

# Private Sector Engagement with Agricultural Suppliers to Improve Water and Ecosystems



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World Water Week  
August 26, 2018



# Private Sector Engagement with Agricultural Suppliers

## *Why and how*

- The challenge
  - Companies with agricultural supply chains face growing business risks
  - How to most effectively mitigate these risks through supplier engagement?
- Three modes of engagement
  - Direct engagement
    - Agricultural sustainability standards addressing social & environmental practices
  - Supply chain partnerships and collaborations
    - Typically crop-focused
    - A variety of SDGs addressed
  - Agricultural initiatives in source watersheds
    - Market-based investments supporting sustainability of local water resource



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## *Observations/Challenges*

- Water issues and responses vary by commodity type, location, level in supply chain and corporate culture
- Supply chain engagement is rarely limited to water
- Need for better integration of water stewardship concepts into agricultural standards
- Opportunities for positive engagement are greatest when companies have developed direct long-term relationships
- Long-term and large-scale investments are needed to scale up and contribute to lasting change

