
ACHIEVE A WATER AND FOOD SECURE FUTURE

World Water Council and FAO seek global policies for sustainable use of water resources to meet 2050 food requirements

7th World Water Forum, Daegu, Republic of Korea, Tuesday 14 April, 2015: The World Water Council and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will today call for policies that will meet rising demands for food over the next 35 years and ensure that water is sustainably used to meet this demand.

The recommendations of the World Water Council and FAO will be set out in a white paper launched at the 7th World Water Forum. The white paper recognizes the likely scenario of food production needing to increase by 70 per cent by 2050 in order to feed an estimated global population of 9.1 billion. However, expanding food production is set to face threats from the impacts of climate change on crops and the competing uses of agricultural resources for food, fuel and transport. To meet these challenges, the World Water Council and FAO will assert food production and water policies must be integrated.

Actions, not words

To maintain sufficient food production policy makers will have to take into account interactions involving water as well as weather, pests, timing or the market value of agricultural output.

“Food and water security are inextricably linked. We believe that by developing local approaches and making the right investments, world leaders can ensure that there will sufficient water volume, quality and access to meet food security in 2050 and beyond,” said Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council.

“The essence of the challenge is to adopt programs that involve investments in longer-term returns, such as the rehabilitation of infrastructure. Agriculture has to follow the path of sustainability and not the one of immediate profitability,” added Mr. Braga.

“In an era of accelerated changes unparalleled to any in our past, our ability to provide adequate, safe and nutritious food sustainably and equitably is more relevant than ever. Water, as an irreplaceable element of achieving this end, is already under pressure by increasing demands from other uses, exacerbated by weak governance, inadequate capacities, and underinvestment,” said Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General (Knowledge) at the Food and Agriculture Organization.

“The prospects for the international community to achieve safe drinking water and sanitation for all and bring about food security for all are encouraging, but they cannot be achieved independently or in isolation from the broader development frameworks. This is the most opportune time to re-visit our public policies, investment frameworks, governance structures and institutions. We are entering the post-2015 development era and we should mark it with solid commitments,” added Ms Semedo.

The white paper will examine solutions that are available to address the challenges of water for food. Managing resources wisely will be critical according to the paper's authors. Economists often promote pricing as the best mechanism for saving water through behavioral changes. Farmers and households might use water more carefully if the cost was dissuasive. In areas where implementing higher prices is not feasible, public officials might consider implementing water allocation policies. Yet, public officials should also consider the quality of water services provided, as well as measures to increase efficiency, especially through new technologies.

How can we achieve a water and food secure future High Level Panel – Daegu, 14 April, 5:00 PM.

This White Paper will be launched in the 'How can we achieve a water and food secure future' High Level Panel of the 7th World Water Forum on Tuesday 14 April 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at EXCO, 3F Room 324, in the presence of Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Benedito Braga, President of World Water Council.

To receive the white paper, for interviews, photos, any other requests, please contact:

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About the World Water Council (WWC)

The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The World Water Council's mission is to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision making level, to facilitate the efficient conservation, protection, development, planning, management and use of water in all its dimensions on an environmentally sustainable basis for the benefit of all life on earth. The World Water Council, headquartered in Marseille, France, was created in 1996. It brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries.

www.worldwatercouncil.org

About FAO

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

FAO has three global goals: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Five strategic objectives frame the organization's work in helping its Members reach the goals they have established: ending hunger, sustainably producing and managing natural resources, reducing rural poverty, making food systems more efficient and inclusive, and building resilience.

An intergovernmental organization, FAO has 194 Member Nations, two associate members and one member organization, the European Union. Its employees come from various cultural backgrounds and are experts in the multiple fields of activity FAO engages in. FAO's staff capacity allows it to support improved governance inter alia, generate, develop and adapt existing tools and guidelines and provide targeted governance support, as a resource to country and regional level FAO offices. Headquartered in Rome, Italy, FAO is present in over 130 countries.

About the 7th World Water Forum

Necessitating two years of collaborative preparation with stakeholders from around the world, the 7th World Water Forum consists of 4 preparatory processes: Regional, Political, Thematic and Science and Technology, within a common framework, so as to catalyze collective action and positive change.

The 7th World Water Forum will also be composed of cultural events, side events, a water exhibition, and a Citizen's Forum, including a Youth and Children's Forum, to raise awareness around water issues. The 7th World Water Forum is jointly organized by the World Water Council and the Republic of Korea together with the city of Daegu and the Province of Gyeongbuk.

More information and updates are available online at: http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=413