

Water Resources **CHOIR** in China— Strategic research and innovation priorities for water

Liu Dengwei
水利部发展研究中心
Development Research Center of the Ministry
of Water Resources of China



Water Resources **CHOIR** in China





Part I

Four Main Water Resource **C**hallenges

1. Frequent Flood and Drought Disasters
2. Water Resource Shortage and Uneven Distribution
3. Serious Water Pollution Treatment Challenges
4. Severe Damage to Aquatic Ecology

First Major Issue

1. Frequent Flood and Drought Disasters

Sub Issues

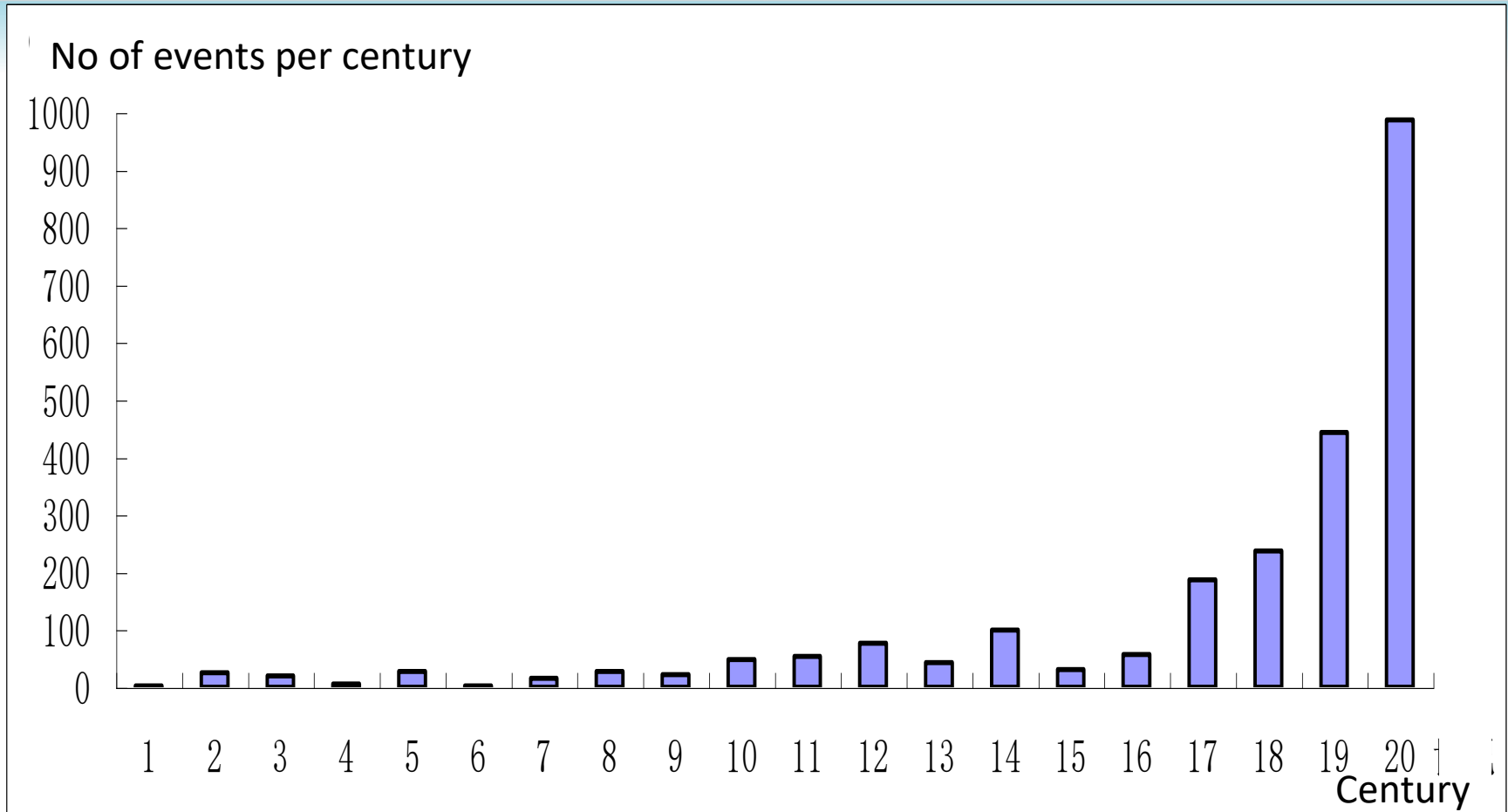
i

Drought Disasters seriously affect Crop Production

ii

Dramatic increase in Flood Frequency

Dramatic increase in Flood Frequency



Flood frequencies in China in the last 20 centuries

City Waterlogging

Most medium- and large-size cities encounter flooding once every 1-3 years.

Trapped citizens rescued by boat. Wuhan, July 9



Vehicles damaged by flood water in Yongji after heavy rain caused waterlogging from July 13 to 14



Mountain Torrents

There are over **4.63 million km²** of areas prone to mountain torrents; over **20 thousand** mountain torrents that affect people directly.



.....Two Points

- Climate change increases the uncertainty of extreme weather events, making flood and drought risk management even more difficult
- Rapid development of the economy and population in China adds to the challenge of providing adequate flood control and drought relief

The Second Big Issue

2. Water Resource Shortage and Uneven Distribution

Sub Issues.

i

Low per capita water resources

ii

Uneven temporal and spatial distribution of water resources

iii

Mismatch between water availability and sites of economic productivity

iv

Increasing water shortage puts huge pressure on water supply security

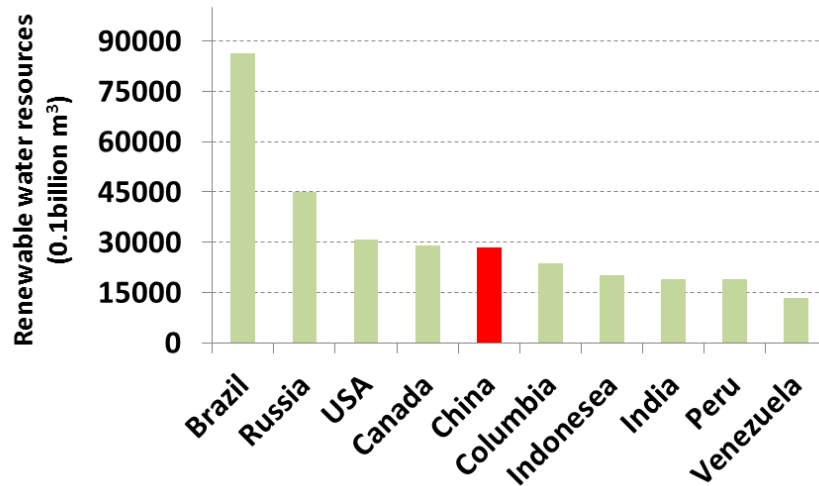
i. Low per capita water availability



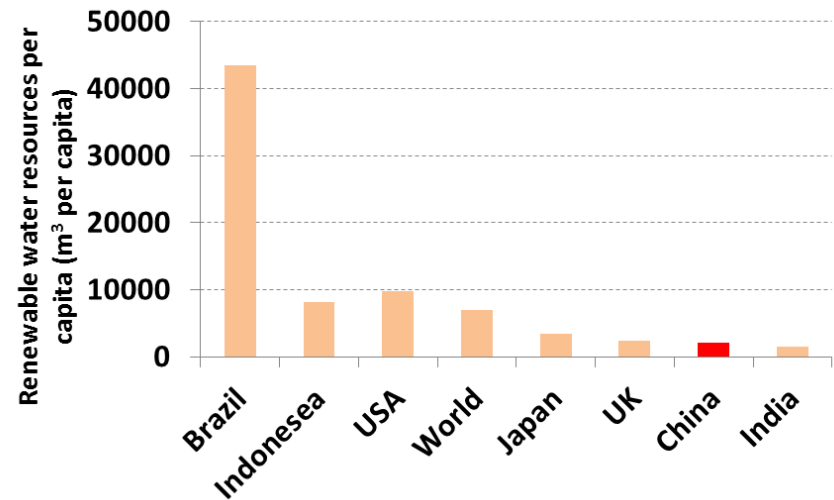
Total volume: 2.8 trillion m³, ranked 5th in the world.



Per capita share: 2100 m³, less than **one third** of the world's average.



Total water availability in different countries



Per capita water availability in different countries

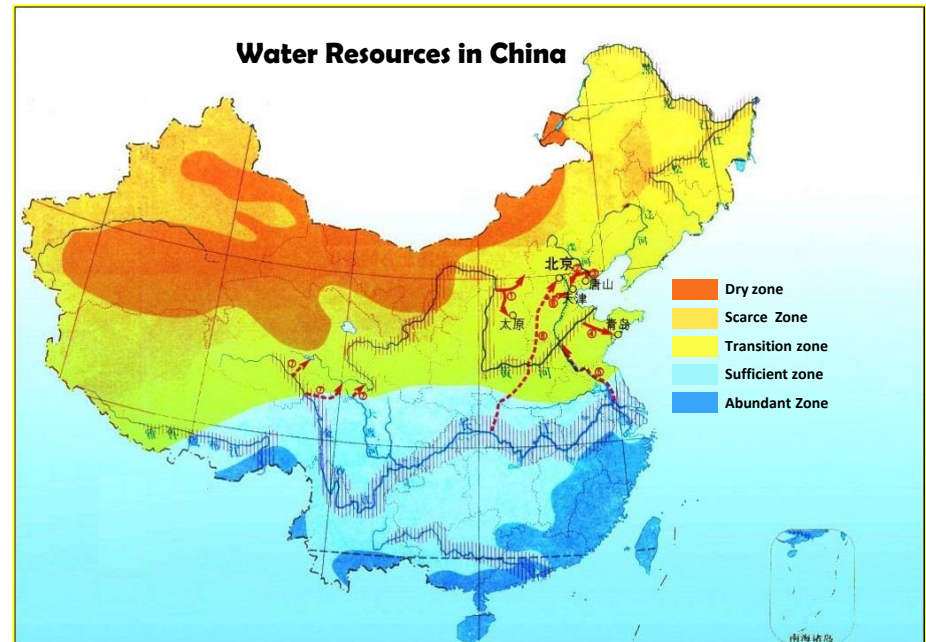
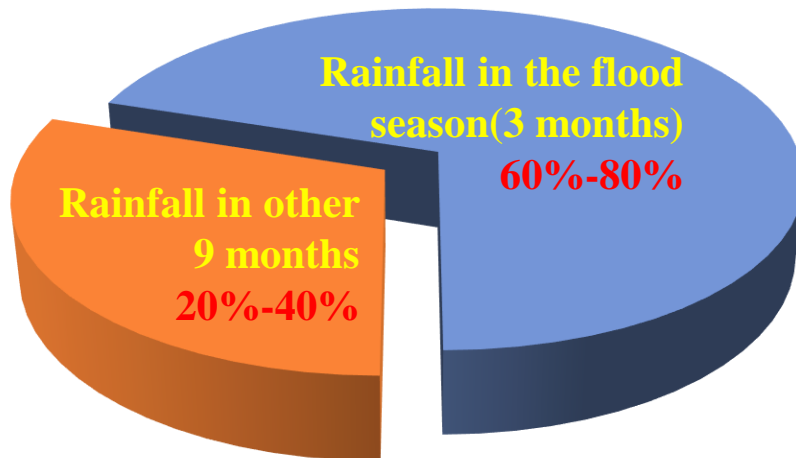
ii. Uneven temporal and spatial distribution of water resources



60-80% of precipitation and river runoff is concentrated in the flood season.



Precipitation amounts decline dramatically from southeast to northwest.



Distribution of water resources in China

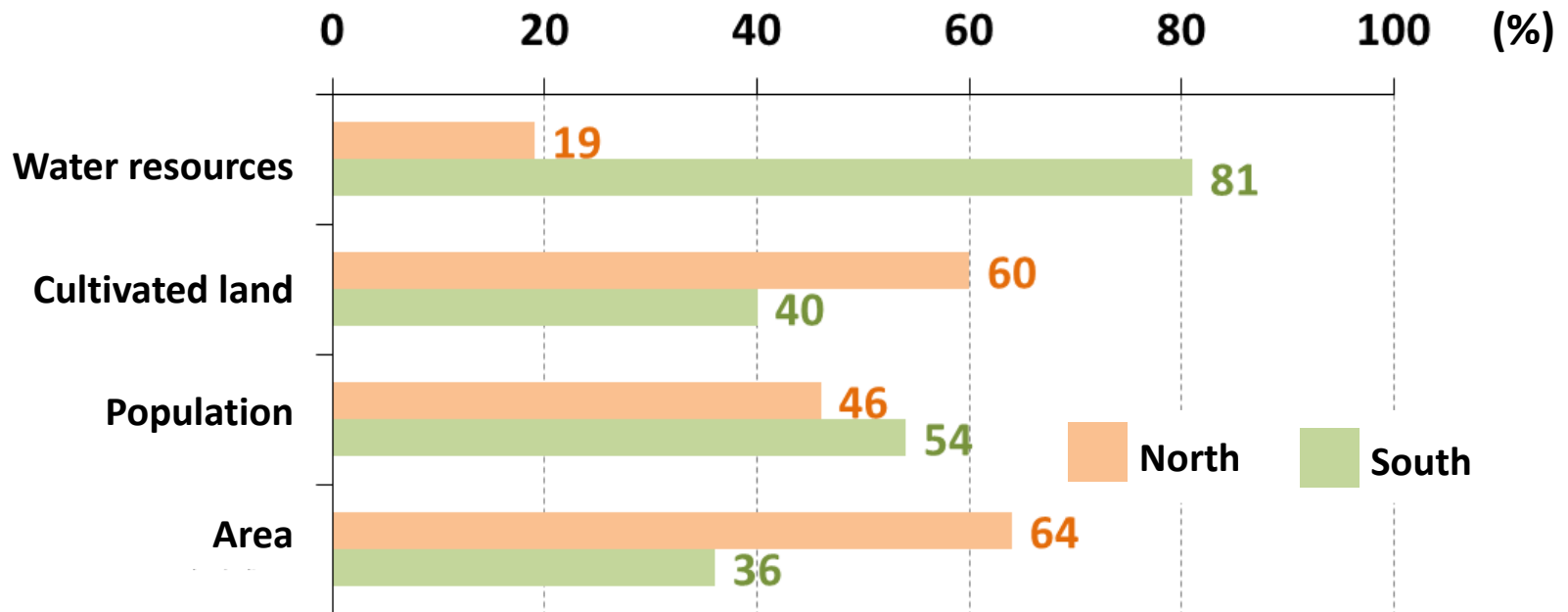
iii. Mismatch between water availability and sites of economic productivity



More cultivated land and less water resources in northern areas .



Less cultivated land and more water resources in southern areas



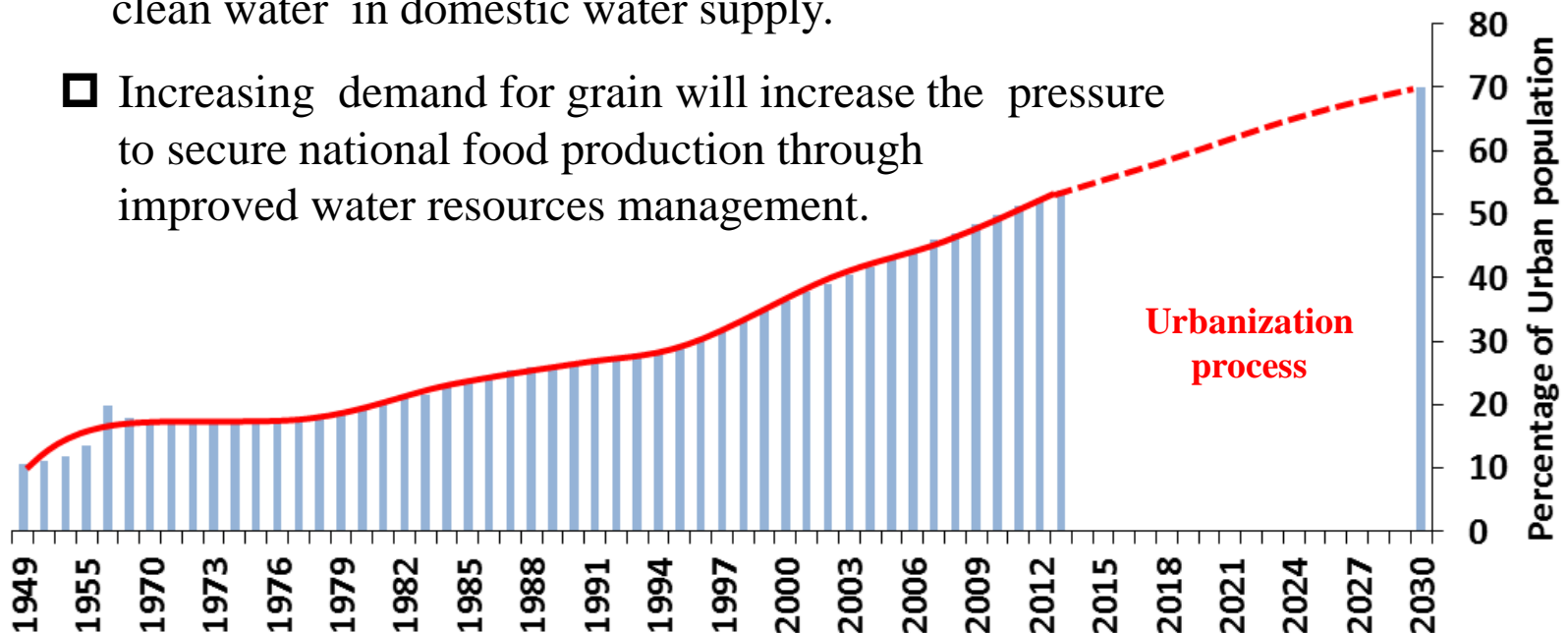
iv. Increasing water shortage puts huge pressure on water supply security

Since 1997, national water consumption has been slowly increasing.

In 2013 it was **618.35 billion m³**

This is close to the control target by 2015: **635 billion m³**.

- ❑ Rapid urbanization will result in **70%** of China's population being urban by 2030, and there will be more demand for consumption of clean water in domestic water supply.
- ❑ Increasing demand for grain will increase the pressure to secure national food production through improved water resources management.



The Third Big Issue

3. Serious Water Pollution Treatment Challenges

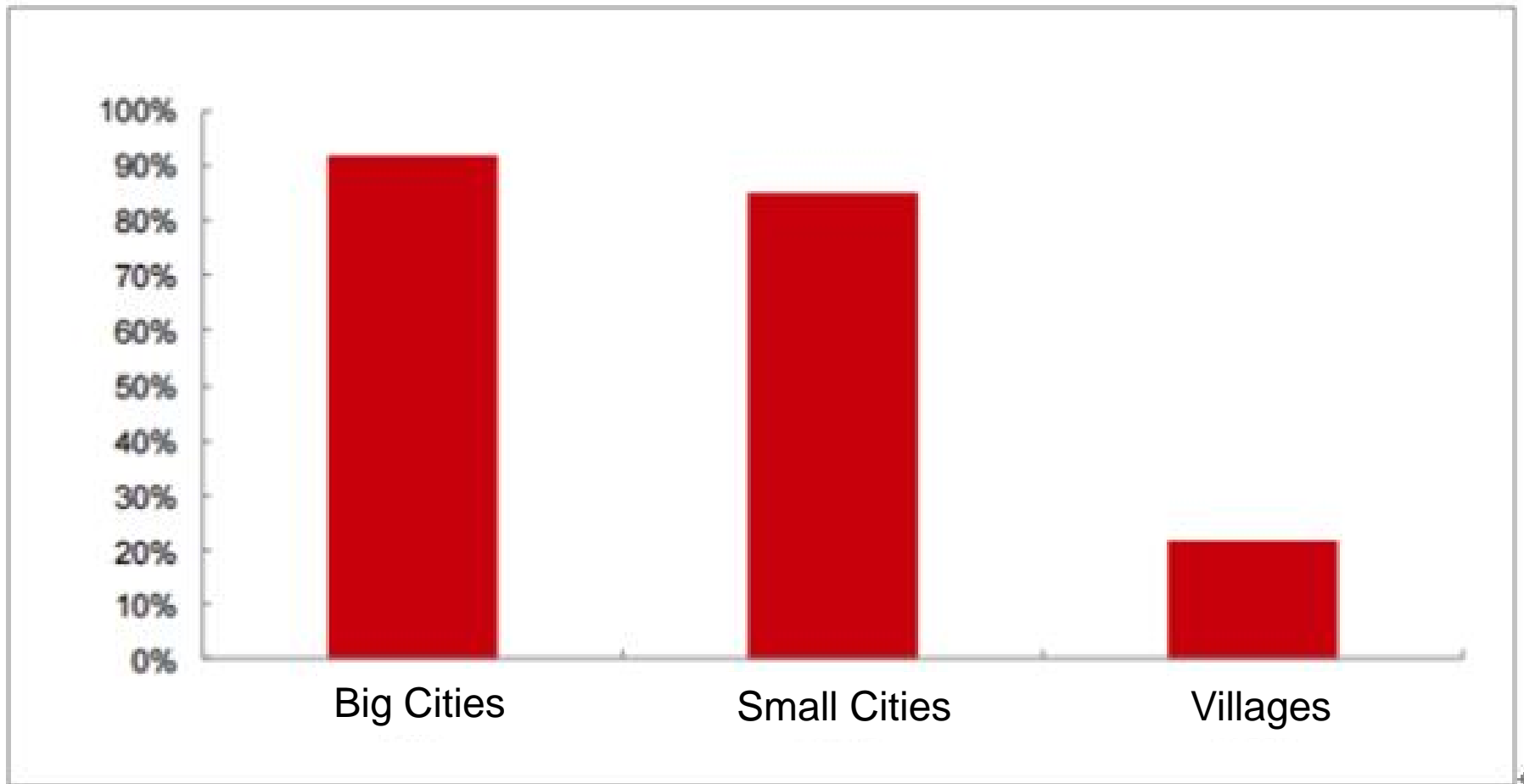
Sub Issues

ij

A high risk exists of groundwater pollution

iii

Waste Water Treatment Capacity is limited in small towns and villages



The waste water treatment rate was only 22% in 2015

The Fourth Big Issue

4. Severe Damage to Aquatic Ecology

Sub Issues

i

Serious soil erosion damages aquatic ecology

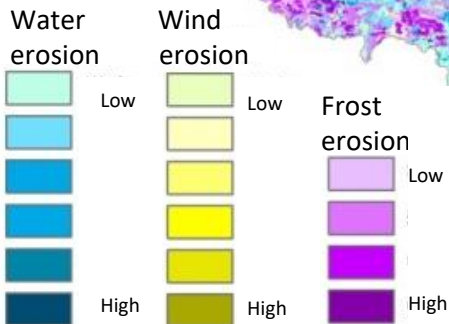
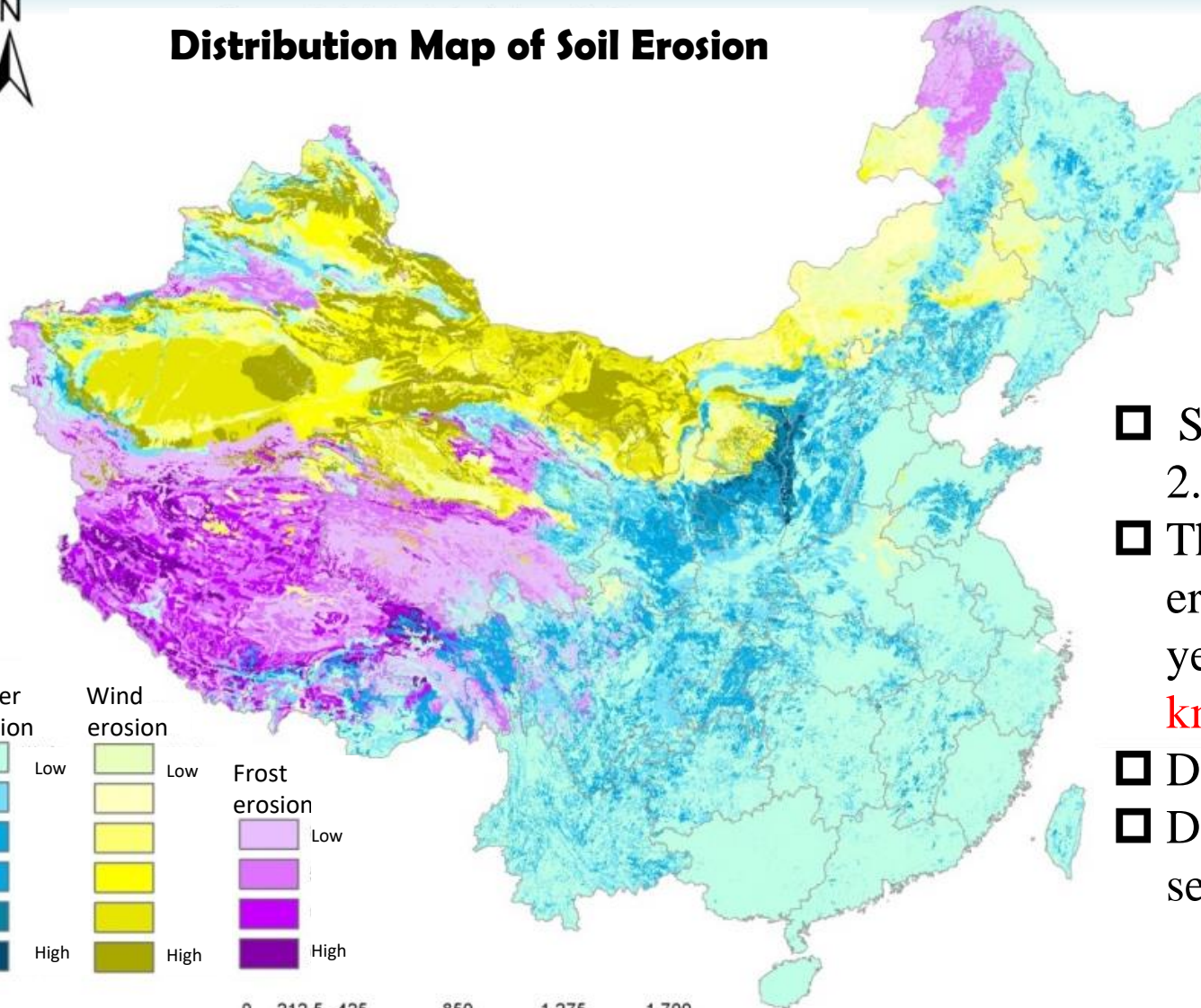
ii

Lake and wetland areas are in decline

i. Serious soil erosion damages aquatic ecology



Distribution Map of Soil Erosion



- ❑ Soil losses occur over 2.95 million km².
- ❑ The area with soil erosion increases each year by over 10,000 km², or 4.5 bn tons
- ❑ Declining soil fertility
- ❑ Desertification and sedimentation.

ii. Lake and wetland areas are in decline



- ❑ 200 lakes larger than 10 km² are **shrinking**
- ❑ **Wetland** area has **declined** by nearly 90,000 km² since 1990



Part II

Six key **O**bjectives for the Future

Main Overall Thoughts

- Over-arching principles
 - **Necessity for Innovation, Coordination, Green, Open and Sharing**
- Guidance for developing the Water Sector
 - **Priority for Saving Water, Equitable Water Distribution, Integrated Governance, Combining Government Initiatives with Market Drivers**

**One
General
Aim**

Comprehensively improve Water Security

Build a Water-Saving Society

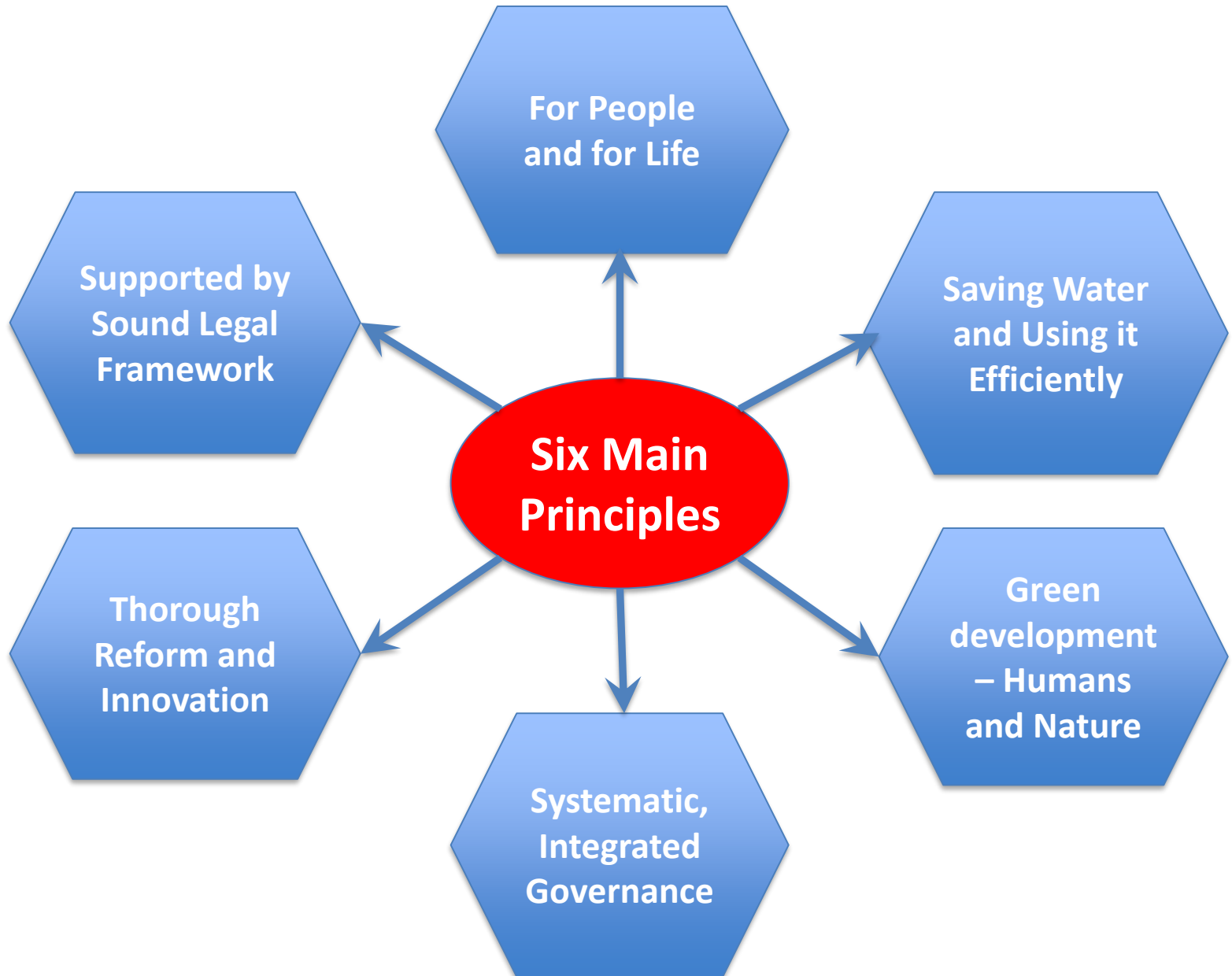
Develop a Sound Water Management System

Protect and Restore Water Eco-Environmental Systems

Develop a Networked Water Infrastructure

**Key
Areas**

6 Main Principles



6 Main General Objectives

By 2020, build an Integrated Water Development System to support Social, Economic and Environmental Development, underpinned by National Water Security

- Build a Command-and-Control System for Flood Control and Drought Relief.
- Limit Total Annual National Water Use to **670 billion** m³.
- Improve the Volume of Water Supply to **27 billion** m³.
- Build or renovate **434** Large-Scale Farmland Irrigation Schemes.
- Ensure that **80%** of National Rivers and Lakes Exceed Water Quality Standards.
- Build a complete, Integrated Water Management System

16 Main Specific Targets

Flood loss rate
per year %

- <0.6

Drought loss
rate per year %

- <0.8

Volume of total
water use per
year billion m³

- <670

Water use per
10000 yuan
GDP

- <23

Industry Water
Use Decrease %

- 20

Efficiency
coefficient in
irrigation

- 0.55

Water supply
ability billion
m³

- 27

Rural tap
water
penetration
rate %

- 80

16 Main Specific Targets

water
concentration
supply for rural
pop %

• 85

Additional
efficient farm
irrigation
(10000mu)

• 3000

Additional
water-saving
on irrigated
farmland
(10000 mu)

• 10000

Additional
Small (1000
Kw.h) Hydro-
power schemes

• 500

New area for
soil and water
conservation
(10000 km²)

• 27

Irrigation water
use metrical
rate %

• 70

City and
Industry water
use metering
rate %

• 85

Water quality
reaching
standard rate %

• 80



Part III

Four Main Water Innovation Priorities

Main Innovation Priority Areas

1

Prioritizing water conservation, and building a comprehensive water-saving society

2

Flood Control & Disaster Mitigation

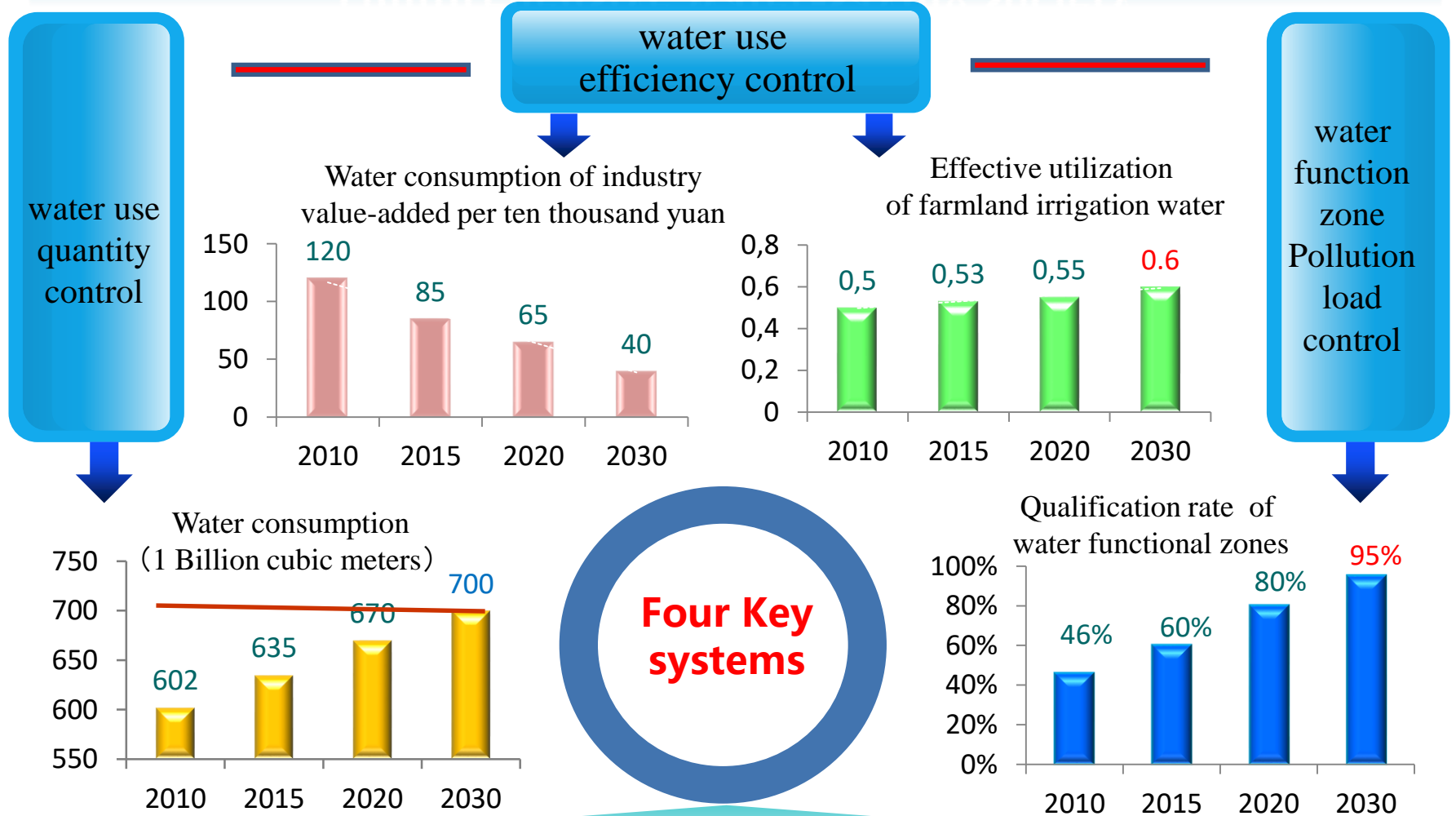
3

Water Supply Guarantee System

4

Protection and Restoration of Aquatic Ecology

1. Prioritizing water conservation, and building a comprehensive water-saving society



- Total water quantity control system
- Efficiency control system
- Pollution discharge control system
- Responsibility and appraisal system

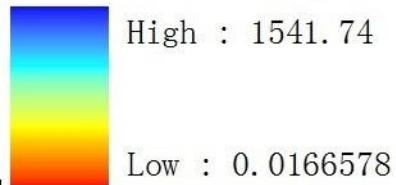
➤ Major agricultural water-saving projects

Saving water and increasing food production in the northeast

Saving water and limiting exploitation in the northwest

Saving water and increasing use efficiency in the north

Saving water and reducing water losses in the south



2. Flood Control & Disaster Mitigation



Structural measures

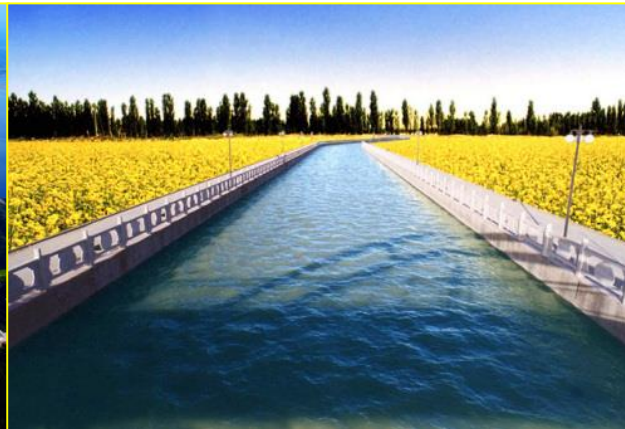
- ❑ New river embankment technology - more Environmentally-sound and Socially-acceptable
- ❑ Building “Sponge Cities”

Non-structural measures

- ❑ Early warning system, decision support system.
- ❑ Emergency plan system for prevention and control of water disasters.
- ❑ Flood and Drought Disaster Risk Management.

3. Water Supply Guarantee System

- (i) Networked connection of rivers, lakes and reservoirs**
- (ii) Irrigation for Food Security**
- (iii) Drinking Water Safety**



(i) Networked connection of rivers, lakes and reservoirs

- At the national level, to improve overall water allocation



(i) Networked connection of rivers, lakes and reservoirs

- **At the regional level, to enhance the capacity of regional water resources regulation**



Rivers and Lakes interconnection project in Jilin province



Six Lakes interconnection project in Hanyang

(i) Networked connection of rivers, lakes and reservoirs

- **At the project level, to improve the level of the full scientific scheduling.**

To give full play to the comprehensive functions of **economic development, flood control, water supply, river and lake management, water resource allocation, and restoration of the water ecological environment** in connection projects designed to improve sustainable water utilization and its role for supporting sustainable development.



(ii) Irrigation for Food Security



- ❑ Irrigation water meters and supervision systems

- ❑ Effective, economic and sustainable irrigation techniques.
- ❑ Safe grey and waste water reuse and recycling techniques



(ii) Irrigation for Food Security

➤ Major irrigation areas

To construct a series of new water-saving, ecologically-friendly irrigation districts in the north-east plain, the upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze river, and in other areas with good soil and water conditions.



(iii) Drinking Water Safety

Rural Drinking Water Safety



- ❑ Rapid detection instruments for drinking water quality
- ❑ Centralized water supply infrastructure
- ❑ Anti-leak taps and other domestic water-saving equipment
- ❑ Improved drinking water supply in rural mountain areas
- ❑ Safe, efficient and economic drinking water treatment techniques
- ❑ Portable, small-scale drinking water treatment equipment

(iii) Drinking Water Safety

Water Source Protection

Strengthening strategic
water source reserves

Sea water desalination

Safety guarantee system
of water supply

Rational
layout

Reliable
water source

Good-quality
water

4. Water Ecological Protection and Restoration

- ❑ Comprehensive protection techniques
- ❑ Biological and ecological monitoring and assessment.
- ❑ Urban green and blue corridors



Strengthening ecological restoration, promoting water ecological progress

groundwater protection

define “exploitation-free areas” and “limited exploitation areas” for groundwater, to achieve a dynamic balance of groundwater resources

management of water environment

promote “sponge homes” and “sponge cities”; promote the development and conservation of “natural landscapes” .

water conservation

strengthen the protection of ecologically fragile areas, water conservation areas, and river source areas

protection of lakes and rivers

protect lakes and rivers for ecological purposes, promote the rehabilitation of lakes and rivers

Part IV

Two Main Water Management Reforms

Overall Aims of Reform

To solve China's complex water issues needs **both**
(i) Technological and Engineering measures (Hard Measures)
and also

(ii) Reform of Policies, Institutions and Management (Soft Measures).

An additional core reform lies in learning how to handle the relationship between Government and Society.

◆ Reinforcing Water Scientific and Technological Innovation

◆ Deepening water management practices; Institutional reform

- Take full advantage of the power of Society
- Improve the performance of Government



Water Resources **CHOIR** in China

4 **C**hallenges

Floods and Droughts

Water Shortage

Water Pollution

Water Ecology

6 Main **O**bjectives

Flood Control and Drought Relief.

Total Water Use

WaterSupply

Large-scale Irrigation Farmland

Water quality

Sound Water Management System

Water-saving society

Flood Control & Disaster Mitigation

Water Supply Guarantee System

Water Ecological Protection

4 **W**ater
Innovation
Priorities

2 **W**ater **R**eforms



Thank for Your Attention!