



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Water Scarcity Initiative in the Near East and North Africa

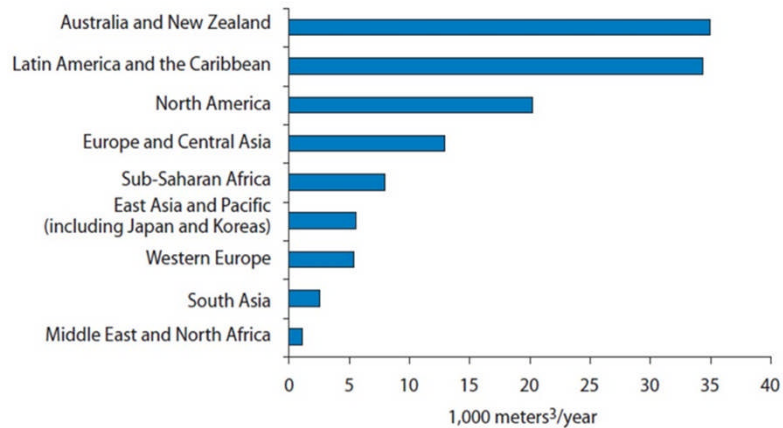
Maurice Saade
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6th Beirut Water Week

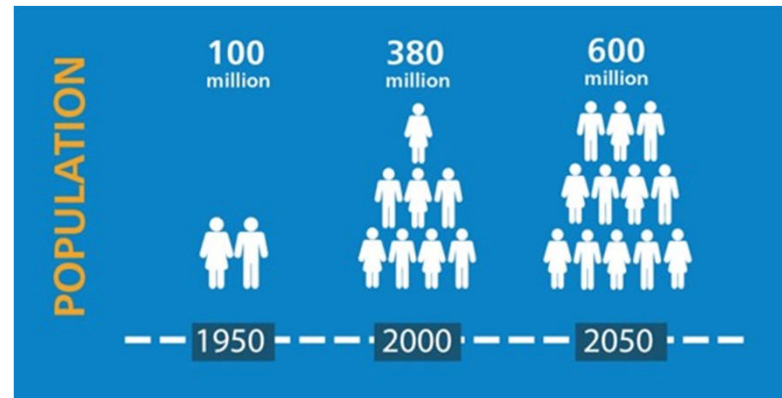
27 March 2017

Challenges for the Near East and North Africa

1 Water scarcity



2 Population growth

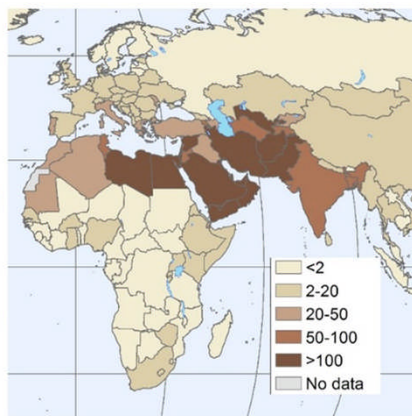


3 Ground water withdrawal

GCC countries depending 100% on groundwater irrigation

Since 1980s, Saudi Arabia have induced an estimated depletion of two thirds of the country's fossil water

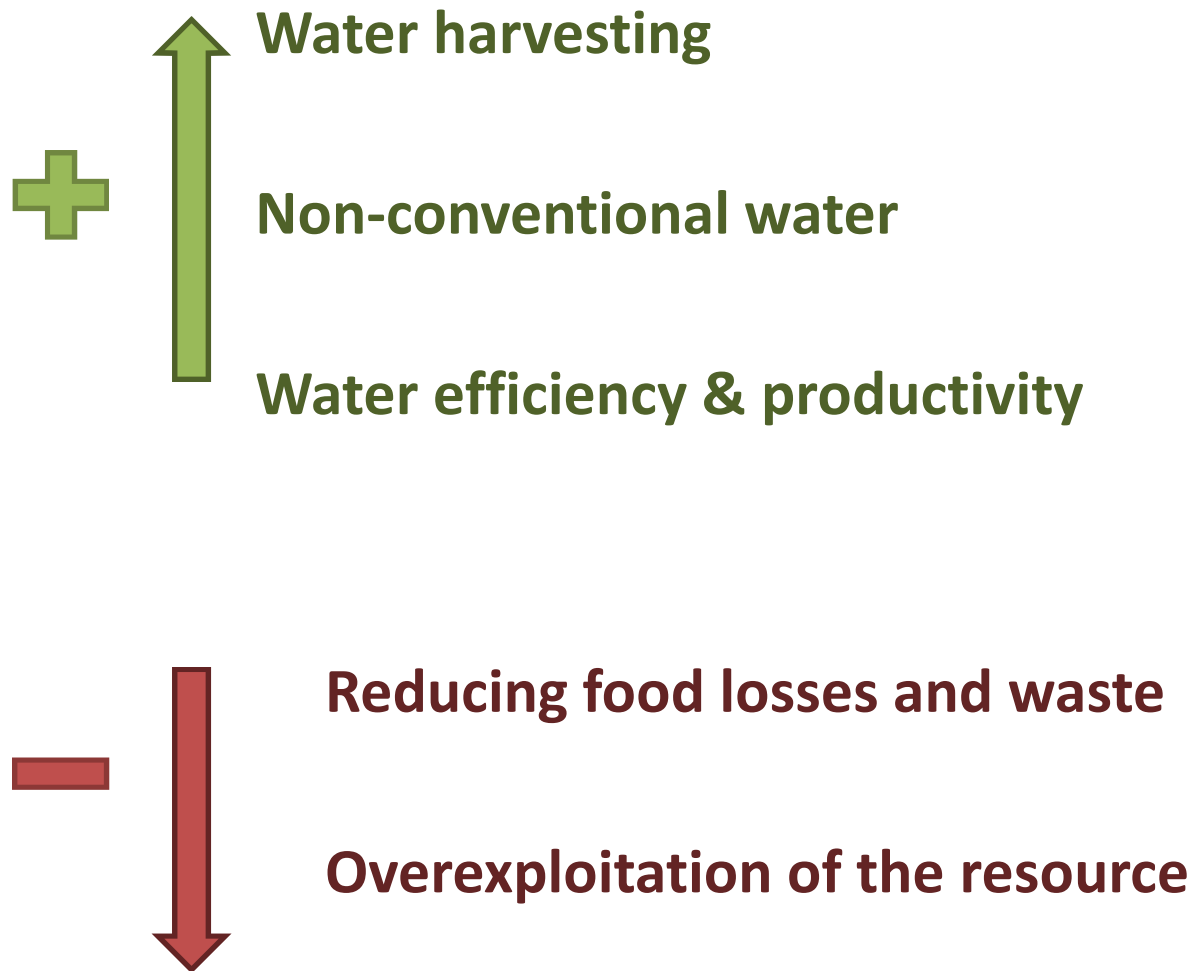
In Yemen the groundwater table is falling by as much as 6 m per year



4 Agricultural demand



Response Options





Objectives

1- Enhancing policies, investments, governance and best practices to sustainably increase water and land productivity

2- Providing tools for strategic planning of optimal and sustainable allocation of scarce water resources

3- Implementing a regional collaborative strategy for a water-reform agenda

Seven Focus Areas of work



2030 Sustainable Development Goals



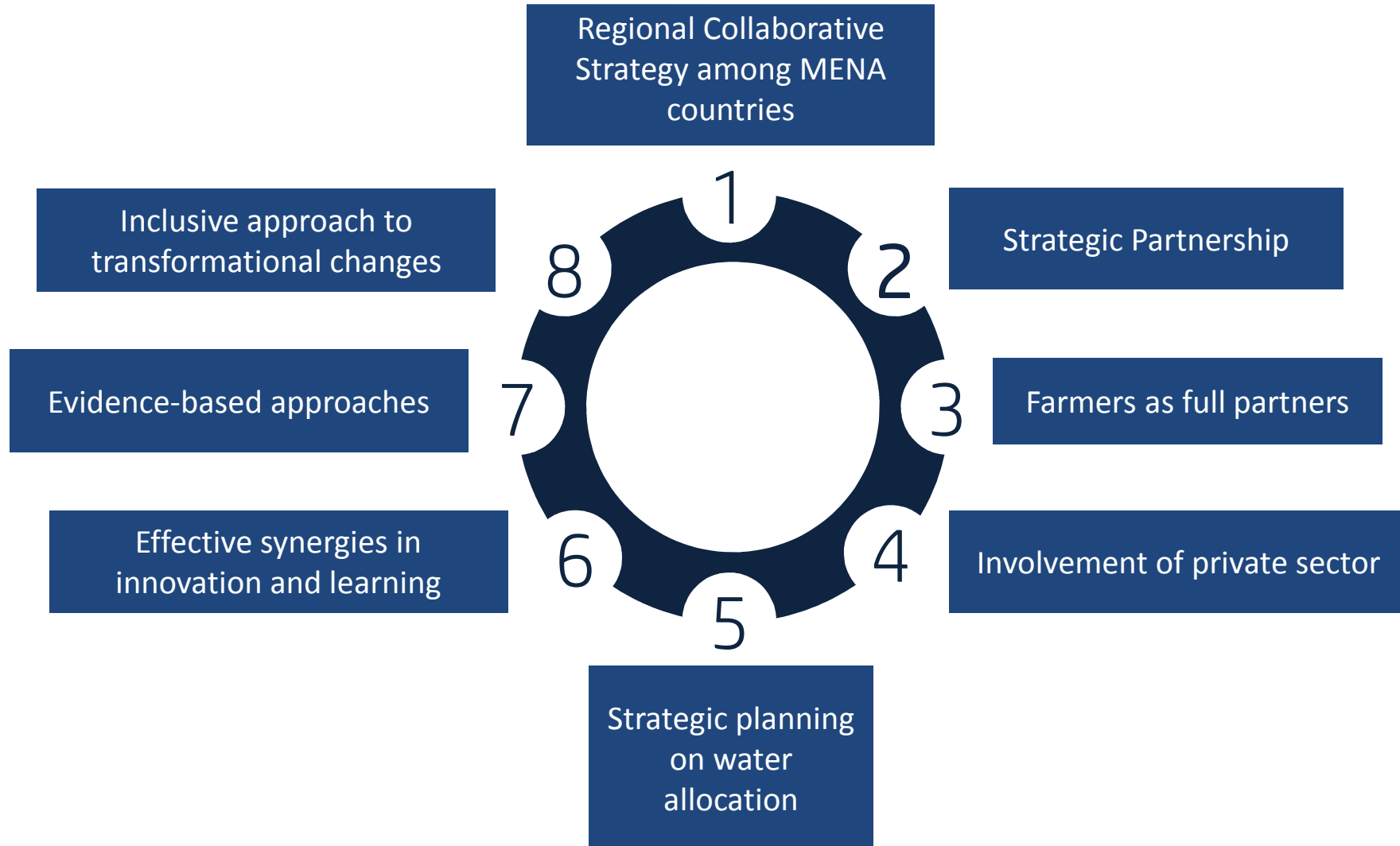
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target 6.4

By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable

withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Elements of innovation



1 Creation of a multidisciplinary team

- 1- Ministry of Energy and Water
- 2- Ministry of Agriculture
- 3- Ministry of Environment
- 4- Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute
- 5- Litani River Authority
- 6- National Council for Scientific Research
- 7- Green Plan





2 Water Intelligence for the Near East (WIN)

Reinforcing the Water Governance of the Water Management Agencies in the Near East (**UNESCO-IHE**)

- Efficient water management, particularly in the agricultural sector
- Improved catchment area management and safe deltas
- Access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation
- Water scarcity and water problems related to the refugee crises



3 Implementing the 2030 Agenda for water efficiency/ productivity and water sustainability in NENA Countries

- 4 years
- 8 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine & Tunisia
- 10 Million USD
- Funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

The expected outcome of the project

The countries of the NENA Region would be empowered at technical, institutional and policy levels to implement their water sustainability, food security, renewable energy and climate resilient agenda and to achieve the water-related SDG to 2030 within safe operational boundaries of water use



4 Support to the Regional Collaboration Platform of the Water Scarcity Initiative to increase water productivity

- 1 year
- 9 countries : Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, West Bank & Gaza
- 500,000 USD

The expected outcome of the project

The capacities of countries of the NENA Region are strengthened through regional information exchange and the framework for the adoption of pathways for increasing water productivity in selected farming systems of the beneficiary countries



Thank you

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