

25% water productivity

Keywords are:

water scarcity, water allocation, water productivity, target setting, satellite information

Description

In the field of water, the Netherlands has committed itself to the objective of achieving a 25% water productivity improvement in its water agricultural development projects.

To this end, the Netherlands introduces the indicator of water productivity (WP): The amount of agricultural production per unit of water. To make management and monitoring concrete, NL has launched an initiative together with FAO to develop a WP database using satellite information to monitor this WP and to make data accessible to everyone via the database WAPOR. WAPOR is now online in Africa and the Middle East with the intention that it will be rolled out globally in the future.

Farmers as well as policy makers can use these data free of charge. From 2018 onwards, the WP will be the basis for the [annual reporting to the Dutch Parliament using satellite data](#). The Netherlands has chosen within the WP to focus on the production and water consumption of the main staple crops maize, wheat and rice. The ambition is that not only on systematic improvement of water productivity improvement is used in projects with a Dutch financed programmes, but that in the worldwide agriculture more attention is paid to producing with less water. This will serve food security but also make water available for other users and functions. In particular for countries that today and in future will experience an increasing pressure on water because of population growth and climate change, evidence-based data on water use for policy decisions on choices to decide on allocation to functions is a prerequisite. WAPOR will therefore contribute to the implementation of SDG 6.4

The Netherlands is the first country with a target on water efficiency. In order to manage the water resources worldwide it would be an asset if all country would agree on a target. If so, with the help of remote sensing the water use could be measured and subsequently water allocation and water use could be managed.

The Netherlands is now reviewing her nexus water food projects by using the WAPOR to review how water was used since 2009. For selected projects implemented through bilateral assistance plus through international organizations such as ICRAF etc. will be analyzed. Not only the project but also the land and water productivity is monitored. This allows to compare between project and the national performance and between projects and regions. Moreover the projects will be guided to improve land and water productivity.

The first results are being made public and will be presented during the stockholm waterweek.