



ESTABLISHING A PORTAL FOR WATER ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

Seventy percent of water withdrawals are made for agricultural purposes, making it the sector that consumes the most water globally. Demands for water are expected to grow further in the near future, as it is estimated that agricultural production needs will rise by nearly 50 percent by 2050. At the same time, the issue of water scarcity is estimated to affect nearly half of the global population for at least one month per year. This situation is also expected to worsen, with a possible 4.8–5.7 billion people periodically not having access to water by 2050. For these reasons, sustainable water management is of crucial importance to the sector.

A way to mitigate both issues is through water accounting. Water accounting is defined as the systematic study of the status of and trends in water supply, demand, accessibility and use in targeted areas. The information gathered through water accounting supports effective decision-making with regards to water management and leads to increased water productivity, which is critical to achieving food and water security as global needs grow.

This project was formulated to develop a Portal for Water Accounting within FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture (AQUASTAT). The Portal was designed to be fully compatible with both AQUASTAT and the Water Productivity Open-access Portal (WaPOR), as well as FAO's corporate Geospatial Information System that was developed through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. These tools can assist stakeholders in making evidence-based decisions with regards to water management as a means of increasing water productivity worldwide.



©FAO/Aris Mhich

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Under the project, the web Portal for Water Accounting Information was developed as an integral part of AQUASTAT. Within the Portal, there is guidance on carrying out water accounting studies, as well as results from water accounting studies that have been carried out. The Portal can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3xjNQGp>.

Information compiled through the Portal by the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and FAO led to the publishing of water accounts and water productivity assessments for targeted areas in Cambodia, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.



©FAO

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 197 992

Duration

July 2020 – December 2020

Resource Partner

Asian Development Bank

Beneficiaries

Ministries of agriculture and water resources in targeted countries; Academic institutions in targeted countries; Small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fishermen; Commercial, large-scale land and water users; Other water users (e.g. transport, tourism); Ministries of agriculture and water resources in non-targeted countries; National, regional, international agricultural water organizations; Water user associations; and International finance institutions

IMPACT

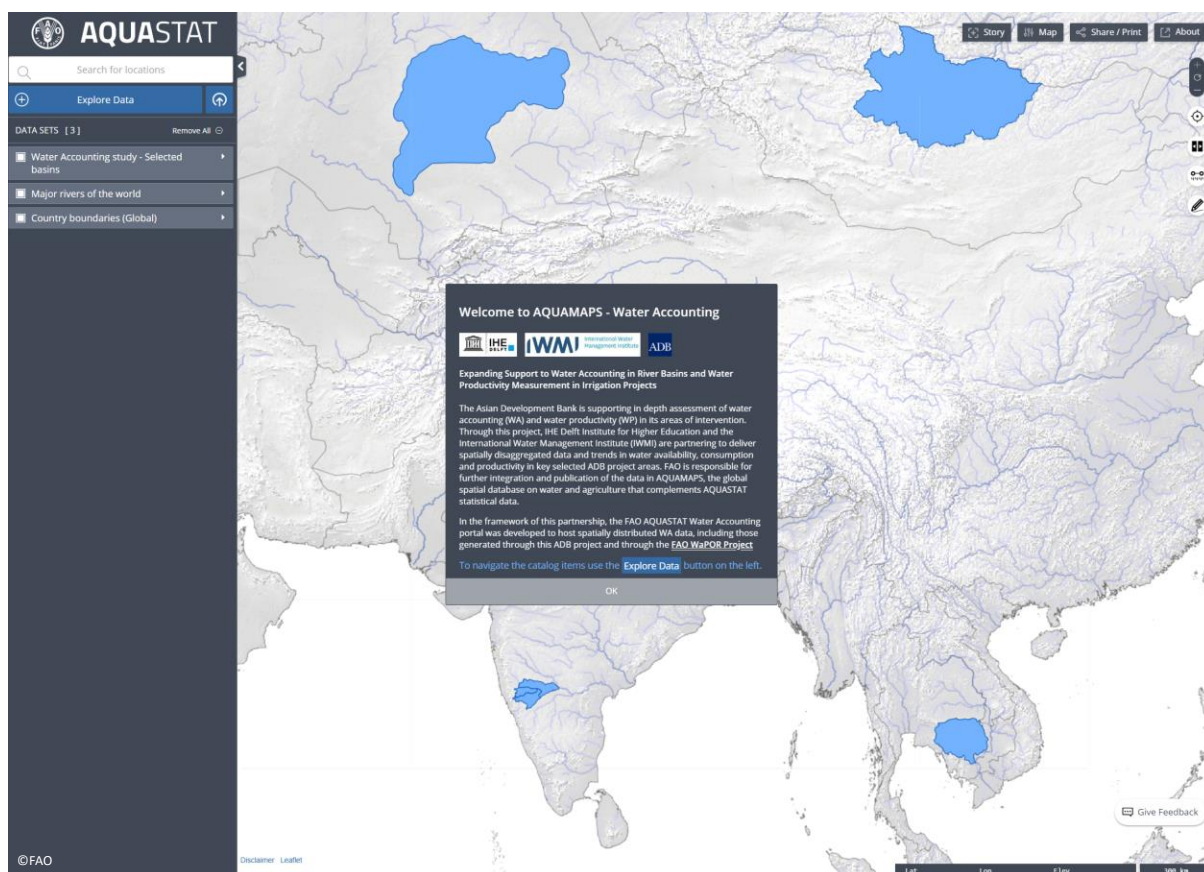
The overall goal of the project was to provide guidance, information and data on water accounting to countries, decision-makers and researchers so that they can be better informed on the use and availability of fresh water resources and identify ways to increase water productivity. The project also sought to engage with donors and institutions to increase the visibility of water accounting worldwide.

The expected impact of the project is increased water efficiency in the long term, supporting the achievement of SDG indicators 2.4 (which focuses on increased agricultural production) and 6.4 (which focuses on increased water use efficiency), as well as sustainable irrigation management and crop production.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- An inventory of the demands and functionality of the Water Accounting Portal was made.
- A prototype of the Portal was designed.
- The Portal was populated with methodology documents, geospatial information, time series and data analyses from five case studies provided by the ADB, FAO and other external partners.
- The Water Accounting Portal was integrated with AQUASTAT.



Project Code

FAO: MTF/GLO/231/ASB

Project Title

Development of ADB's Water Accounting and Productivity Portal through FAO's AQUASTAT

Contact

Jippe Hoogeveen (Lead Technical Officer)
Jippe.Hoogeveen@fao.org

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy