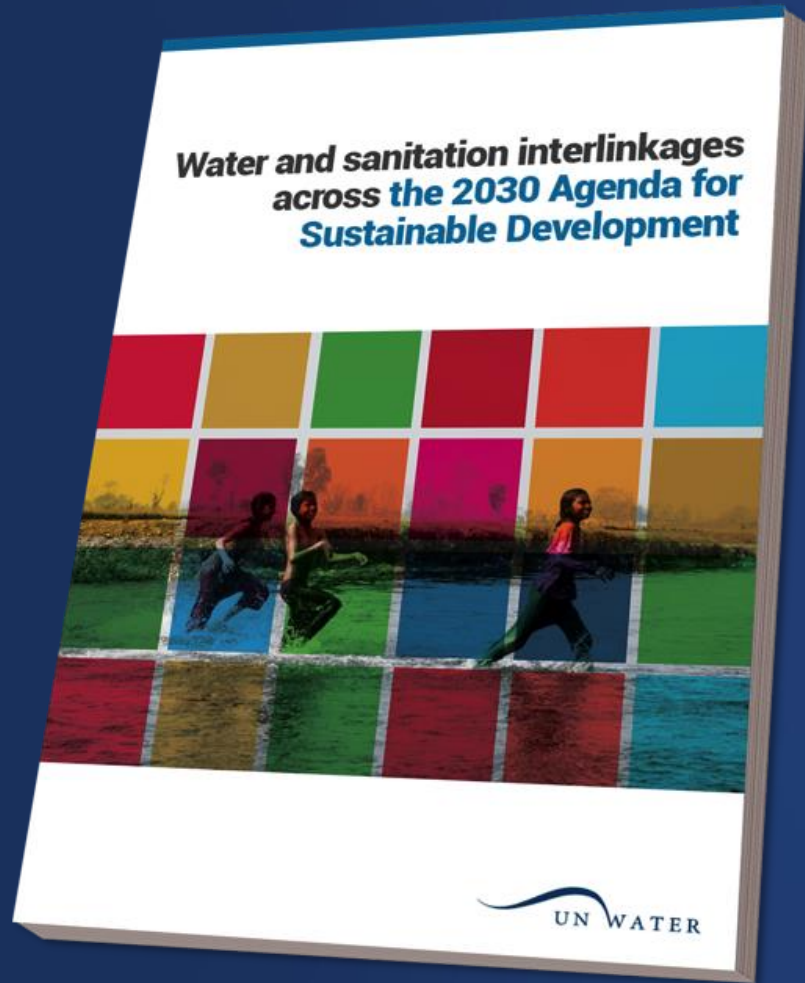


# Persistent water challenges

- **Water Scarcity:** 2.4 billion people live in water-stressed countries, and approximately 10% of the global population lives in countries with high and critical water stress
- **Drought:** agriculture takes the brunt of drought, absorbing over 80% of the economic losses
- **Flood:** Estimated 1.8 billion people exposed to a significant flood hazard; losses around USD 20 billion in 2021
- **Pollution:** water pollution is a rising global crisis that is a direct threat to food safety and security. Agriculture is also the dominant source of water pollution
- **Biodiversity:** Freshwater biodiversity declined faster than that of forest and oceans.
- **Access:** Women remain underrepresented in water resources management, and access to natural resources is not equitable for vulnerable population (Indigenous Peoples and youth)



# Water contributes to all SDGs



# Agricultural water uses

- Agriculture accounts for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, making it the biggest sectoral water user; roughly 30% from groundwater and 70% from surface water.
- Global demand is expected to increase of 24% by 2050 under a sustainability scenario
- Only 13% of the Water Action Agenda commitments refer to agriculture
- Water-blindness in National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation (2021): 2/3 of the pathways did not address water in a meaningful way.
- Is water well addressed in NDCs and NAPs, in national energy vision?



# FAO's Water Journey

- Mar 2022: National Water Roadmaps towards the 2030 Agenda initiated
- Jul. 2022: Geneva Water Dialogue
- Sept. 2022: FAO Director-General Dr. QU Dongyu endorsed the proposal of Rome Water Dialogue and suggested Water as the theme of FAO 43rd Conference in Jul. 2023, and the theme for the biennium 2024-2025.
- Nov 2022: 1<sup>st</sup> Rome Water Dialogue
- Dec. 2022: Fao Council endorsed the suggestion of Water as the theme of FAO 43rd Conference in Jul. 2023



# FAO's Water Journey

- Feb 2023: Africa Regional workshop on National Water Roadmaps
- Mar 2023: UN 2023 Water Conference, launch of National Water Roadmap initiative and Global Dialogue on Water Tenure
- Jul 2023: FAO Conference with water as the theme and 3 ministerial roundtables on water scarcity, water infrastructure and floods organized.



# FAO's 8 commitments to the Water Action Agenda

- National Water Roadmaps towards the 2030 Agenda
- Global Dialogue on Water Tenure
- WaPOR: Remote sensing for water productivity
- Global Water Data Portal
- Irrigation needs & potential mapping
- Integrated drought management
- WASAG: Addressing water scarcity in agriculture through partnerships and innovation
- AQUALEX: water legislation collection



**UN**  
**2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

# FAO National Water Roadmaps

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- **Country-owned participatory process supported by interested partners, including related UN-Water Task Force on Country-level Engagement.**
- **A water action plan to achieve all SDGs in countries by 2030; not just for the water sector, but for all economies, for environment and for all 2030 SDGs.**
- **A renewed country-owned commitment to water built upon National Agenda or National Sustainable Development Strategy, (intended) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plans, and other related national development plans and commitments;**
- **The Roadmap could consist of national targets and indicators, a prioritized water investment plan, partnerships for implementation, and governance arrangements.**



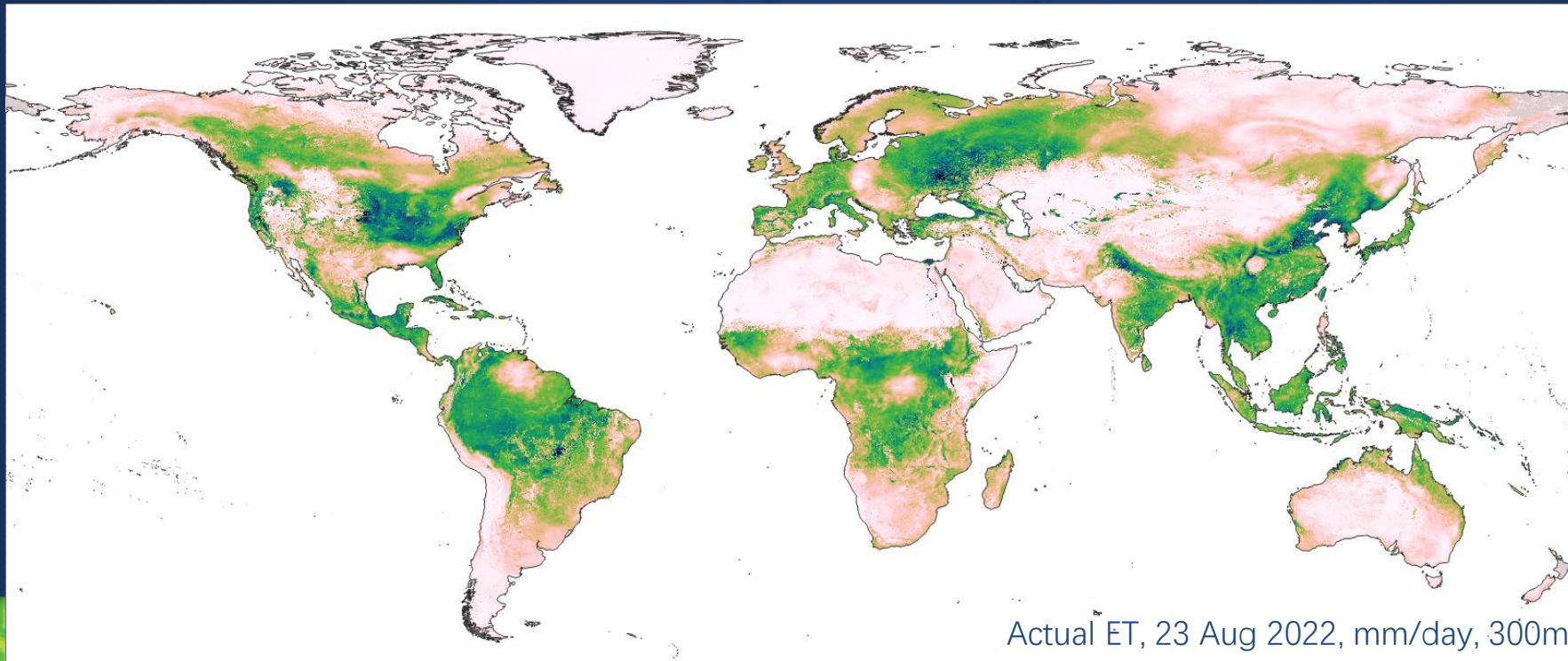
# FAO Water governance

- Global dialogue on Water Tenure
- Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem/Environment (WEFE) nexus
- One Water One Health
- Water Quality, sustainable use of fertilizers, sustainable production (livestock, aquaculture, crops)
- Source-to-Sea and integrated river basin management



# FAO Water data and resources assessment

- SDG 6.4.1 Change in Water Use Efficiency & 6.4.2 Water stress
- AQUASTAT, incl. AQUAMAPS
- WaPOR: global expansion & version 3 to be launched today
- Global Water Data Portal



# FAO Water Infrastructure

- Multiple use infrastructure
- Mobile infrastructure: solar irrigation
- Irrigation needs and potentials mapping
- Water storage facilities
- Ecosystem-based solutions, blue-green infrastructures
- Sustainability
- Financing
- Technology



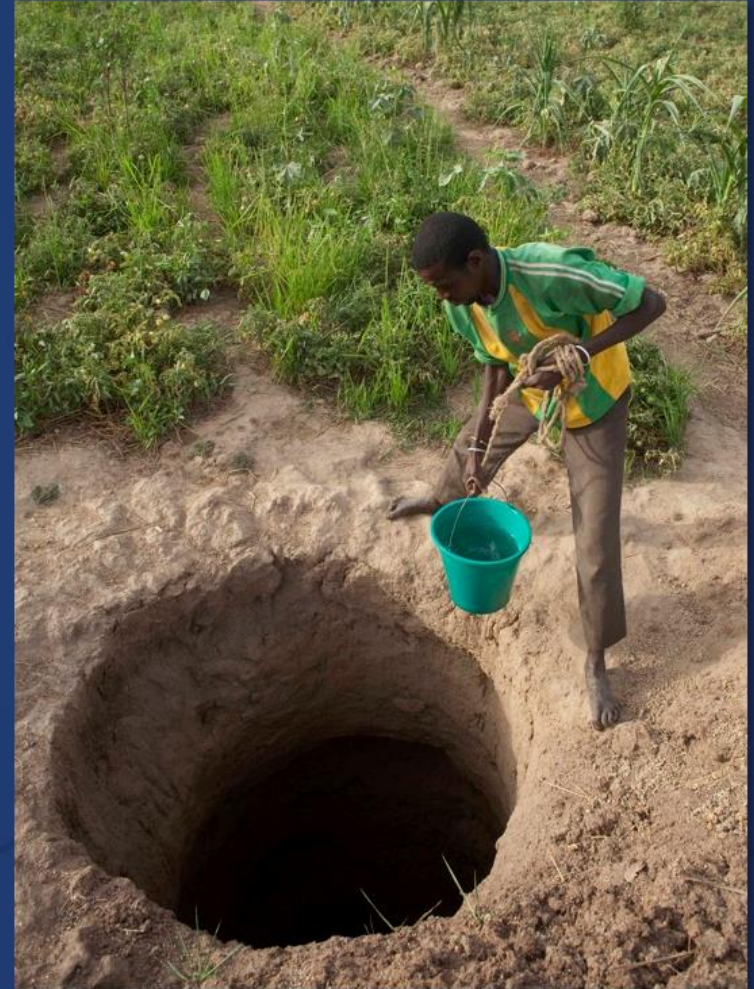
# FAO Water scarcity: WASAG

- The Second WASAG International Forum in Cabo Verde, February 2023.  
Outcome: Praia Call for Action 2023.
- Improve the business model of WASAG – invite FAO Members to join WASAG and participate in the First General Assembly of WASAG on 29-30 April 2024.
- Launch of AWSAMe (Addressing Water Scarcity in Agriculture and the Environment), a Value-added Impact Area (VAIA).



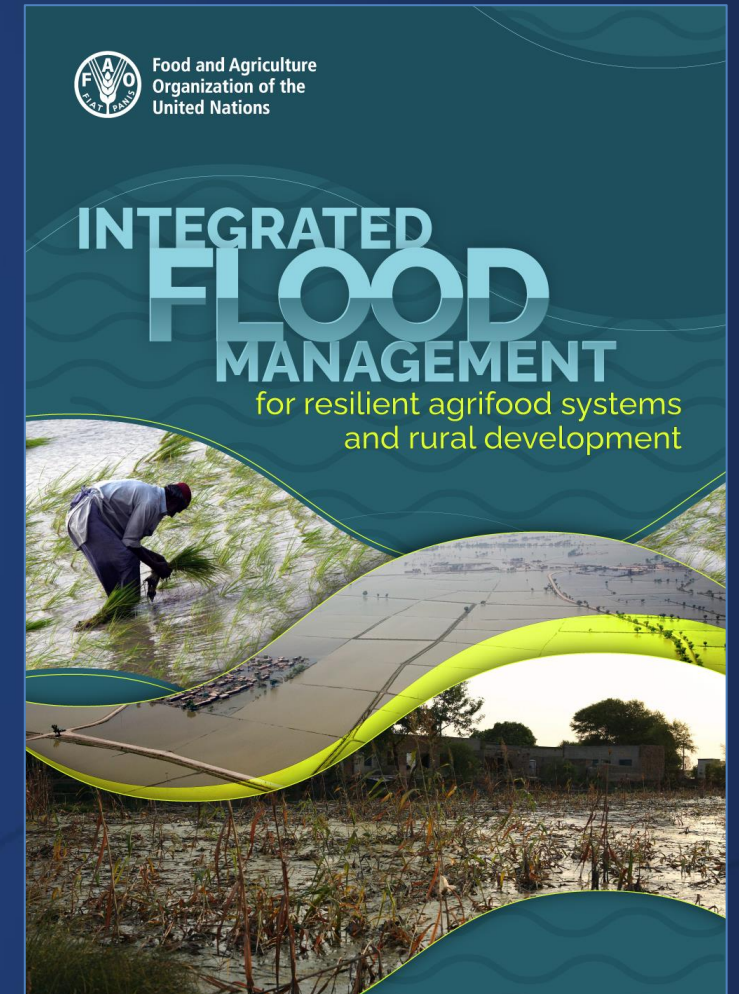
# FAO Integrated Drought Management

- Integrated drought management to shift emergency response towards proactive preparedness, risk assessment and management
- Drought portal (collaboration with UNCCD)
- Drought finance tracker



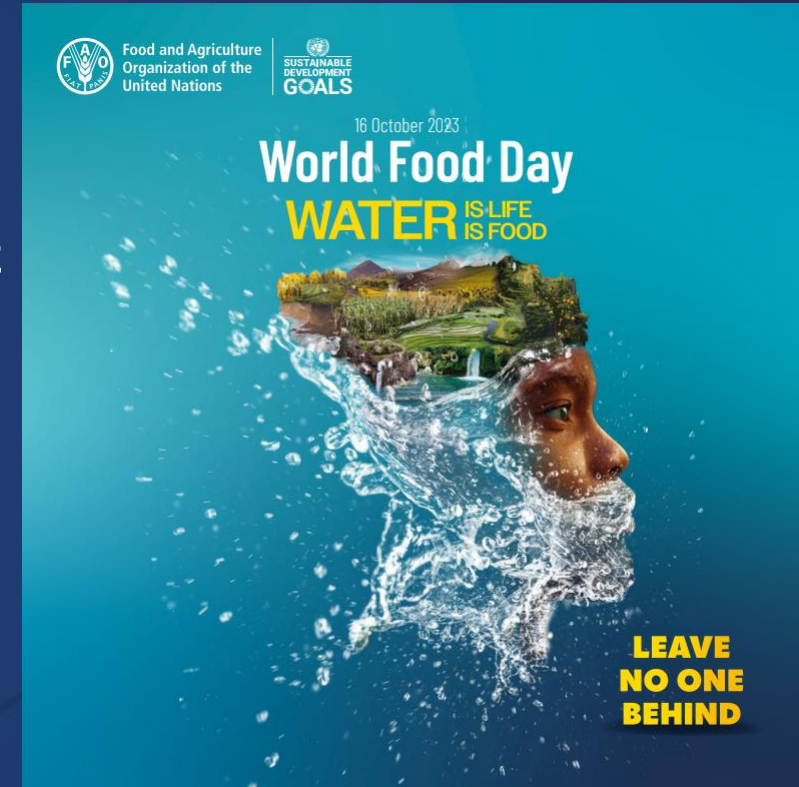
# FAO Integrated Flood Management

- Assess resilience of agri-food systems to flood risks - Global assessment of flood impacts on agriculture and rural development
- Involve agriculture and rural communities in planning, designing, implementing and monitoring flood management actions
- Scale up resilience intervention in agriculture and rural areas
- Optimize use of flood water in agriculture and aquaculture



# FAO's Water Journey: Next steps

- 4-5 Oct 2023: Rome Water Dialogue 2nd edition → annual event
- 16 Oct 2023: World Food Day, with water as the theme.
- UNFCCC CoP28 and beyond: FAO core partner of the Water Pavilion; integrate water into NDCs and NAPs; core partner for Water Resilient Agrifood Systems initiative.
- FAO biennium 2024-2025 theme: IWRM; integration of water, food, energy, health, biodiversity, climate change.
- Apr. 2024: the first WASAG Plenary Assembly
- Mid-2025: Countries drafted National Water Roadmaps.
- UN Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028





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# Thank you for your attention!

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