

# WATER FOR FOOD, WATER FOR LIFE

*A Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture*

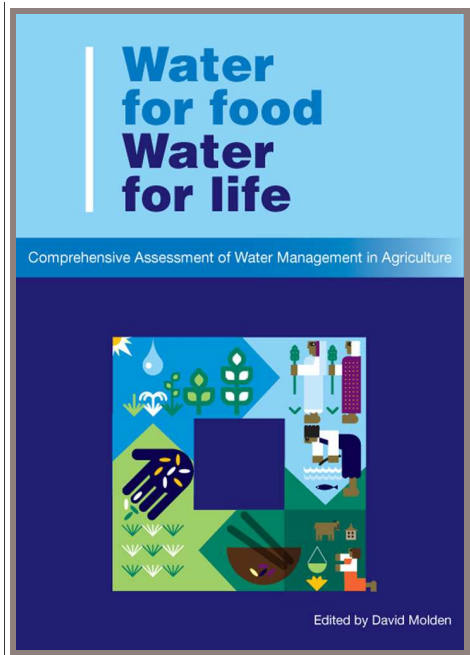
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Edited by **David Molden**

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## DESCRIPTION

Managing water resources is one of the most pressing challenges of our times – fundamental to how we feed 2 billion more people in coming decades, eliminate poverty, and reverse ecosystem degradation. Bringing together the work of over 700 researchers, this book is the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of water resources ever written. It evaluates current thinking on water and its interplay with agriculture to help chart the way forward, and offers actions for water management and water policy – to ensure more equitable and effective use.

This assessment describes key water-food-environment trends that influence our lives today and uses scenarios to explore the consequences of a range of potential investments. It aims to inform investors and policymakers about water and food choices in light of such crucial influences as poverty, ecosystems, governance, and productivity. It covers rainfed agriculture, irrigation, groundwater, marginal-quality water, fisheries, livestock, rice, land, and river basins. Ample tables, graphs, and references make this an invaluable work for practitioners, academics, researchers, and policymakers in water management, agriculture, conservation, and development.

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*Part I: Setting the Scene* • Setting the Scene • *Part II: Trends and Scenarios* • Trends in Water and Agricultural Development • Looking Ahead to 2050: Scenarios of Alternative Investment Approaches • *Part III: Integrating Issues* • Reversing the Flow: Agricultural Water Management Pathways for Poverty Reduction • Policy and Institutional Reform: the Art of the Possible • Agriculture, Water, and Ecosystems: Avoiding the Costs of Going too Far • Pathways for Increasing Agricultural Water Productivity • *Part IV: Thematic Issues* • Managing Water in Rainfed Agriculture • Reinventing Irrigation • Groundwater: a Global Assessment of Scale and Significance • Agricultural Use of Marginal-Quality Water - Opportunities and Challenges • Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture • Water and Livestock for Human Development • Rice: Feeding the Billions • Conserving Land - Protecting Water • River Basin Development and Management

## AUTHOR INFORMATION

The book was developed by an assessment process that engaged teams of practitioners and researchers from diverse backgrounds in the debate and critical evaluation of current knowledge. The work was coordinated by the editor, **David Molden**, who is Deputy Director General for Research at the International Water Management Institute in Colombo Sri Lanka. He has over 25 years' experience in water resource management, particularly related to food and rural development. *Published with IWMI.*

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