



CROP WATER PRODUCTIVITY: CAN IT BE MONITORED?

World Water Week Stockholm, 23 August 2015, 16.00-17.30

The development of technology tools for achieving food security, especially in crop water usage goes faster and faster. One of these new tools is the use of near real-time available data on crop water productivity, obtained from satellite images. A database with global information on water productivity will be launched by the end of this year. The arising challenge is how food producers and policy makers are going to tackle and employ this database.

You can reap the benefits of this new water productivity database, as an entrepreneur or policymaker. Take this opportunity and come to the World Water Week in Stockholm on the 23rd of August at 4 pm.

Achieving food security in the future while using water resources in a sustainable manner will be a major challenge for us and the next generations. We will need to produce more crop per drop of water. The SDG on water (SDG 6) will very likely include a target on increasing water-use efficiencies in all sectors. Considering that the agricultural sector is a key water user and water availability and use will also impact SDG 2 on food security, careful monitoring of water productivity and exploring possible opportunities to increase it will be required. But how can we monitor the performance of water use in agriculture?

With support of the government of the Netherlands, FAO is developing a publicly accessible near real time database using satellite data that will allow monitoring of

World Water Week Stockholm, 23 August 2015, 16.00-17.30

crop water productivity. This database can be used to propose solutions to reduce water productivity gaps while taking into account ecosystems services and the equitable use of water resources. Eventually, the proposed solutions should lead to an overall reduction



Source: www.winesandvines.com

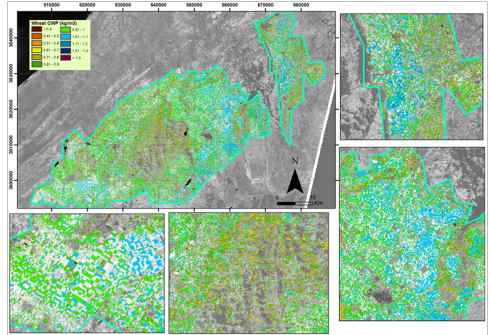
of water stress. The discussion will focus on the approach followed and to which extent the data generated can be used in practice by policy makers, water managers and farmers.

Furthermore, in order to develop a core-sub indicator for SDG 6.4, 'increase the water use efficiency', special satellite measurement

techniques make it nowadays feasible to determine key data on agricultural production.

The advantage with water productivity, rather than speaking in terms of water use efficiency, is that it can be converted into economic values, which can be compared on field, basin, national and global level.

With help of international investment parties, the water productivity values can be transferred into accessible information for farmers, agribusinesses and policymakers to increase yields and to decrease the water use.



Source: FAO, Land and Water Division (Natural Resources Department)



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

