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Water for food security and nutrition

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Reflection 1

- Political economies are key
 - Structure available water, access and use
 - Embedded power structures (soft, hard/formal informal) can determine outcomes for production and consumption
 - Nearly all water is governed by complex political economies at different scales
 - Growing global relationships between international trade and local markets for production and consumption
 - Influence of regional integration



Reflection 2

- Farmer behaviour is central to outcomes
 - HLPE report rightly highlights the critical smallholder contribution to global food production
 - But farmer relationships to ecosystems and the services they provide are mediated by a range of influences shaping perceptions and decision-making behaviour
 - Gender and power relations are critical parts of this relationship and shape decision making behaviour(s)
 - Central to wider challenges involved in addressing the reluctance of young people to engage in farming in many developing country contexts
 - Shift from natural capital to cash-driven economies



Reflection 3

- Agricultural systems are not bounded geographies
 - Behaviours affected by knowledge systems, perceptions of market behaviour, and individual and group perceptions of risk and vulnerability
 - Challenge of knowledge generation and sharing requiring new knowledge development and systems of peer-to-peer uptake



Towards Water Smart Agriculture

In its simplest sense, Water Smart Agriculture *is an approach to farming that balances water availability, access and use across the range of water sources, and according to principles of socio-economic, environmental and technical sustainability. It seeks to maximize returns whilst protecting environmental flows and ensuring equality within farming systems.*



