



# Water and water use

for a sustainable agriculture



## Brain Storming

What are the biggest challenges in your country in terms of water for sustainable agriculture?



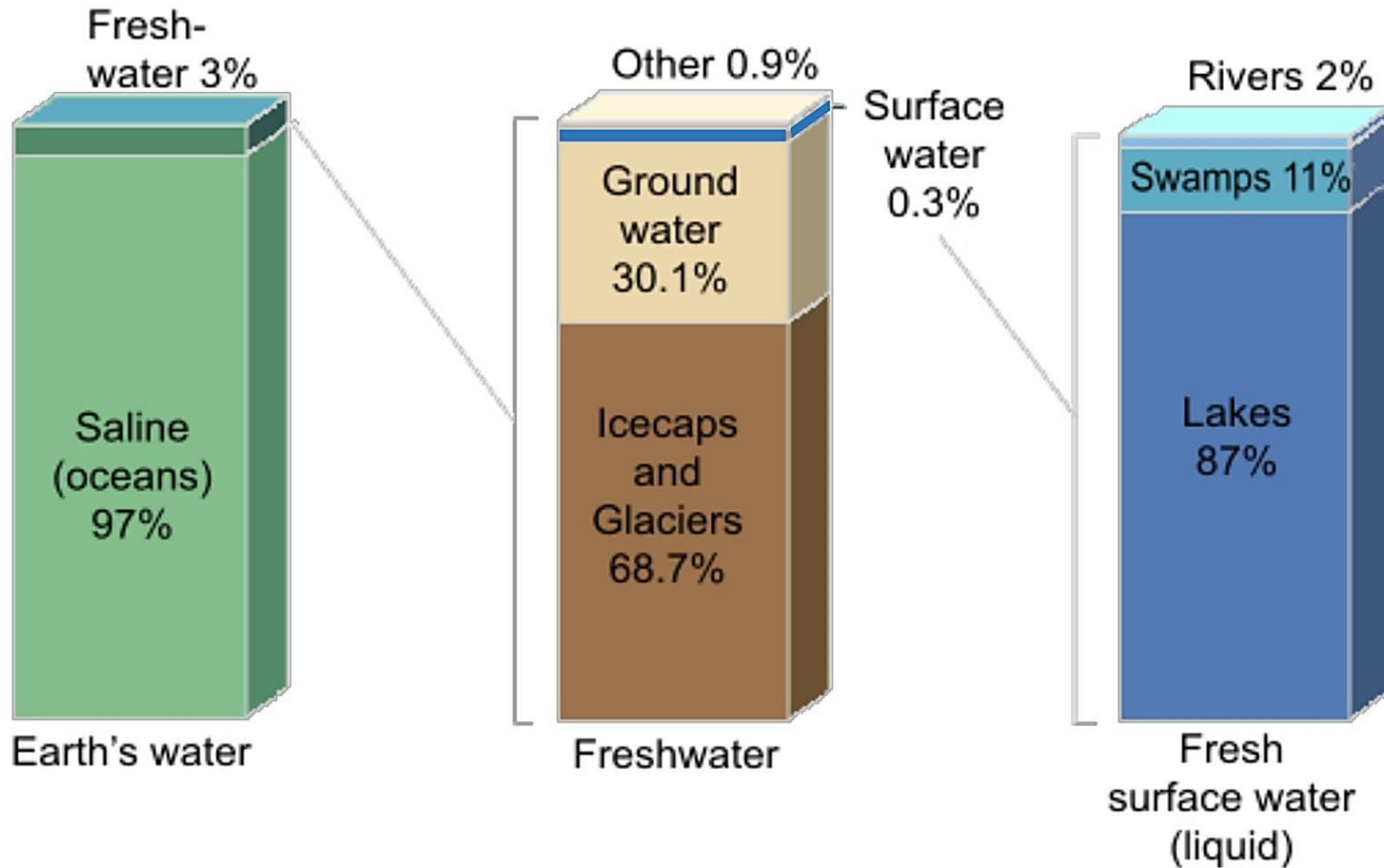
## Learning Objectives:

- Identify different water sources for agriculture
- Familiarize the types of irrigation system
- Enumerate some methods on increasing soil infiltration and methods on soil movement reduction
- Identify the linkage between water grabbing and land rights
- Identify the contributory factors on water stress and water pollution



David Melden / WMI

# Distribution of Earth's Water

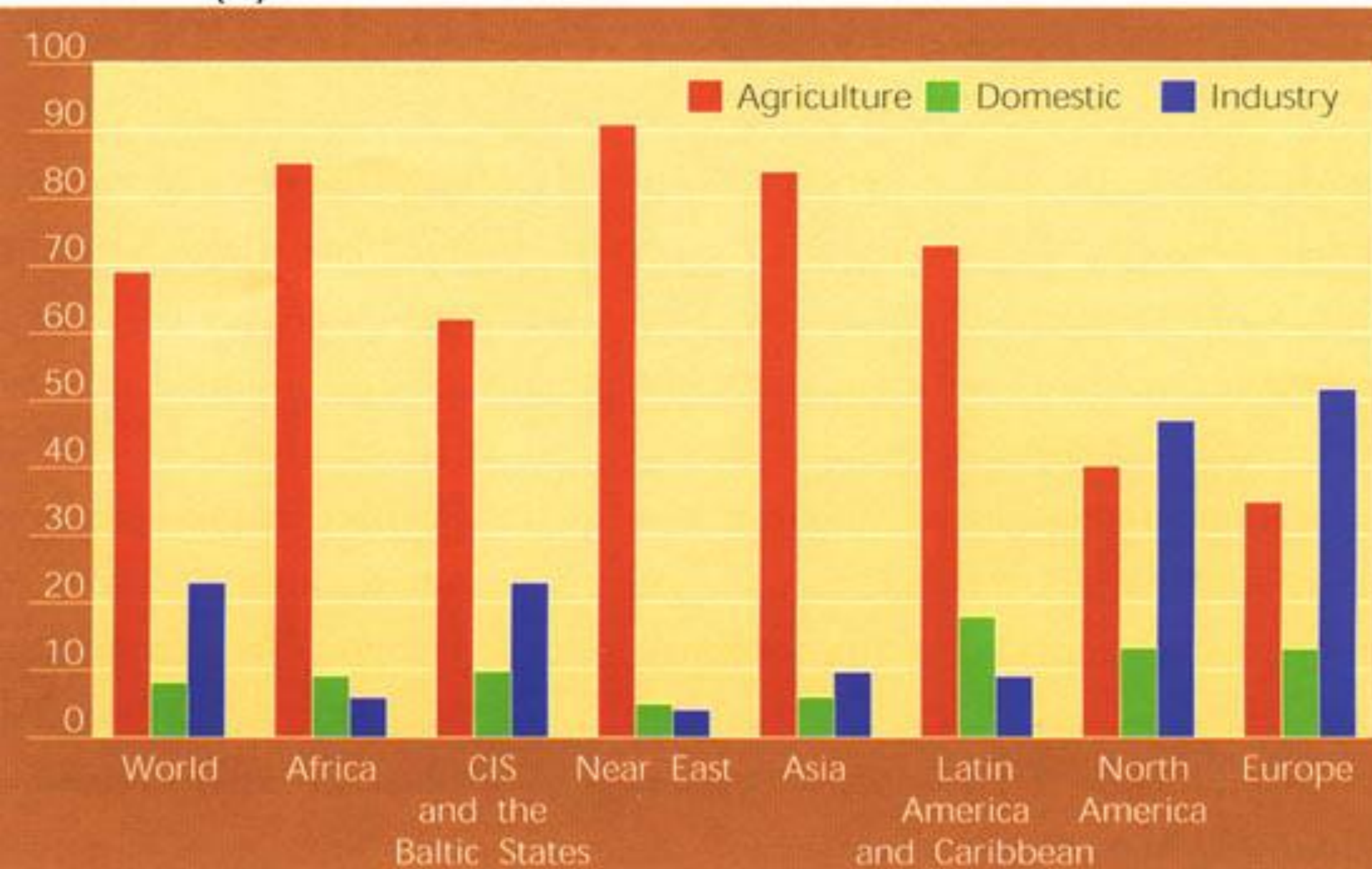


Source: Gleick, P. H., 1996: Water resources. In Encyclopedia of Climate and Weather, ed. by S. H. Schneider, Oxford University Press, New York, vol. 2



# Water withdrawals by region and by sector

Withdrawals (%)





# Our Water Footprint



## How Much Water does it take to Produce...

1 Litre Tap Water



1 Litre

1 Litre  
Bottled Water



5 Litres

1 Cup Tea



30 Litres

1 Cup Coffee



140 Litres

1 Kg Corn



900 Litres

1 Kg Wheat



1300 Litres

1 Kg Soybeans



1800 Litres

1 Loaf Bread



960 Litres

1 Whole Orange



50 Litres

1 Glass Orange Jc



170 Litres

1 Whole Apple



70 Litres

1 Glass Apple Jc



190 Litres

1 Dozen Eggs



2400 Litres

1 Kg Chicken Meat



3900 Litres

1 Kg Pork



4800 Litres

1 Kg Beef



15,500 Litres

Choose more often to **DRINK TAP WATER**, **EAT WHOLE UNPROCESSED FOODS**  
and reduce your carbon footprint by **BUYING LOCAL PRODUCTS**

Visit [www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org) to learn more

supported by





## World Average on Virtual Water Content of Products:

| PRODUCT                          | Amount of water<br>used to produce 1-<br>kg (in liters) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b><i>Livestock Products</i></b> |   |
| Beef (boneless)                  | 15,497  |
| Pig meat                         | 4,856   |
| Sheep meat                       | 6,143   |
| Chicken meat                     | 3,918   |
| Eggs                             | 3,340   |

| PRODUCT                      | Amount of water used<br>to produce 1-kg<br>(in liters) |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>Plant Products</i></b> |  |
| Rice (paddy)                 | 2,291  |
| Maize (corn)                 | 909  |
| Wheat                        | 1,334  |
| Soy beans                    | 1,789  |



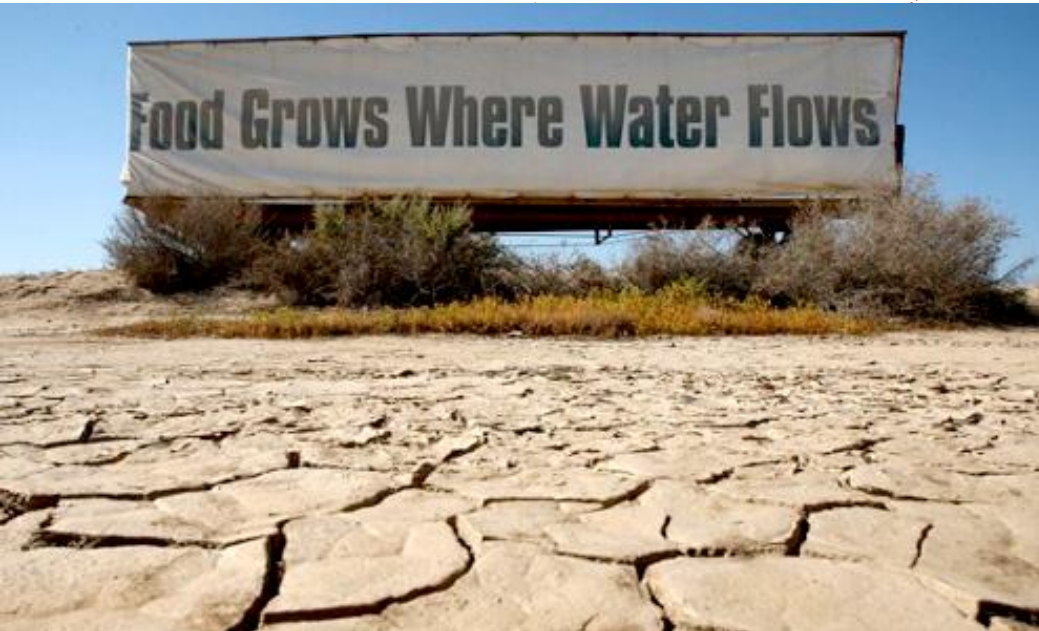
## Global physical and economic water scarcity



**Already by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two thirds of the world population could live under water stress conditions.**

(UN Water, 2013)

Source: World Water Development Report 4, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), March 2012



## The Challenge

Source: <http://ecowatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/droughtFI.jpg>

How to **reduce** withdrawals from water resources for agriculture while at the same time increasing agricultural production and maintaining essential environmental flows?

In other words:

How to promote **sustainable** enhancement of **systemic water productivity in agriculture**: on the field and in the water catchments?



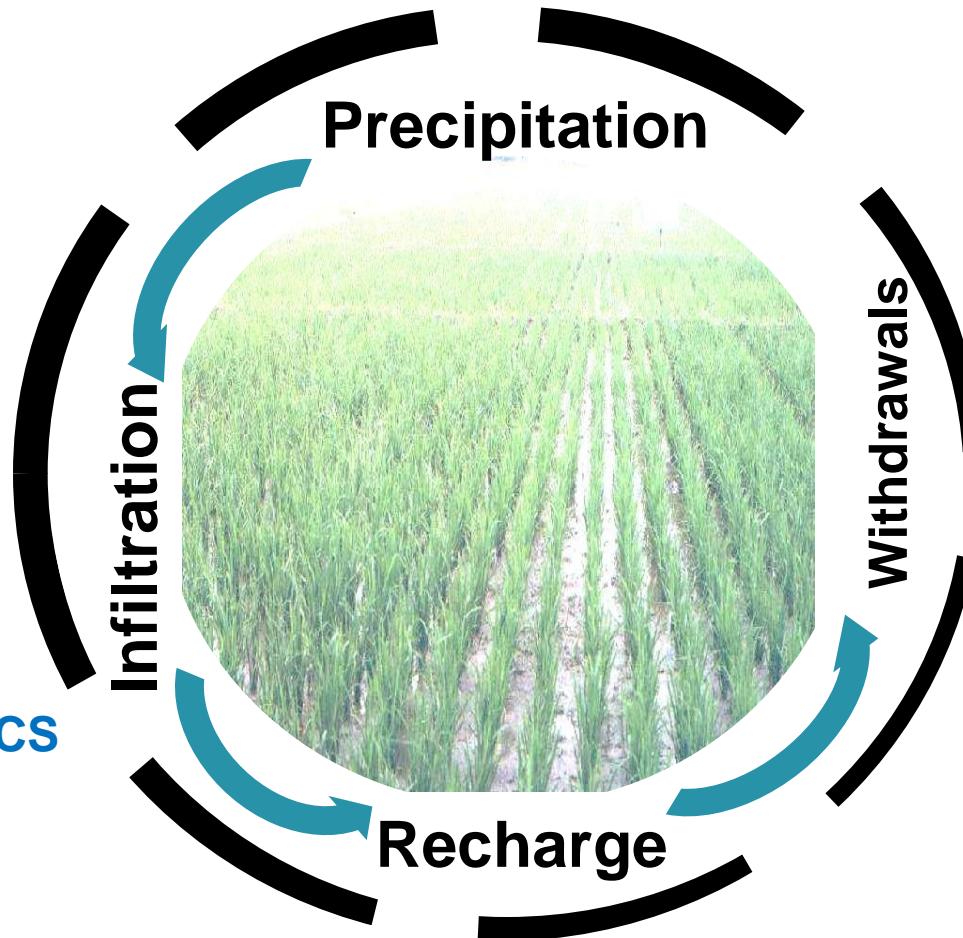
# Water Balance

## CLIMATE

precipitation  
temperature  
humidity  
evaporation  
transpiration

## DEMAND & OTHER OUTFLOWS

population dynamics  
water price  
pumping rate  
natural discharge



## SUB-SURFACE CHARACTERISTICS

rock types  
hydraulic properties  
aquifer storage

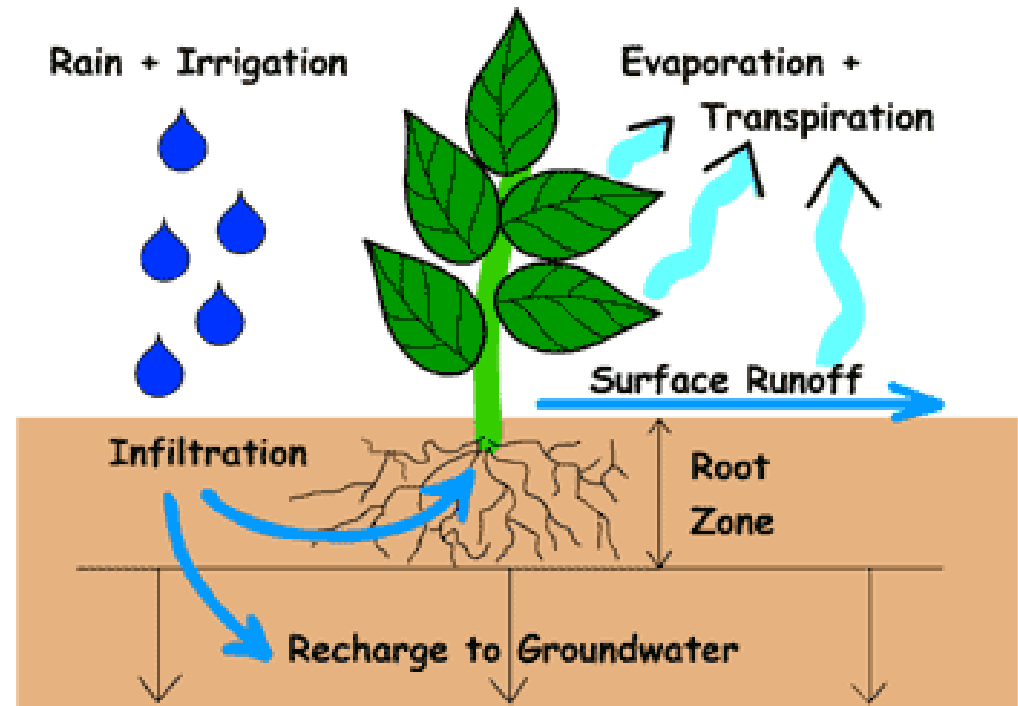
## LAND SURFACE CHARACTERISTICS

soil types  
soil moisture  
land use  
catchment areas  
streams  
runoff



## Crop water need

“[...] The crop water need (ET crop) is defined as the depth (or amount) of water needed to meet the water loss through evapotranspiration. In other words, it is the **amount of water needed by the various crops to grow optimally**[...]”



**ET crop = crop evapotranspiration = crop water need**

Source: <https://lulima.hawaii.edu/access/content/group/>





## Typical sources of agricultural water:

- Surface water
  - Rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches
  - Open canals
  - Impounded water such as ponds, reservoirs, and lakes







## Typical sources of agricultural water:

- Groundwater from wells
- Rain Water
- Locally collected water such as in cisterns and rain barrels



Source: Bureau of Soils and Water Management, 2010



Source: <http://gptsolar.in/index.php/solar-water-pumping-system-description/>



Source: <http://www.worldwatch.org/looming-threat-water-scarcity-0>



16,000 Liters  
Capacity





# Types of irrigation systems

- Surface irrigation
- Subsurface irrigation
- Sprinkler irrigation
- Drip irrigation

Depending on

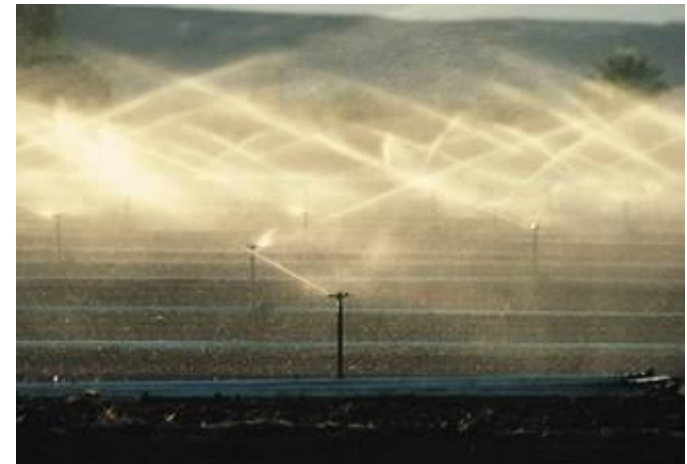
➤ Natural conditions

➤ Type of crop

➤ Type of technology

➤ Previous experience  
with irrigation

➤ Required labor  
inputs  
costs and benefits



Source: <http://nrcca.cals.cornell.edu/soil/CA3/CA0324.php>



# Drip irrigation

Plastic bottles – simple and very efficient

Low cost systems



Photo Source: Mr. Elnard Ympal, 2016



© Teca/FAO adapted from Agromisa 2002



Source: Bureau of Soils and Water Management, 2011



# Soil and water conservation (SWC) – main points

## Technical principles of conservation

- Reduce erosive power of rain drops by keeping the soil covered
- Fight erosion at its source and retain water where it falls (facilitate infiltration)
- Reduce speed of water flowing down slopes with constructions

## Organizational aspects

- SWC requires a collective action
- Catchment approach and village land-use planning

## Institutional support







# Increasing the infiltration

## Contour trenches



Source: <http://iasmania.com/soils-in-india/>

## Semi-circular bunds



Source: <http://www.slideshare.net/ifad/1-dr-oweis-ifad-retreat-oct09>

## Circular bunds



© Teca/FAO adapted from Agromisa 2002

## Plant pits with mulch



Source: <https://themicrogardener.com/20-reasons-why-you-should-mulch-your-garden/>



# Reduce movement of water

## Contour cropping



Photo Source: Cristino Villamor, 2016

## Mulching



Source: <http://tallcloverfarm.com/11898/shredded-paper-as-garden-mulch>

## Terracing



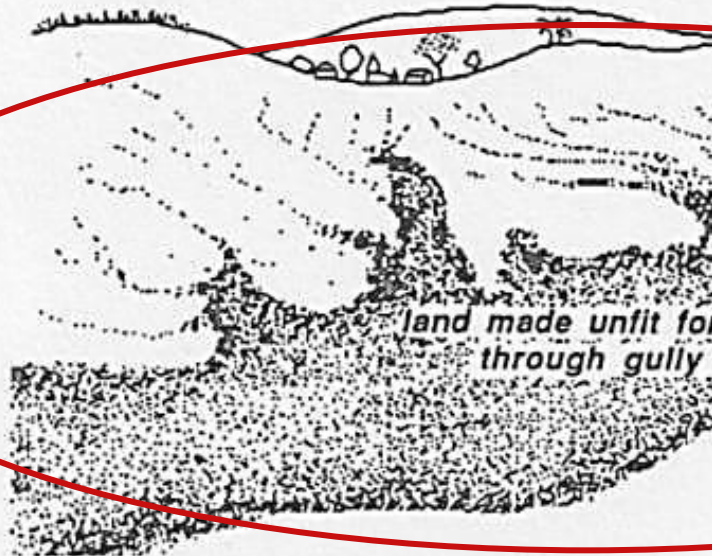
Source: <http://travelercorner.com/banaue-rice-terraces/>



### First year



### Fourth year



- Gully erosion makes its way upwards along the slopes of the channels, widening them as it goes and gradually destroying the arable land.





# WATER STRESS

Increase in Population

Power

water evaporation from reservoirs of  
large hydro power projects

Industry

Increase demand  
for goods

Agriculture

People require  
food to eat

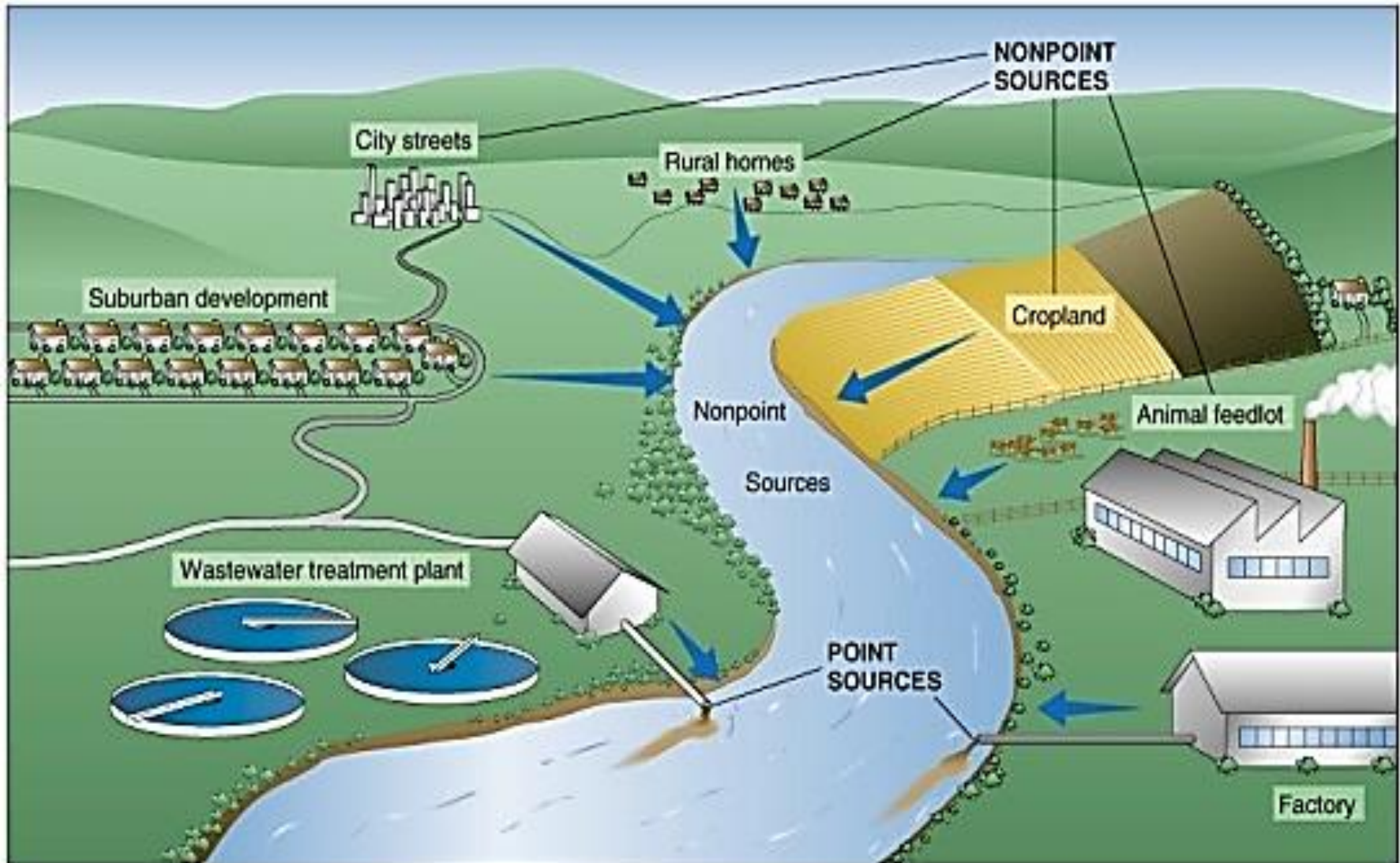
Every item  
that we use needs  
water for production



**Domestic**  
bathing, flushing, washing,  
cooking, drinking...



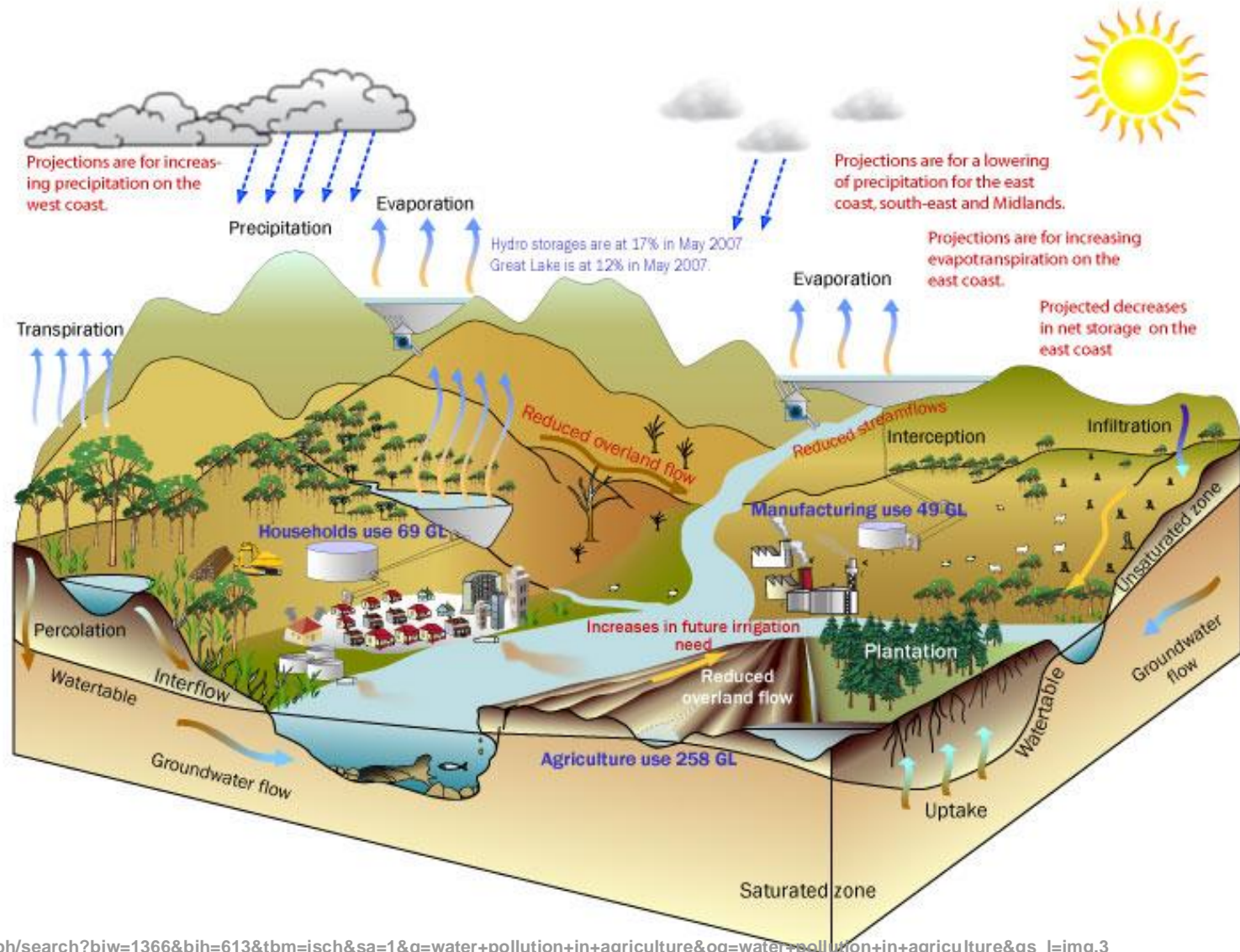
# Water pollution







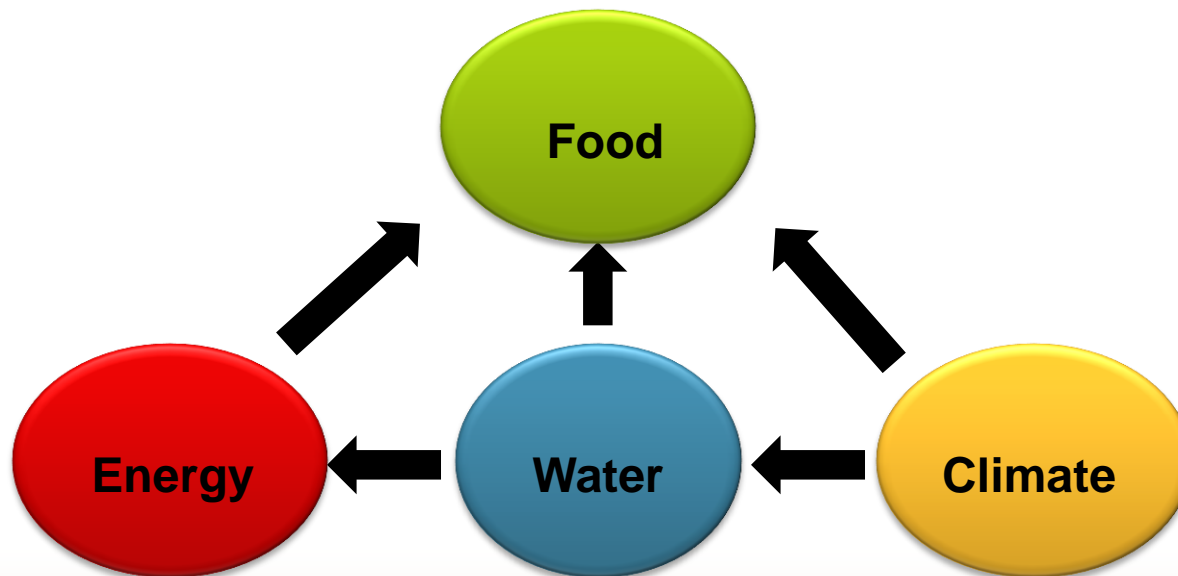
# 2025 Scenario





## Keywords as a summary

- The nexus: water – energy – food/fibre (agriculture)
- Water scarcity **calls for** water efficiency
- Water harvesting **and** Water storage **becomes important**
- **Agriculture depends on** Water quality **but also** pollutes





“Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel Prizes – one for peace and one for science”

John F Kennedy

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE  
**AGRICULTURE**





# Thank you!

On behalf of



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



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**Published 2016 by  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
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On behalf of



Federal Ministry  
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and Development