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International Workshop on Water Scarcity
Taking action in transboundary basins and reducing health impacts
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
11 December 2017
WATER SCARCITY: a global issue

4 billion people (66% of all people) lives under severe water scarcity for at least 1 month of the year. It affects all regions of the world.

Source: Mekonnen & Hoekstra, Univ. Twente, Feb 2016
Global Water Demand

Evolution of Global Water Use
Withdrawal and Consumption by Sector

Note: Domestic water consumption in developed countries (500-800 litres per person per day) is about six times greater than in developing countries (60-150 litres per person per day).
Agricultural Water Demand

Agriculture is responsible for 70% of water withdrawals worldwide.

That leaves 30% for everything else:
- Domestic
- Industries
- Electricity
- Environment

Source: Adapted from www.ceres.org/FoodWaterRisk
Challenges of the agricultural sector

- Growing population (mostly in cities) and changing diets
  - Need to increase and improve (nutritious) food production

- Cause and casualty of climate change and climate variability
  - Mitigation and adaptation measures required

- Increased competition for scarce resources
  - More crop per drop
Priorities

- **Agenda 2030** and the Sustainable Development Goals 2, 6, 12, 13 and 15
- **Climate Change agenda** in agriculture: 77% of countries include water scarcity in their NDCs
- Other **country priorities** (drought management, water and migration, waste water, etc)

Water scarcity = an entry point to address agriculture adaptation in the context of climate change
WASAG BACKGROUND

**October 2016**
Endorsed by the Summit of Water Ministers at the Second World Irrigation Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**November 2016**
The Global Framework on Water Scarcity was officially launched during the UNCCC COP22 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

**January 2017**
Endorsed by 83 Ministers of Agriculture during the 9th Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Conference at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), and the G20.

**September 2017**
Endorsed by the UNCCD COP 13 as a knowledge-sharing partnership to help countries develop their drought preparedness plans in Ordos, China.

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**WASAG**
The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

[WWW.FAO.ORG/OVERVIEW/WASAG]
VISION
A world whose food systems are secure and resilient to increasing water scarcity in a changing climate

MISSION
To support measurable, significant and sustainable progress on improving and adapting agricultural systems in conditions of increasing water scarcity and a changing climate, using the combined expertise and resources of the Partners
To urgently address the following important and relevant work areas at international and country levels:

- Advocating for political prioritization.
- Cooperating on work programmes.
- Sharing and disseminating knowledge and experience.
- Developing new or improved solutions.
- Promoting sustainable and integrated water resources management.
- Building capacity of Partners and countries and other Stakeholders.
- Contributing to consistent monitoring systems.
WASAG Working Groups

The working groups established during the 4th ISC meeting with the aim to focus the work of WASAG on emerging issues:

- Water and Migration
- Drought Preparedness
- Financing Mechanisms
- Water and Nutrition
- Transition to Sustainable Agricultural Water Use
“Together, we will be able to implement strategies to prevent water scarcity from setting us back in our ambitious vision of eradicating hunger, sustaining peace and leaving no one behind”

FAO Director-General - José Graziano da Silva

Webpage: www.fao.org/land-water/overview/WASAG

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