

# Running Out of Water: How Serious are the Assaults on Our Most Precious Resource

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Madrid, May 21, 2012

# What's Driving the Overall Water Problem?

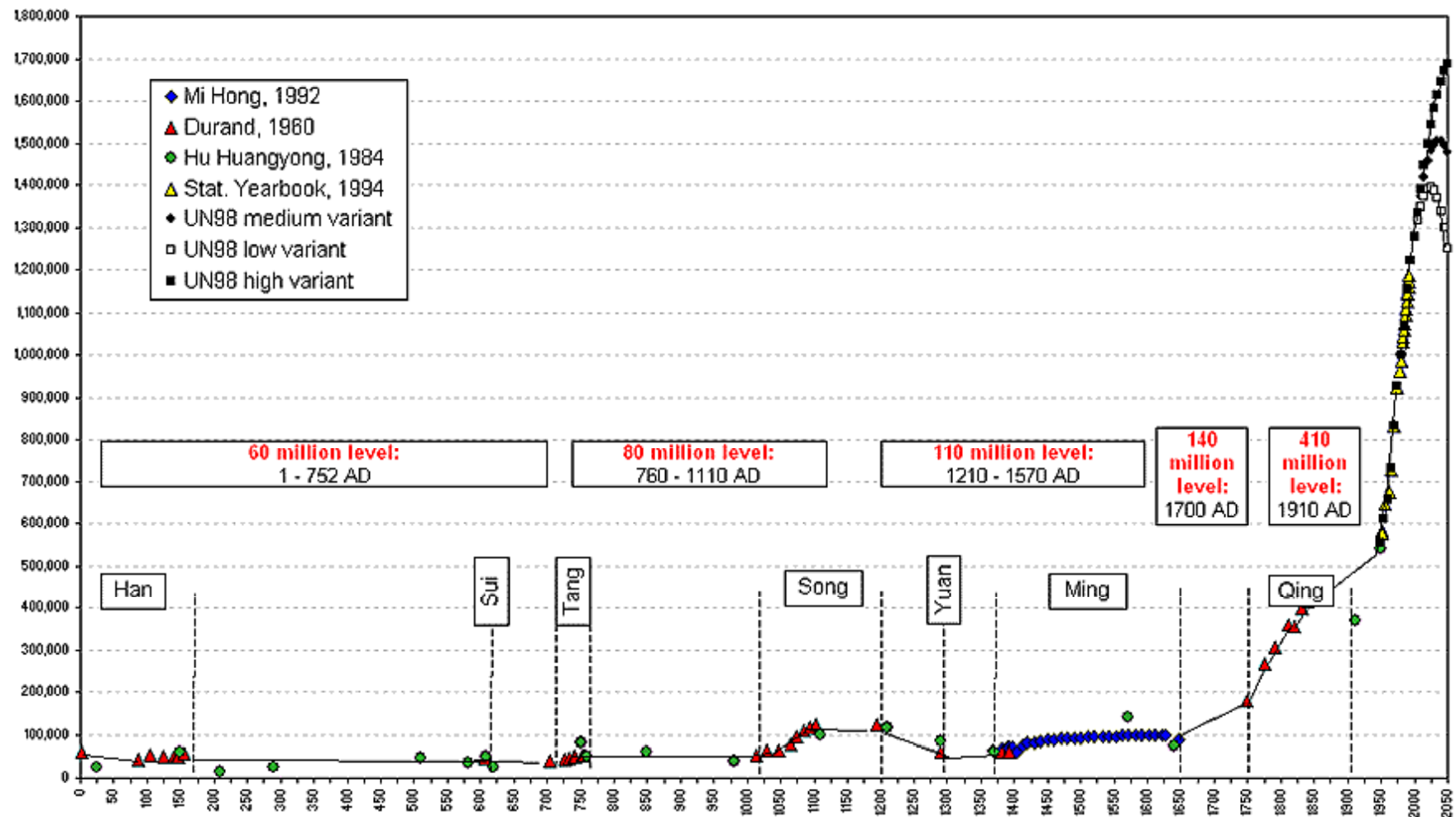
- Resources under pressure everywhere
- Many populations under severe water stress
- The water-food-energy nexus
- The health and sanitation crises
- Huge uncertainties about climate impacts
- Water governance crisis in most countries
- Financing water development a problem everywhere

# What's Different This Time?

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- Since the Medieval warming period (900–1300), we have added 6 billion people.
- The majority of the Earth's population now is far wealthier than in previous times.
- By 2050 there will be 9 billion humans seeking resources on the globe.
- Even without global warming, we would need major adaptation strategies to cope with this huge population increase.
- In the past warm periods the human population was mobile and could move into more congenial regions; now we have national boundaries.
- By 2007 the majority of the world's population were urbanized and with less flexibility to move.
- The next 3 billion will be urban dwellers.

# Why wouldn't there be a water Supply Crisis?



# The Bogeymen of Sustainability



**Thomas Robert Malthus**, (1766-1834)

**Malthus** postulated a geometric rate of growth of population and an arithmetic growth of land being brought under cultivation and, hence, an arithmetic rate of growth of food production. Malthus predicted widespread famine or violent conflicts to bring food and population into alignment with each other by “misery, war, pestilence, and vice.”

**Ricardo** articulated “declining returns” on investments in resources (coal and iron ore in his time, water, oil, and gas in our time) whereby the best (least-cost) resources are used first, followed by the next best, and so on. Increasing demand for the resource leads to price increases that will continue to rise until the resource becomes too expensive to use.



**David Ricardo**. (1772-1823)

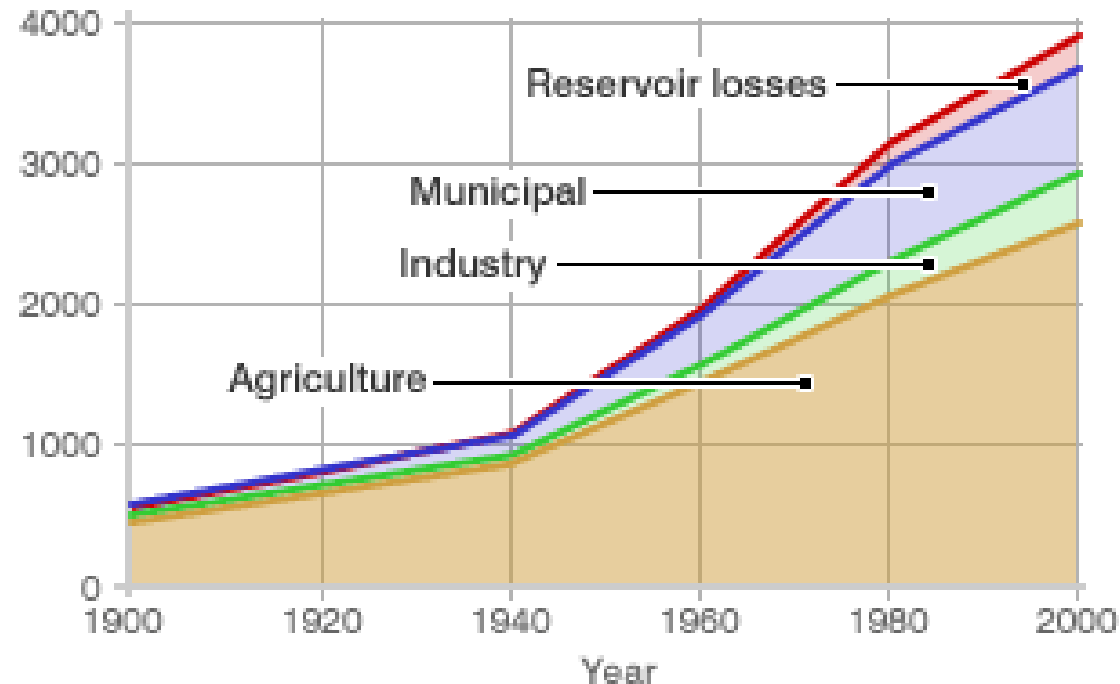
**These two nineteenth century concepts are at the root of our concern for Sustainable Development.**

# Conventional View of Increasing Demand Meeting Fixed Supply

- Since 1900 global population has tripled
- Water use has increased more than six-fold

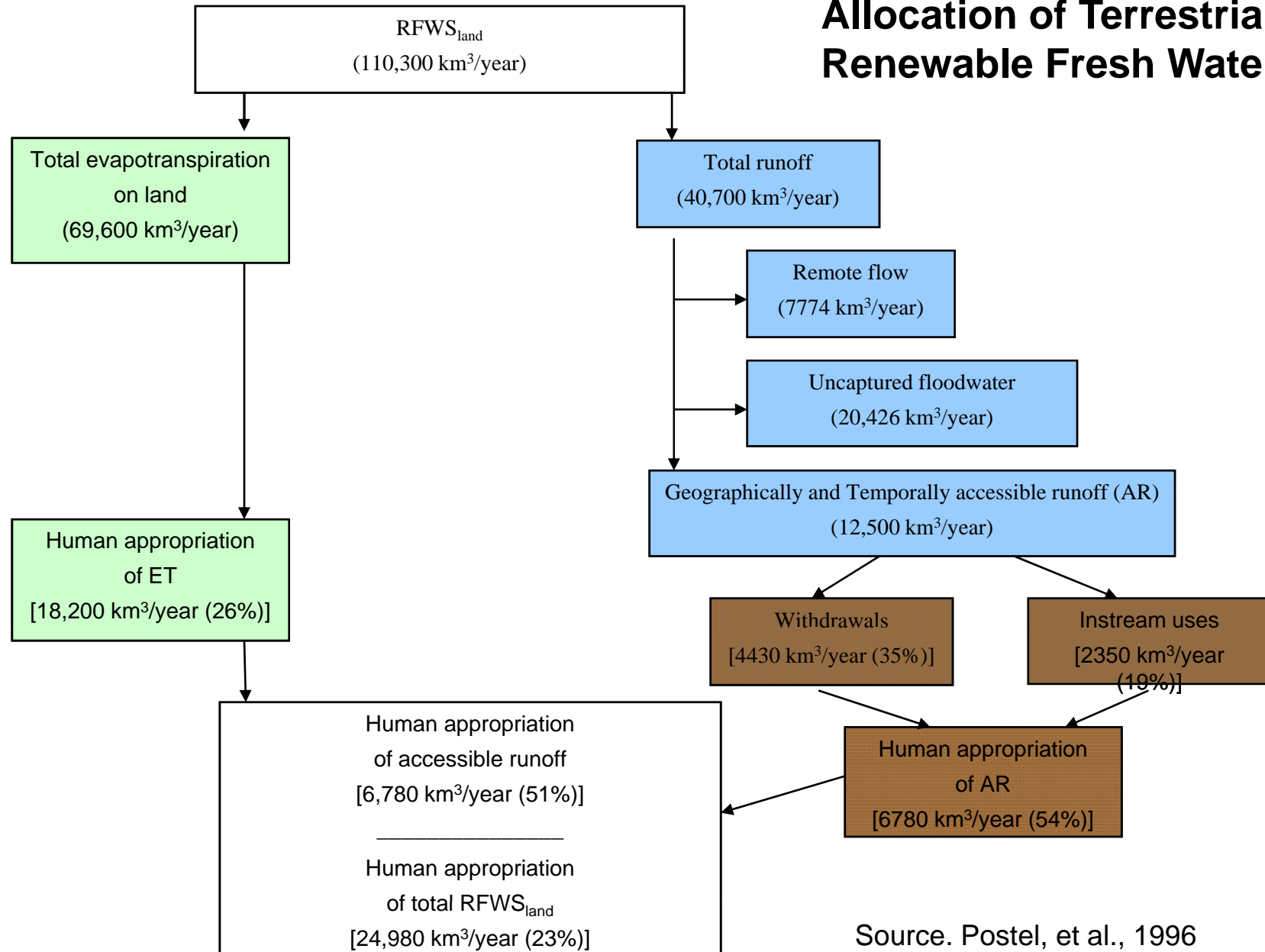
Estimated annual world water use

km<sup>3</sup> per year



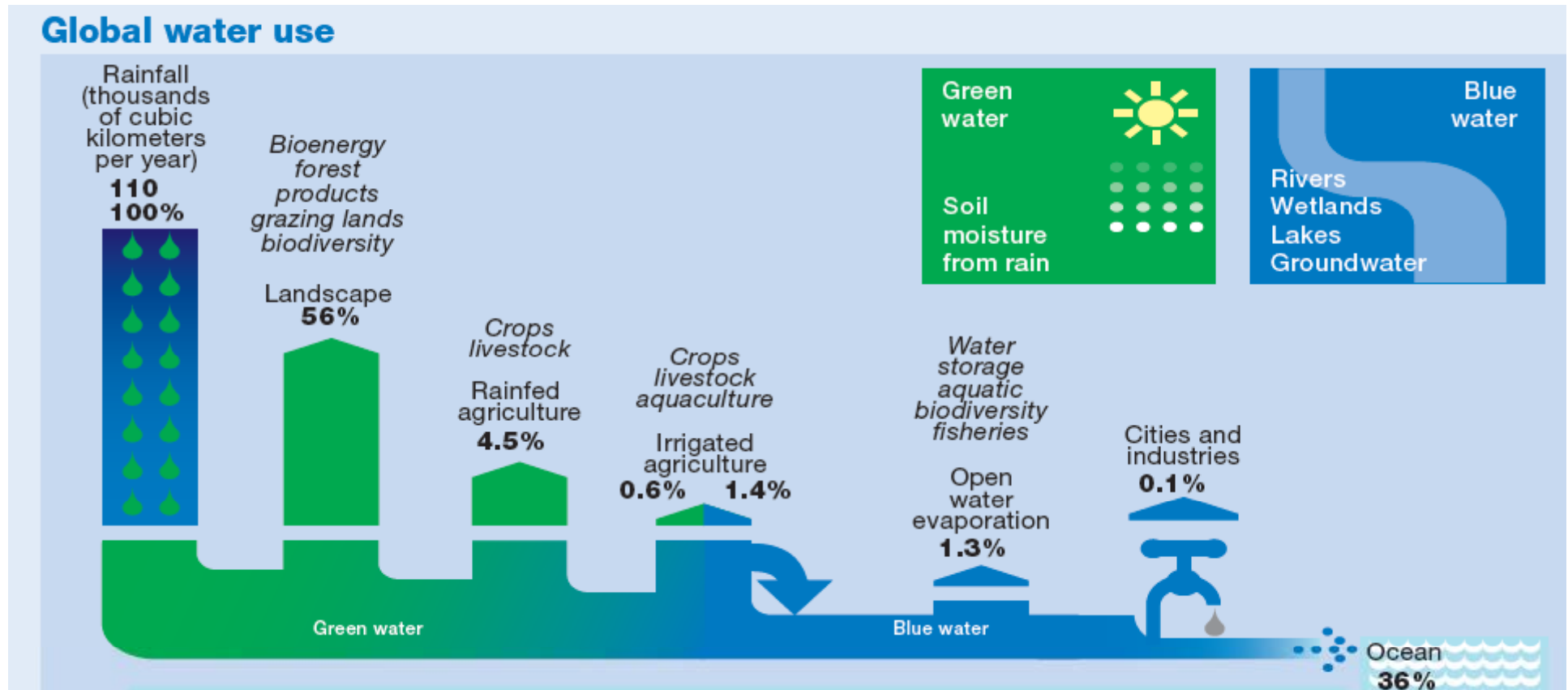
SOURCE: FAO Aquastat

# Allocation of Terrestrial Renewable Fresh Water



Source. Postel, et al., 1996

# Cities and Industries use very little of total globally available water

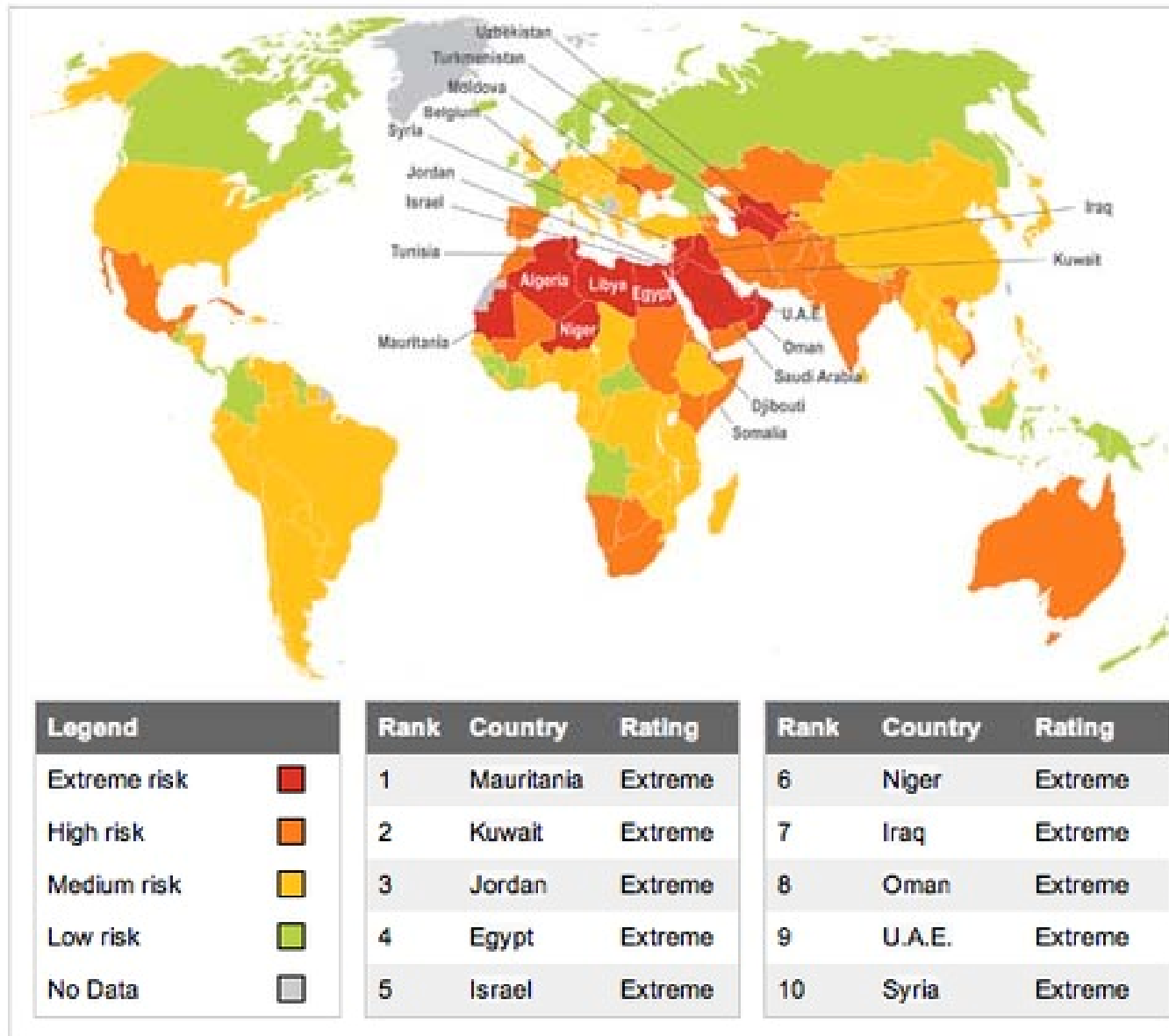


Source. Comprehensive Assessment, 2007



# Global Predictions on Water Resources

## Water Security Index



© Maplecroft, 2011

Index includes: access to improved drinking water and sanitation; the availability of renewable water and the reliance on external supplies; the relationship between available water and supply demands; and the water dependency of each country's economy.

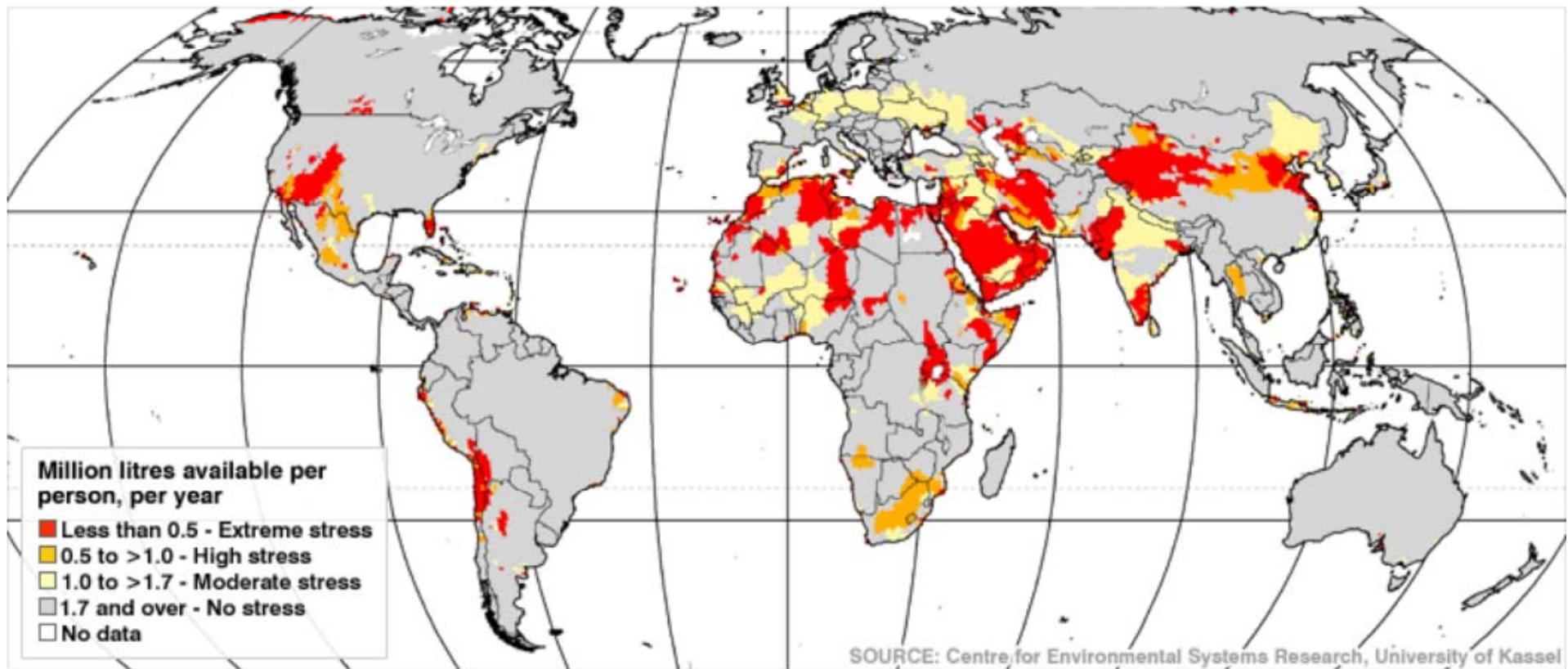
# Kassel Predictions

- The projections of per-capita water availability in the maps below were made by Martina Floerke and colleagues at the University of Kassel in Germany, by combining different types of forecast.
- A computer model of climate change developed by the UK Met Office Hadley Centre generates projections of future temperature and rainfall. The Kassel team applied Hadley projections on a finer geographical scale. These projections were fed into a programme that models water flow in river basins.

Down loaded from BBC, Tuesday, 8 December, 2009.

## HOW WATER AVAILABILITY MAY CHANGE, AS TEMPERATURES, POPULATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION INCREASE

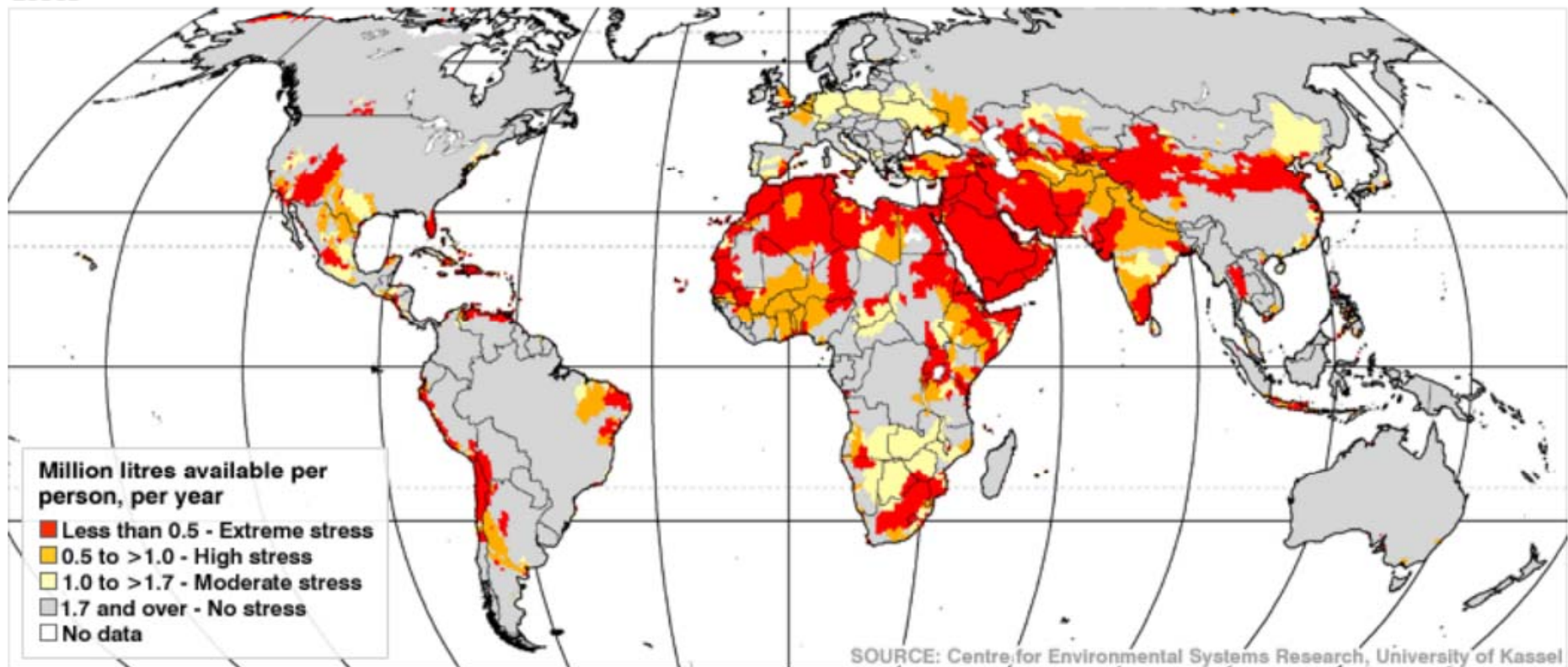
1961-90



1961-90

## HOW WATER AVAILABILITY MAY CHANGE, AS TEMPERATURES, POPULATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION INCREASE

2050s

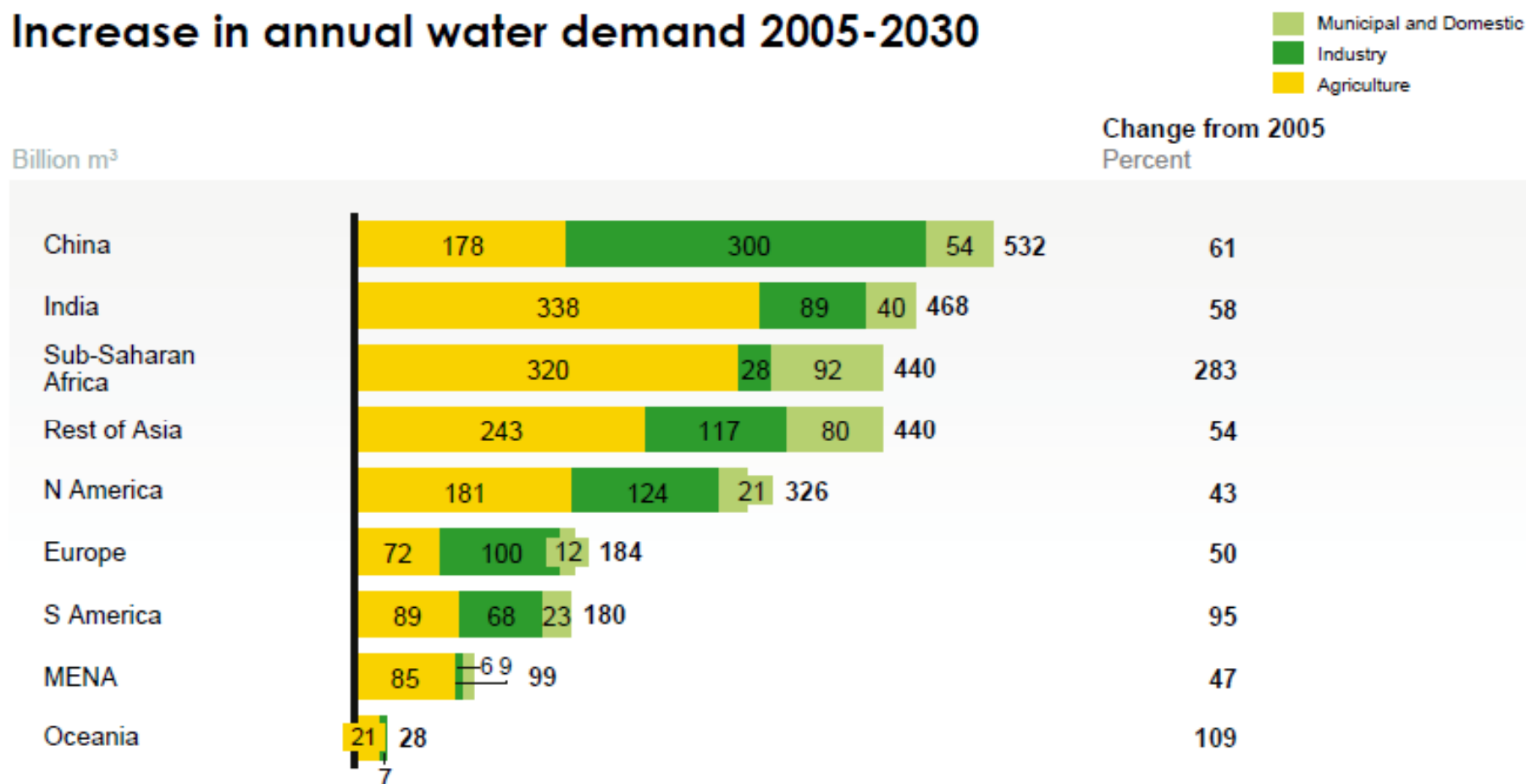


2050s

NOTE: April 13, 2036 is when the 885-ft diameter asteroid, Apophis, is predicted to pass within 18,300 miles of planet earth. MSMBC 13 Oct. 2010

## Exhibit 5

### Increase in annual water demand 2005-2030



SOURCE: 2030 Water Resources Global Water Supply and Demand model; baseline agricultural production based on IFPRI IMPACT-WATER base case

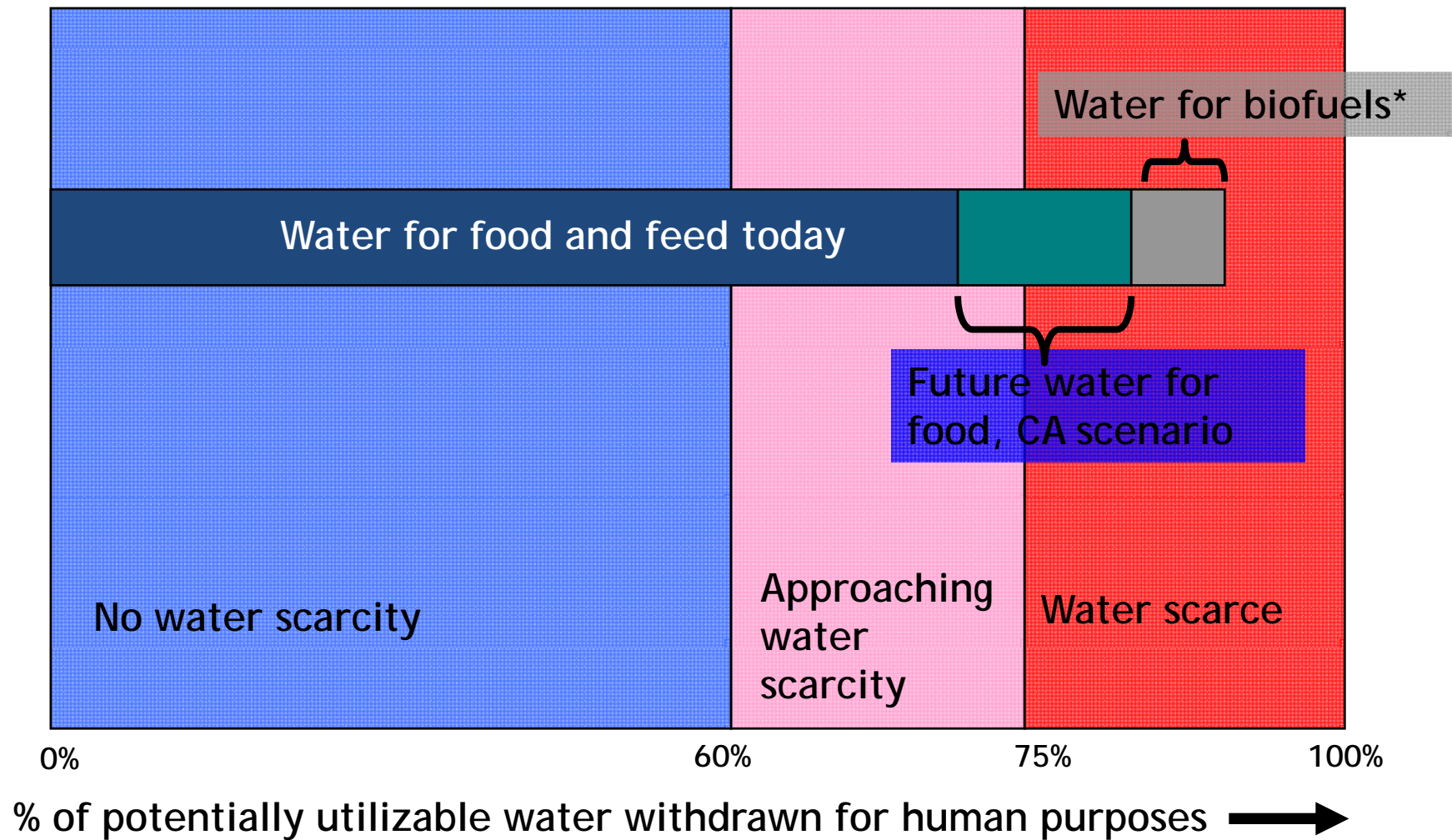
# Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture



- *Globally there are sufficient land and water resources to produce food for a growing population over the next 50 years.*
- *But it is probable that today's food production and environmental trends, if continued, will lead to crises in many parts of the world.*
- *Only if we act to improve water use in agriculture will we meet the acute freshwater challenge facing humankind over the coming 50 years.*



# Global Water For Agriculture Until 2050



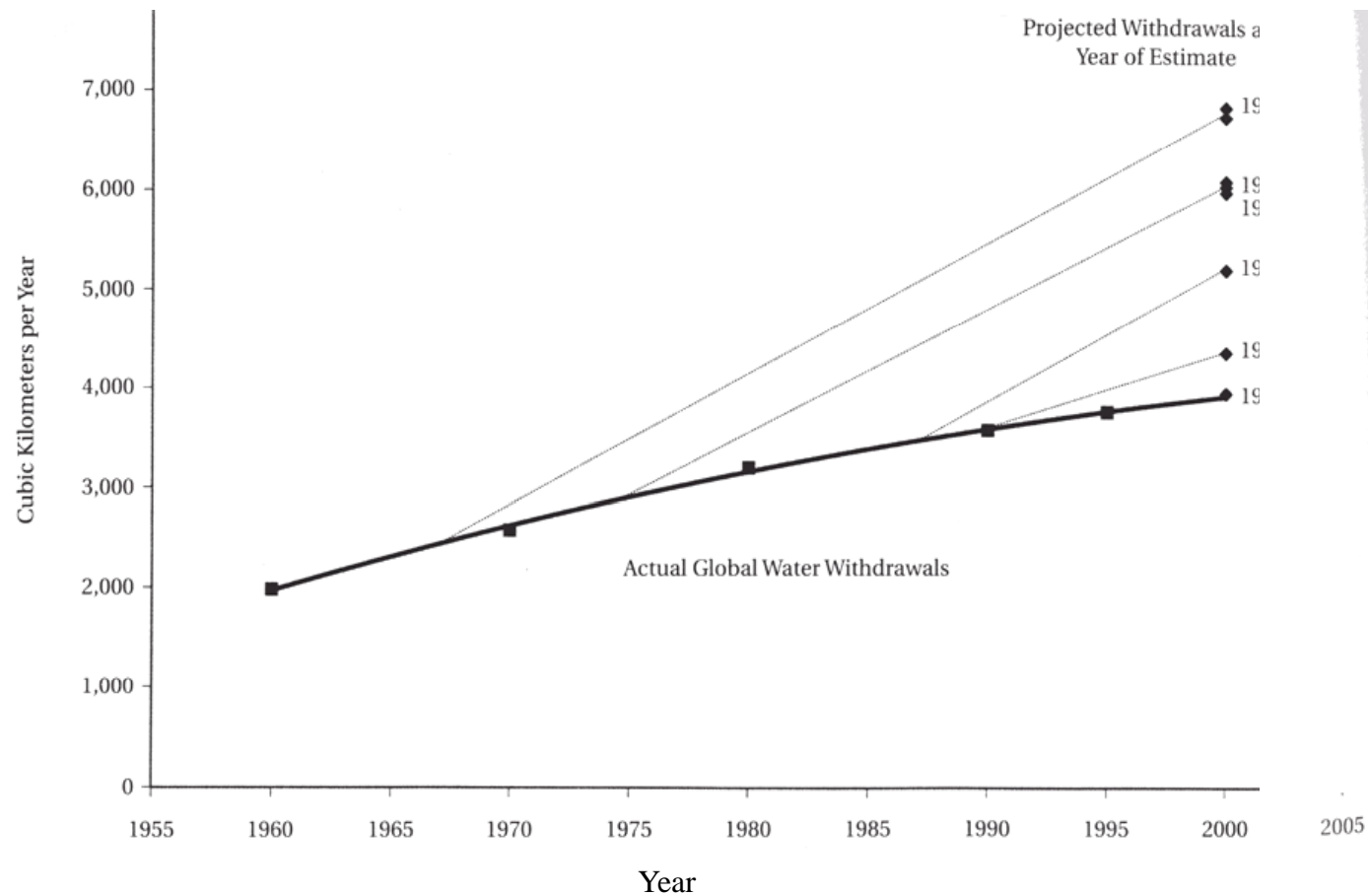
Source: Comprehensive Assessment, 2007



# **Problems with Forecasts: A Cautionary Tale**

Over and Under predictions 1974 to  
2000 as a Percentage of the year 2000  
Population

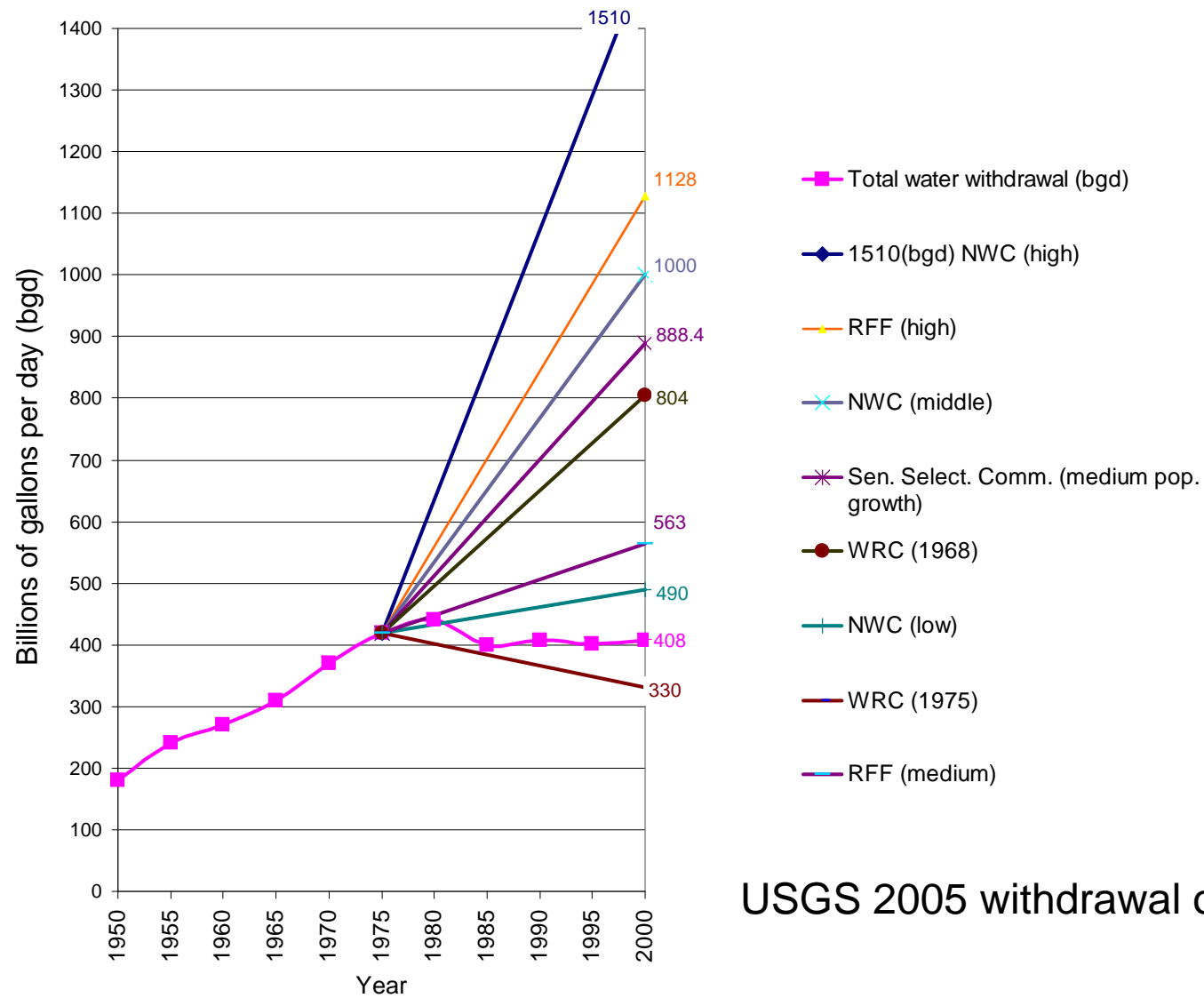
# GLOBAL WATER WITHDRAWAL FORECASTS 1950-2000



Shown here are estimates of global water withdrawals from the year 2000. These eight estimates were made between 1967 and 1996. The earliest estimates predicted far greater water demands than have actually materialized.

Source. Gleick, (1998)

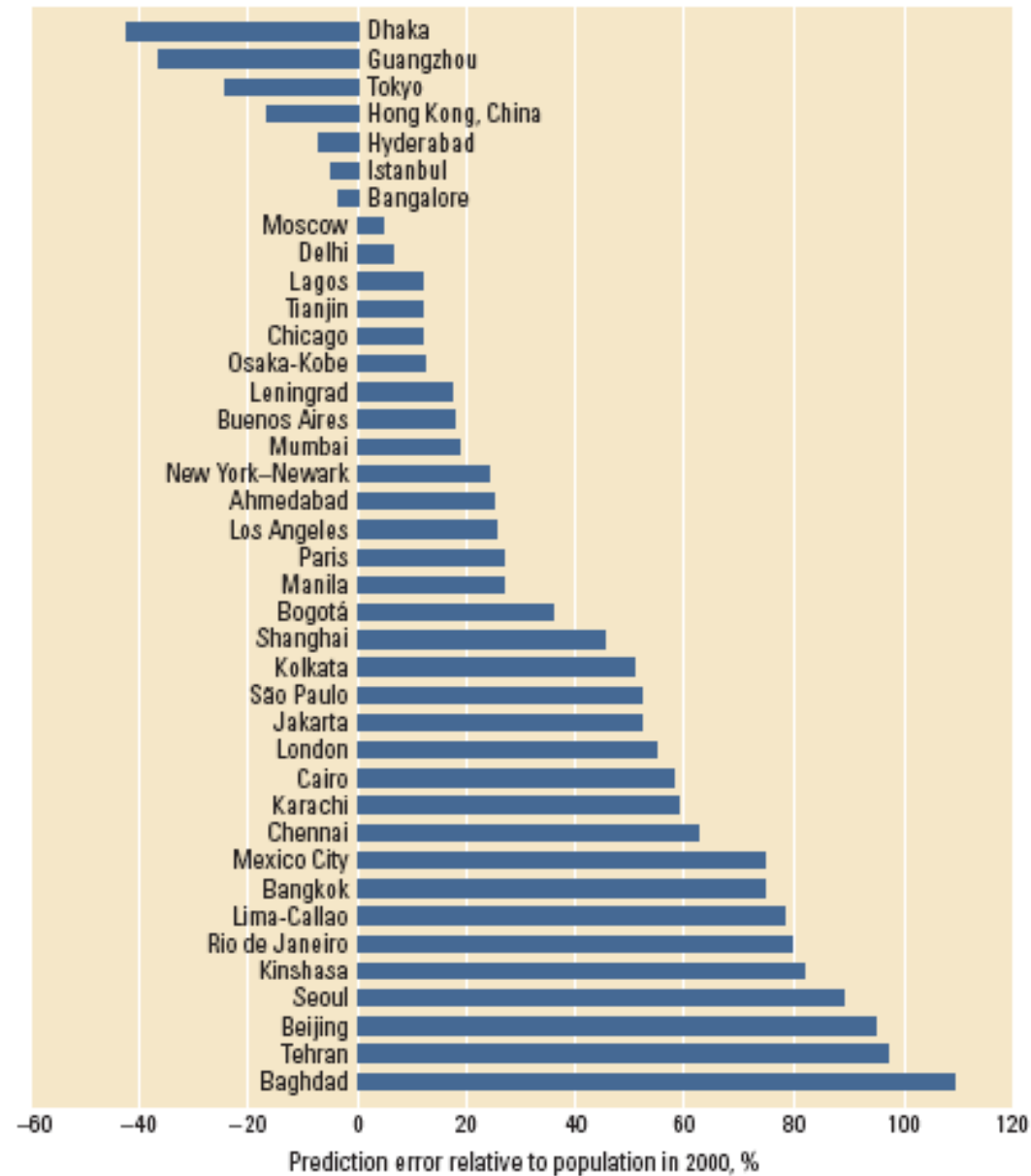
# US WATER WITHDRAWAL FORECAST 1950–2000



USGS 2005 withdrawal of 410 bgd

Source. Rogers, 1993

**Figure 7.1 The growth of cities has been grossly overestimated**



Source: Satterthwaite 2007.

Note: Comparison of predictions in 1974 with estimates of city populations in 2000. Bar indicates the extent to which the city population was overpredicted in 1974 relative to its size in 2000. A negative number indicates that a city size was greater in 2000 than predicted.

## Fast forward to the future— China's urbanization in 2025

**350** million

will be added to China's urban population by 2025—  
more than the population of today's United States

**1** billion

people who will live in China's cities by 2030

**221**

Chinese cities will have one million + people living in them—  
Europe has 35 today

**5** billion

square meters of road will be paved

**170**

mass-transit systems could be built

**40** billion

square meters of floor space will be built—in five million buildings

**50,000**

of these buildings could be skyscrapers—the equivalent  
to constructing up to ten New York cities

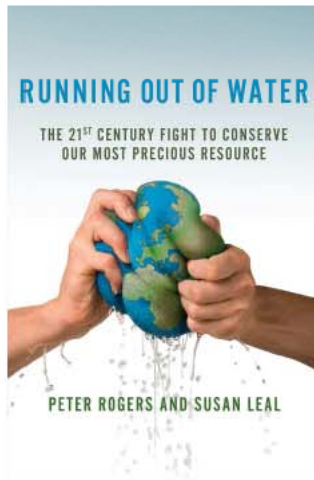
**5** times

—the number by which GDP will have multiplied by 2025

## Some Predictions for Urbanization in China by 2025

# The Facts about Horse Manure in NYC

- **THE PROBLEM**
- 1860s most popular travel mode; horse drawn street cars.
- 35 million trips per year in 1860, by 1870 number had risen to over 100 million
- Standard horsecar; 20 passengers, 2 horses each working a 4 hour shift, 16 hours per day implies 8 horses per car
- There were also other major needs for horse-drawn freight transport
- By 1880 at least 150,000 horses living in NYC
- Each horse produced 22 lbs of manure each day for a total of 45,000 tons per month
- One prediction was that by 1930 horse manure would reach the level of Manhattan's third floor windows



# RUNNING OUT OF WATER

## *The Looming Crisis and Solutions to Conserve Our Most Precious Resource*

Peter Rogers and Susan Leal

Foreword by Congressman Edward J. Markey

In this ground breaking and forward-looking book, Peter Rogers and Susan Leal give us a sobering perspective on the water crisis—why it's happening, where it's likely to strike, and what puts the worst strain on our supply. They introduce exciting new technologies that can help revolutionize our consumption of water and explain how different areas of the world have taken the helm in alleviating the burden of water shortages. Rogers and Leal also show how it takes individuals at all levels to make this happen, from grassroots organizations who monitor their community's water sources, to local officials who plan years in advance how they will appropriate water, to the national government who can invest in infrastructure for water conservation today. Informed and inspiring, this is a clarion call for action and an innovative look at how we can confront the crisis.

"A call to action as well as a celebration of the progress already under way. *Running Out of Water* offers hope and guidance for getting that crucial job done."—**from the foreword by Congressman Edward J. Markey**

"An admirably clear exposition of the lamentable state of the planet's water. I particularly liked Rogers and Leal's selection of eminently sensible, easily replicable, scalable solutions, and their sense that yes, the water world can be fixed."—**Marq de Villiers, author of *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource***

# Running Out of Water: Themes

- Facing a crisis in water due to population, wealth, and changing climate
- Too much Gloom and Doom
- The technologies are already available to improve the efficient use of existing water supplies by:
  - Improved irrigation efficiency
  - Trade of virtual water
  - Moving from conventional wastewater
  - Reuse of water in industry, agriculture, and domestic uses
  - Socially enforced changes in demand
- Missing ingredient is “leadership”

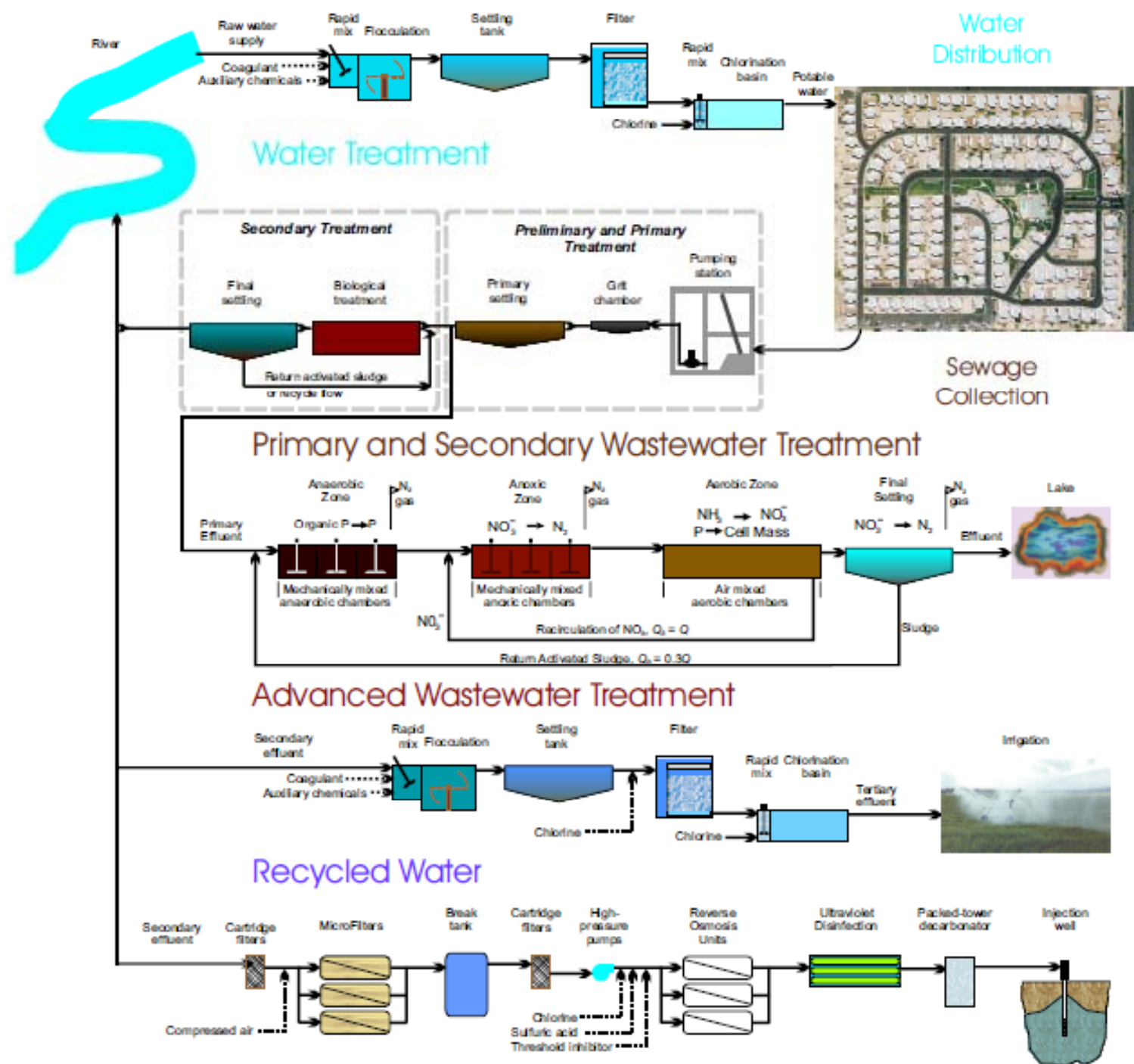


# Running Out of Water: Cases

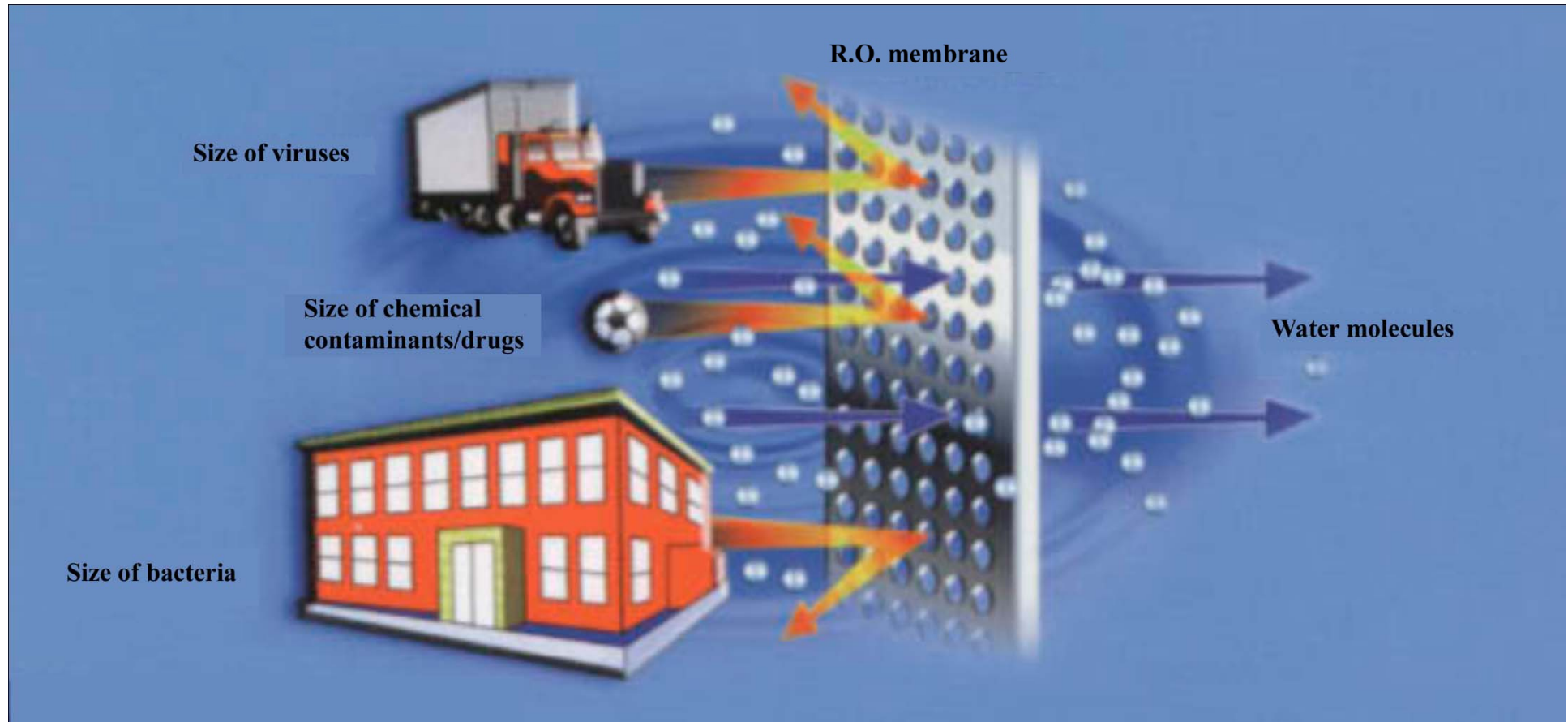
- Recycling wastewater; Orange County, Ca., Singapore, and St Petersburg, Fla
- Improving Agricultural use; Rising City, Nebraska, Imperial Valley, California, and Murray-Darling, Australia
- Public involvement in urban water issues; San Francisco, Ca., innovative urban water supply and sewers in Brazil
- Valuing water the role of economic thinking in managing water resources; the case of Boston Harbor
- Urban wastewater as a resource; San Francisco FOG, East Bay MUD and blood as a resource, Santa Rosa and the Geysers.
- Transboundary conflicts; the Indus as a success story, other major international basins in play, Nile, Ganges, Mekong.
- Bottled water working against improving maintenance and expansion of public systems

# **Toilet-to-Tap: Recycling Urban Wastewater**

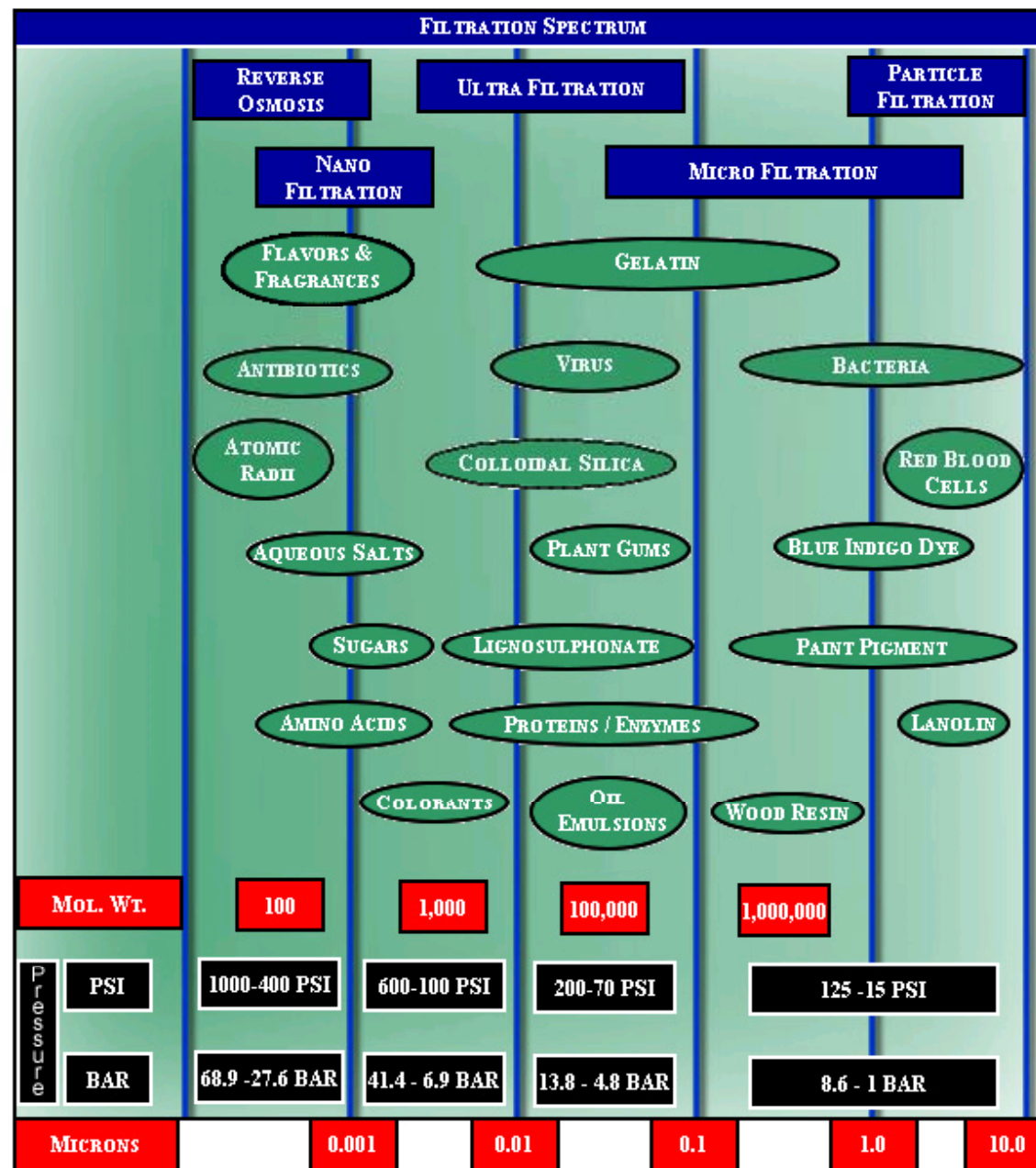
- Singapore NEWater. Classic political security
- Orange County, California (unfortunately provides water for another 500,000 people in the LA area!) Classic economic security
- Many other US urban areas following suit
- Option being taken-up because of competition for additional supplies and increased water quality standards



# Reverse Osmosis in layman's terms



Source. PUB, Singapore.



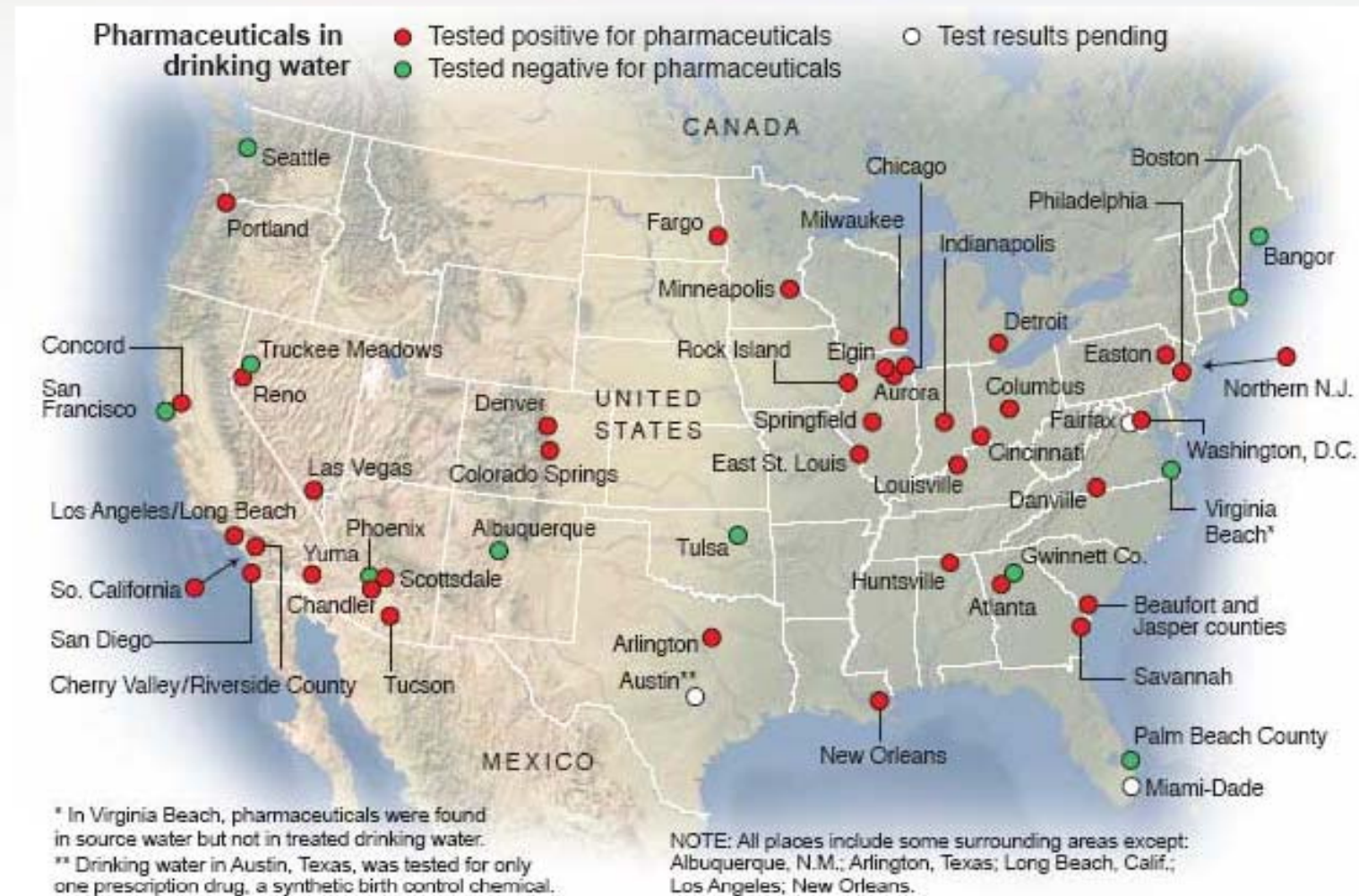
# Recycling wastewater; Orange County, Ca.

- Increasing Demands
  - Population growth, wealth, life-style
- Decreasing Supply
  - Federal Endangered Species Act, restricted pumping out of San Joaquin Delta
  - Reduced snow melt from N. California
- Increasing Regulation
  - Due to complaints about offshore pollution from long ocean outfall
  - EPA pushing for higher levels of treatment
- The Eureka Moment
  - Move to upgrade treatment—add on—to RO and UV disinfection
  - Produces an additional 70 mgd of potable water at lower cost than importing it from the North
  - Protects endangered species and off-shore water quality
- But there is more...
  - 46 million people in the US are exposed to unregulated chemicals
  - EPA has now promulgated for discussion its Candidate Contaminant List Number 3 (CCL3), proposing to add 116 new contaminants to its existing list of 86—includes pharmaceuticals and endocrine disruptors
  - Possibly the only way to effectively remove these from wastewater streams is by RO
  - Hence, Orange County will be ahead of the regs. others will have to use RO



# 46 million in U.S. have drugs in drinking water

Testing shows traces of meds in water greater than previously reported



SOURCES: Drinking water providers' responses to Associated Press questions; AP review of scientific literature.

AP

## **Contaminant Candidate List 3 (CCL 3) EPA site**

CCL 3 is a list of contaminants that are currently not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulations, that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, and which may require regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The list includes, among others, pesticides, disinfection byproducts, chemicals used in commerce, waterborne pathogens, pharmaceuticals, and biological toxins. The Agency considered the best available data and information on health effects and occurrence to evaluate thousands of unregulated contaminants. EPA used a multi-step process to select 116 candidates for the final CCL 3. The final CCL 3 includes 104 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 microbiological contaminants.



## Is Desalination Economical?



Field research on the crystalline properties of desalinated water  
Dubai, UEA, July 8, 2008.

## Even the Economics Look Good: Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System

- Average cost \$561 per acre-ft for 55,000 acre-ft per year production, or 45 cents/cubic meter
- Removing all subsidies, \$681 per acre-ft, or 51 cents/cubic meter
- Globally many other cities including Singapore and Scottsdale, Arizona, now use similar systems
- Sommariva (2010) reports typical commercial tariffs for sea water reverse osmosis (SWRO) of between 55 and 75 cents/cubic meter

**Agriculture is the Big User**

# Improving Agricultural use; Rising City, Nebraska

- Farmer Glock
  - 77-year old farmer and his wife farm 700 plus acres of irrigated crops
  - Moved up technology ladder from furrow, to spray, to center pivots
- Center Pivots
  - Typically irrigate quarter section (180 acres)
  - Capital costs less than US\$100,000
  - Allow for multiple cropping in same field
  - Avoids costly land levelling
  - Applies fertilizer and other chemicals without clogging
  - Can be completely controlled with a lap-top computer
- Actual Performance
  - two thirds reduction in water use and a doubling of crop yield
- Global implications
  - Good example of existing technology with widespread application
  - Just one example of many water saving technologies







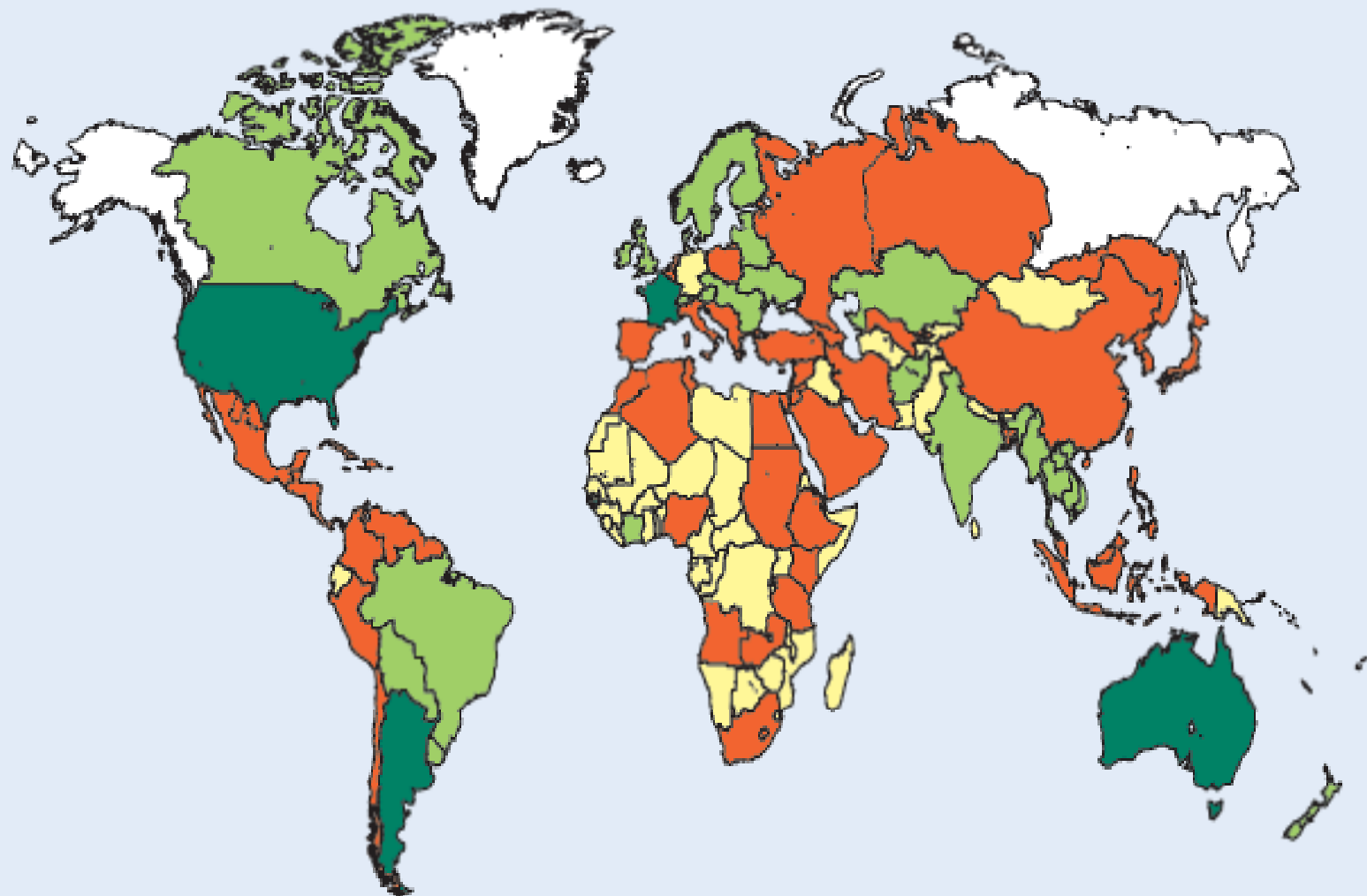
Center pivot in Kenya with different crops. (Naivasha)





# VIRTUAL WATER

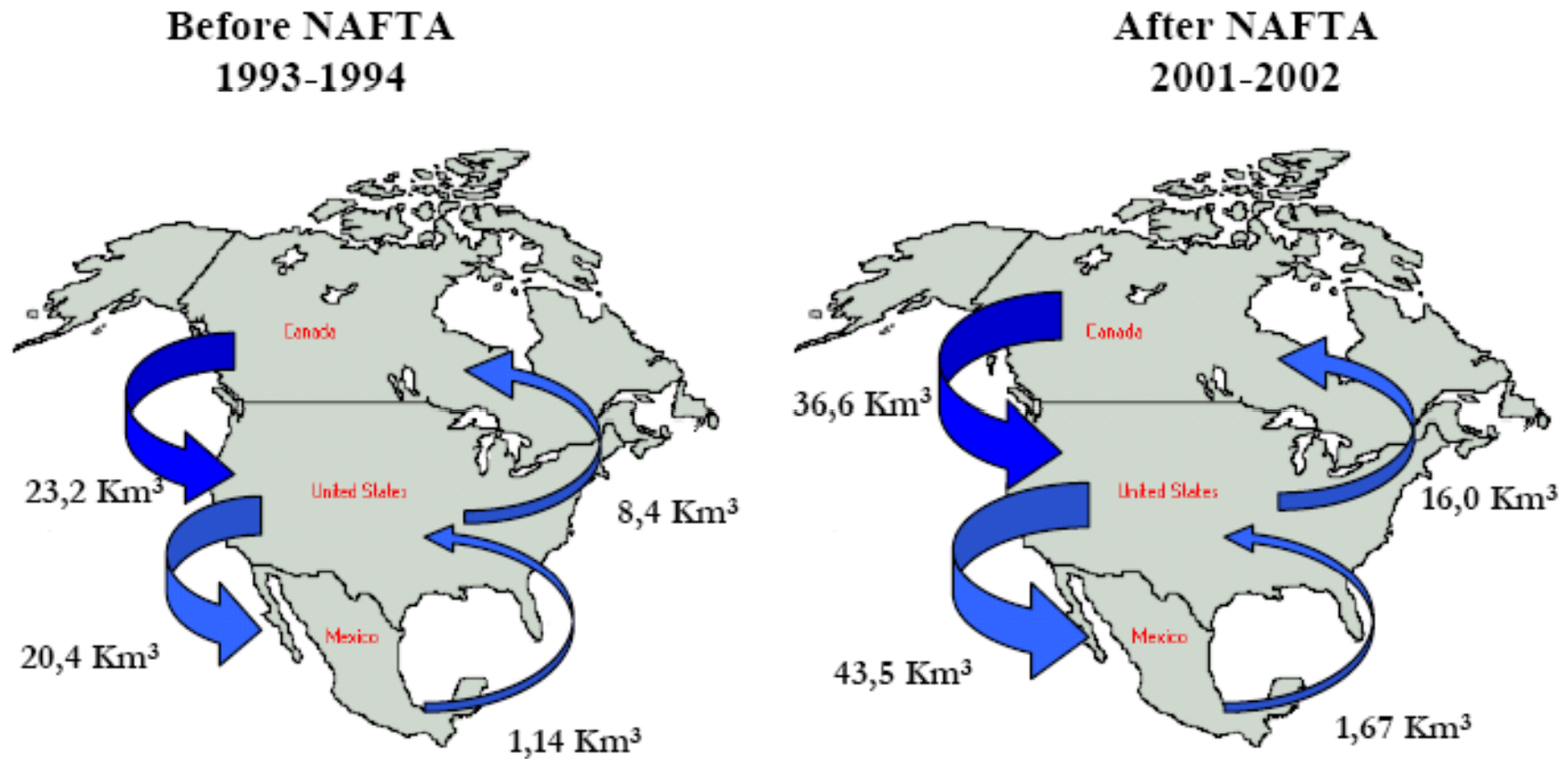




Source: De Fraiture and others 2004.

In 2003 total “Virtual Water” trade amounted to 700-900 km<sup>3</sup> . US was net exporter of 100 km<sup>3</sup>

## *The Virtual Waterfall of NAFTA*

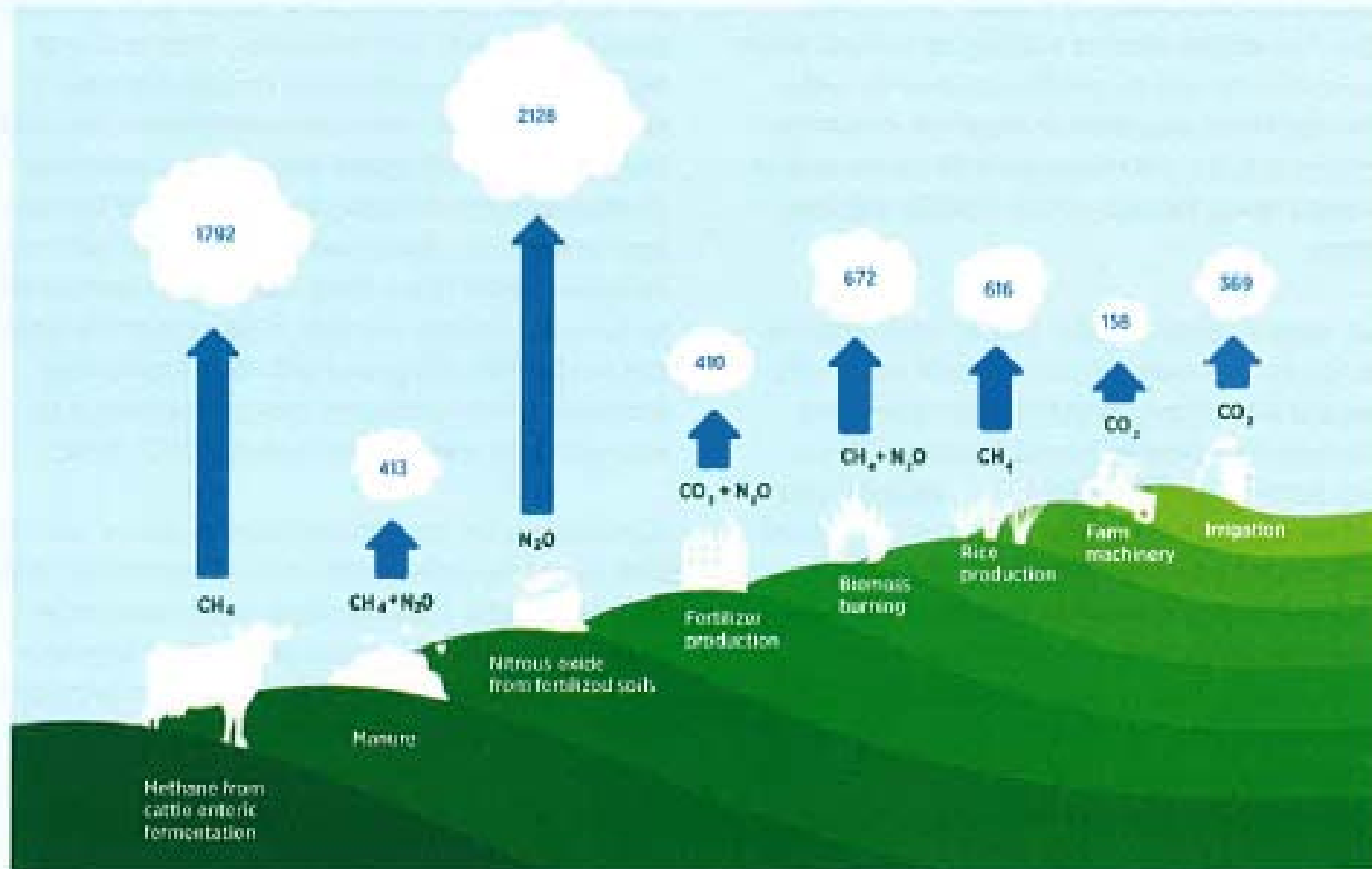


Source: J. Ramirez-Vallejo and P. Rogers, 2006.

# **Agriculture and Climate Feedbacks**

**FIGURE 18.5**

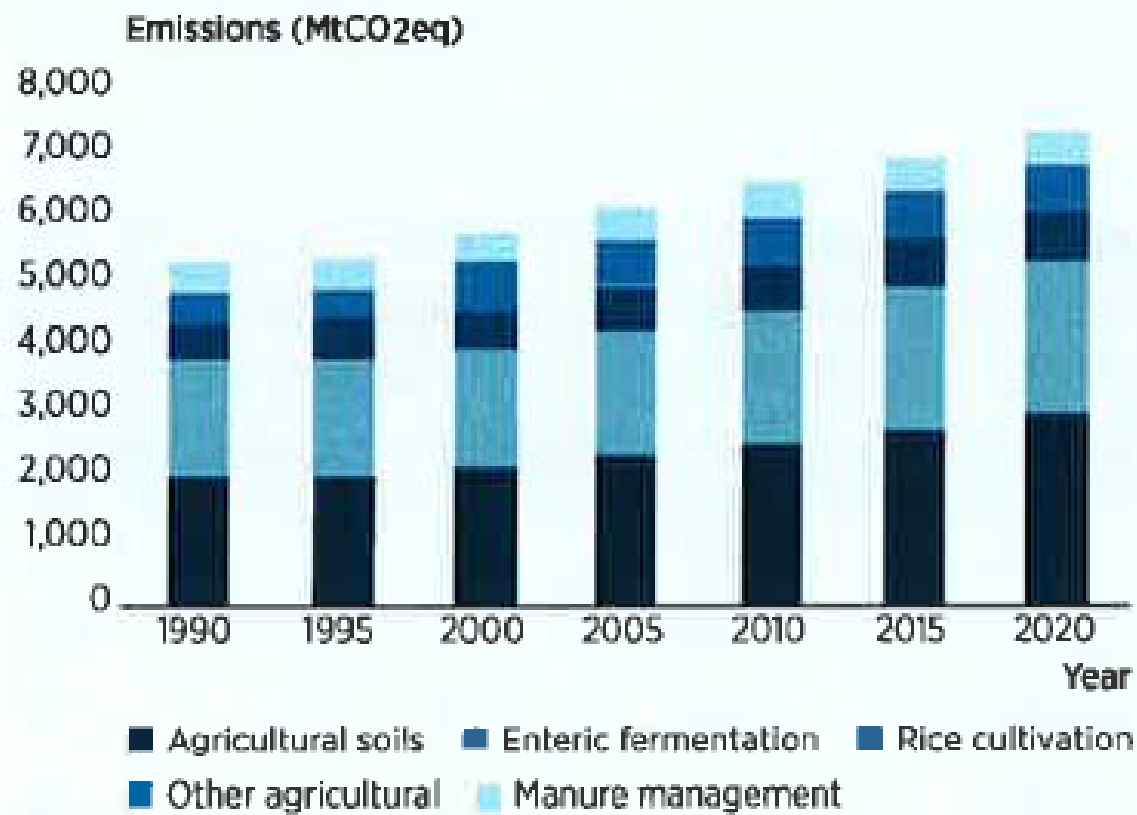
Sources of agricultural greenhouse gases excluding land use change



Source: Bellarby et al. (2008 fig. 2, p. 7).

**FIGURE 18.6**

**Total greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector by source**



*Source: US-EPA (2006).*

# Water, Energy, and Food Security

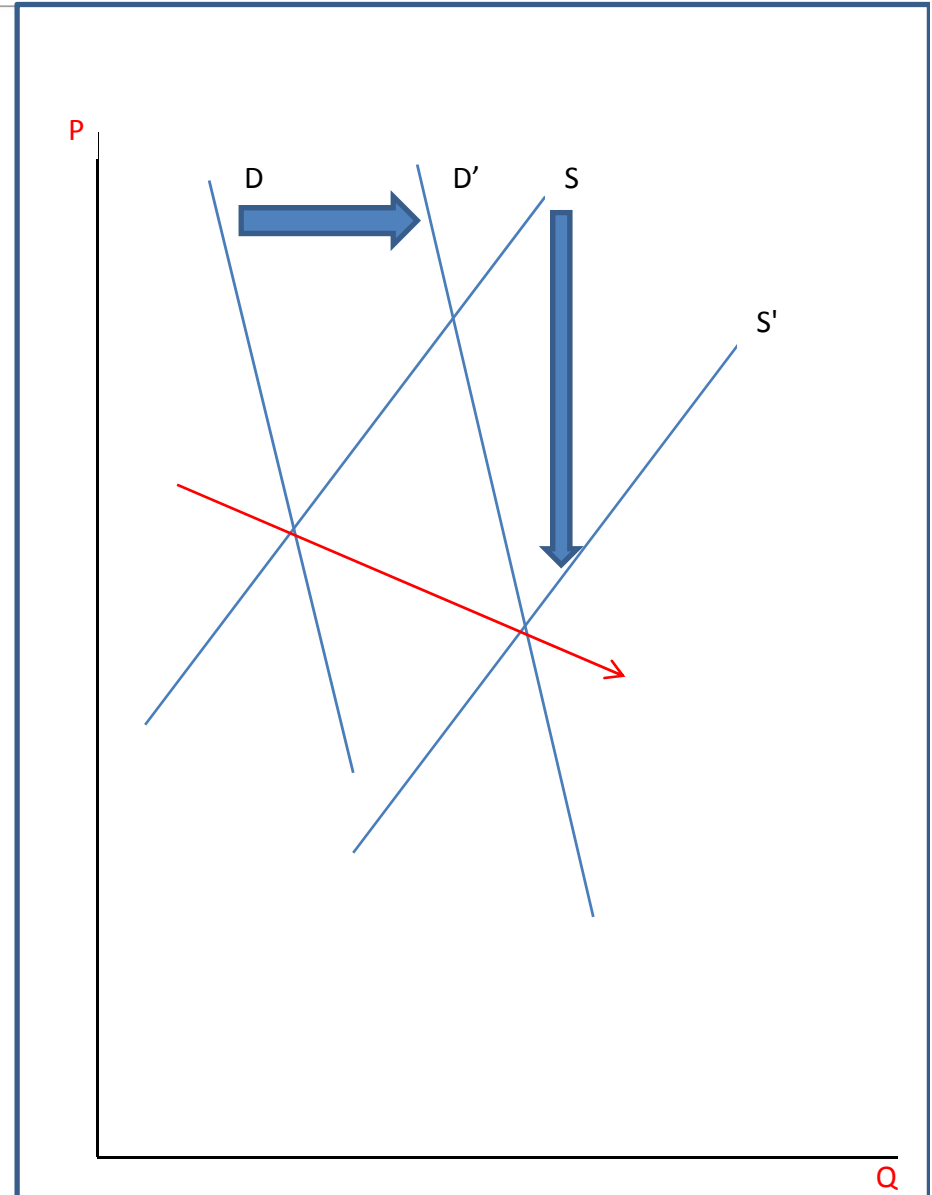
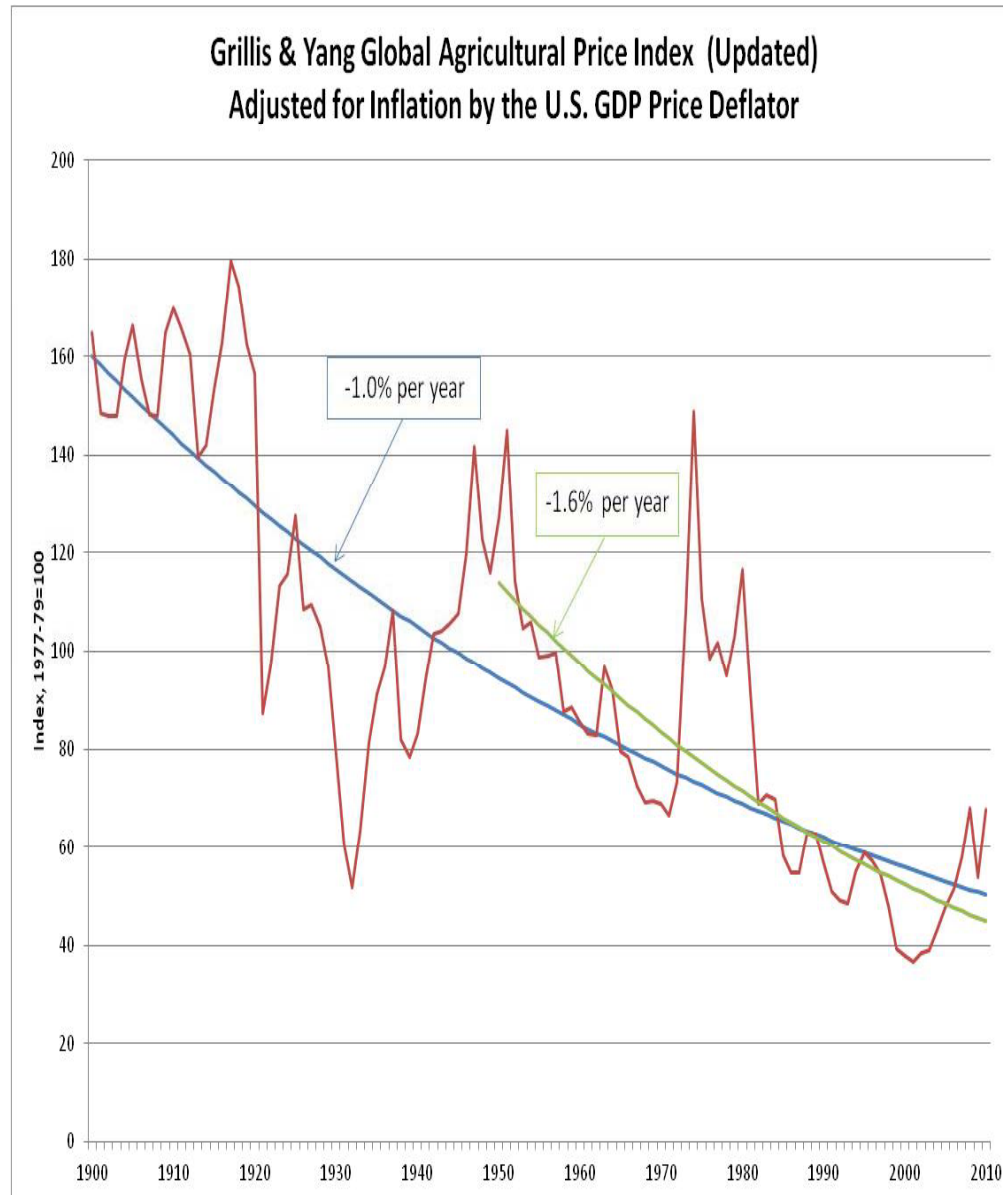
## SOME FACTOIDS



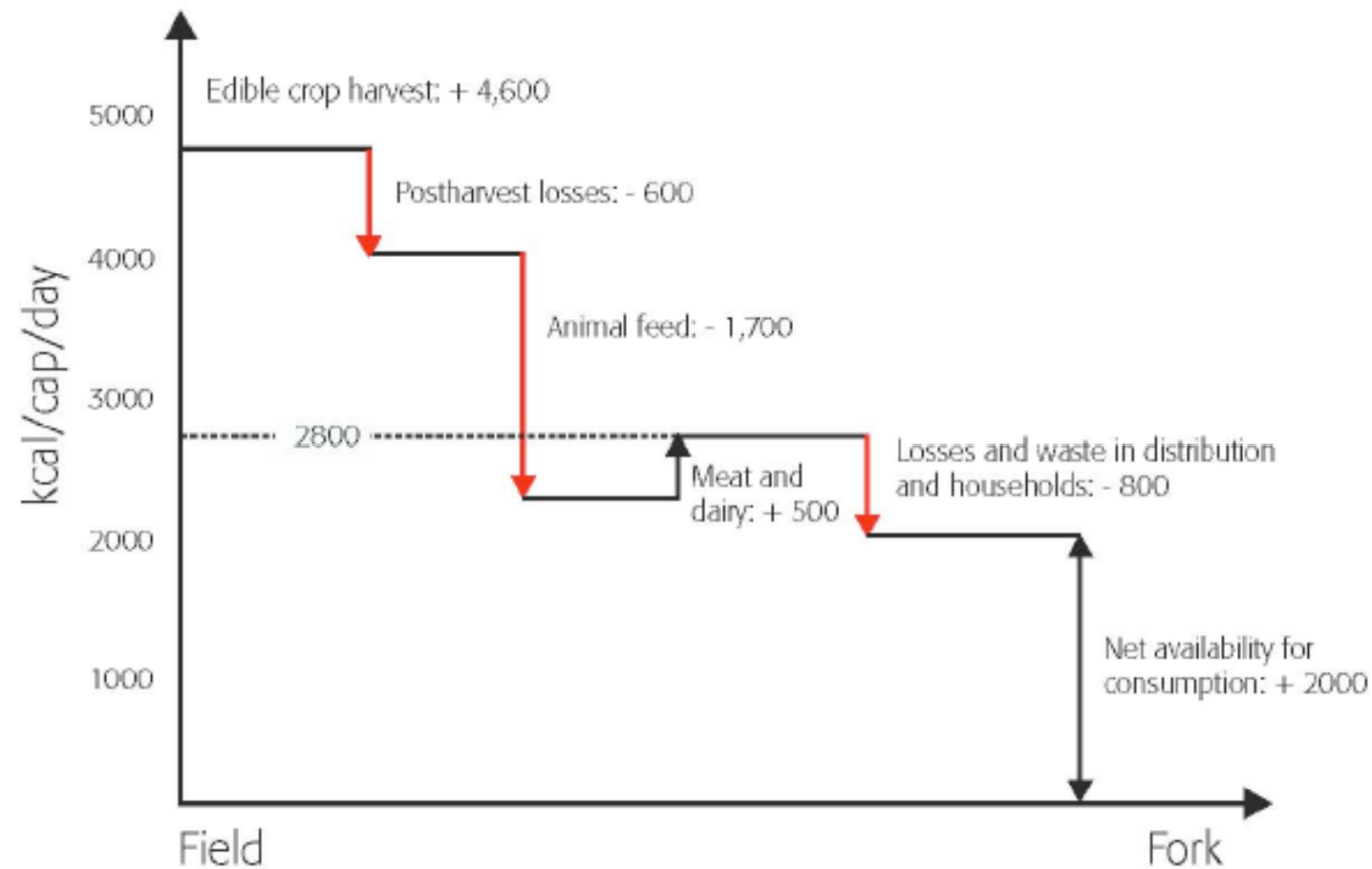
**Table 1. Status of selected global parameters.**

People in the world (2011) <sup>10</sup>	<b>7 billion</b>
Undernourished people (2010) <sup>11</sup>	<b>0.9 billion</b>
Overweight people over age 20 (2008) <sup>12</sup>	<b>1.5 billion</b>
People living on less than USD 1.25 per day (2005) <sup>13</sup>	<b>1.4 billion</b>
People living in dryland areas (2007) <sup>14</sup>	<b>2 billion</b>
People dependent on degrading land <sup>15</sup>	<b>1.5 billion</b>
Losses due to climatological events (extreme temperature, drought, forest fire) (2010) <sup>16</sup>	<b>USD 7.5 billion</b>
Area of agricultural land (2009) <sup>17</sup>	<b>4.9 billion hectares</b>
Area of croplands, pasture and grazing lands devoted to raising animals <sup>18</sup>	<b>3.7 billion hectares</b>
Annual growth in world agricultural production (1997-2007) <sup>19</sup>	<b>2.2%</b>
Food produced for human consumption lost or wasted annually <sup>20</sup>	<b>1.3 billion tonnes</b>

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century decline in food prices



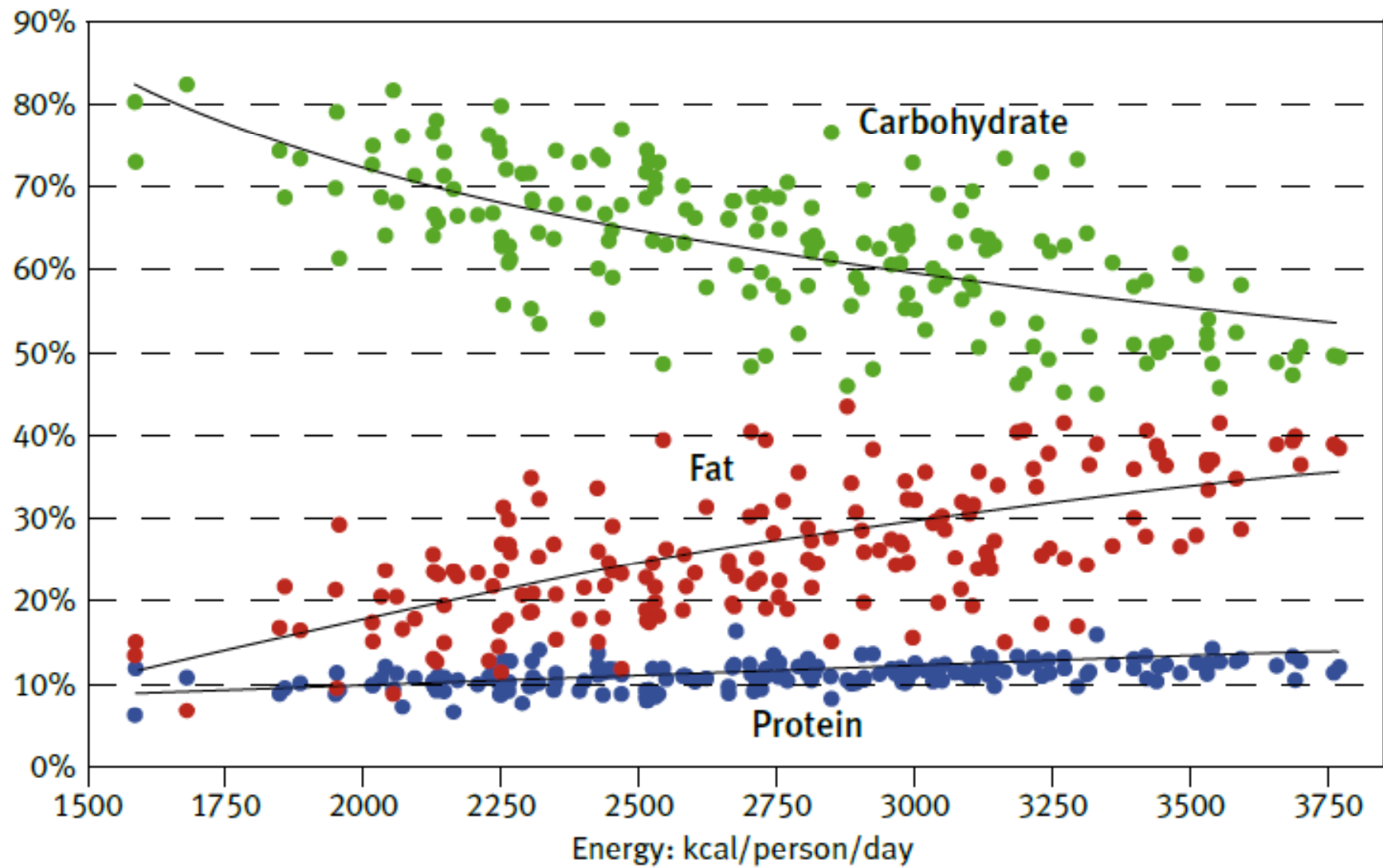


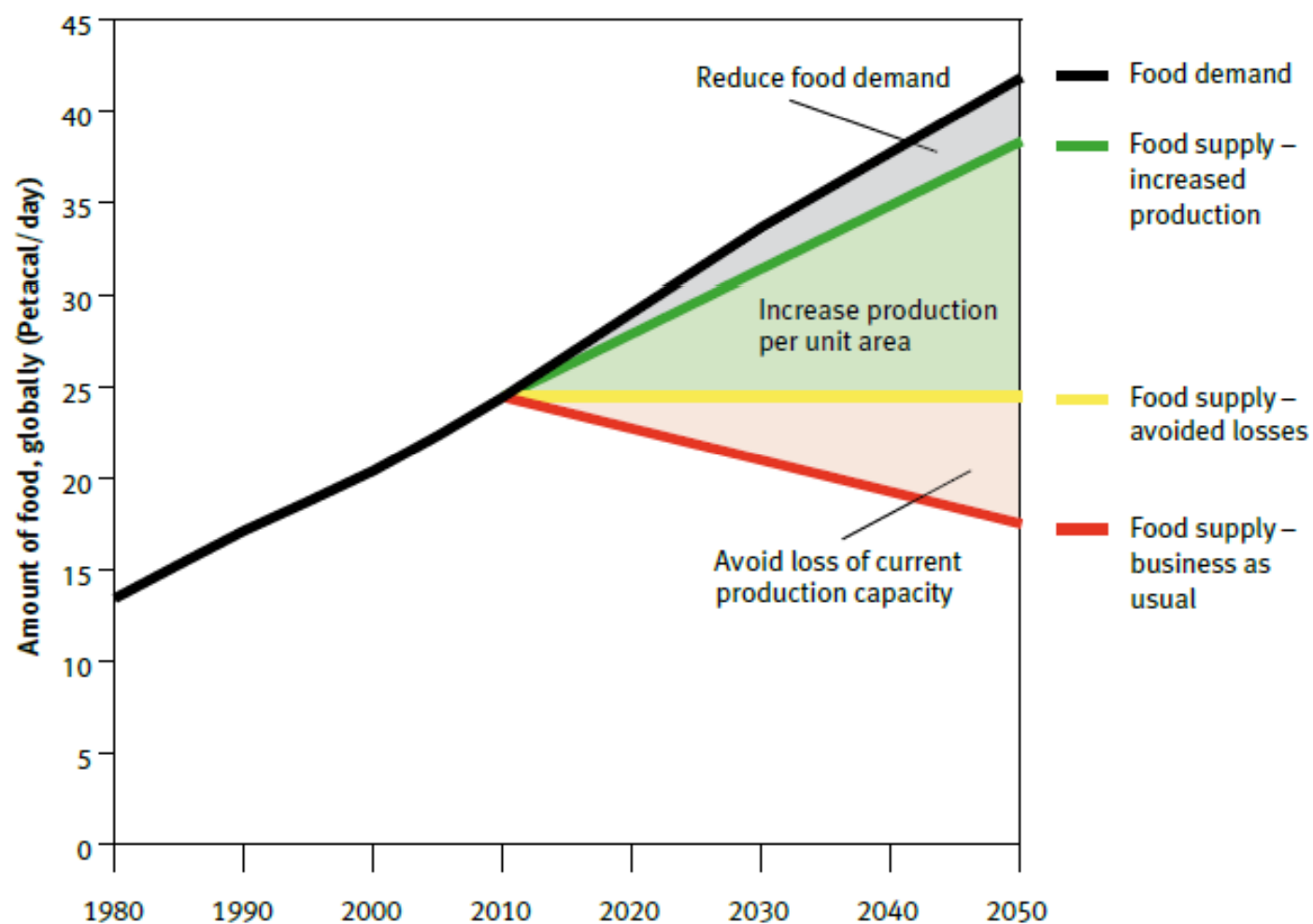


**Figure 5**

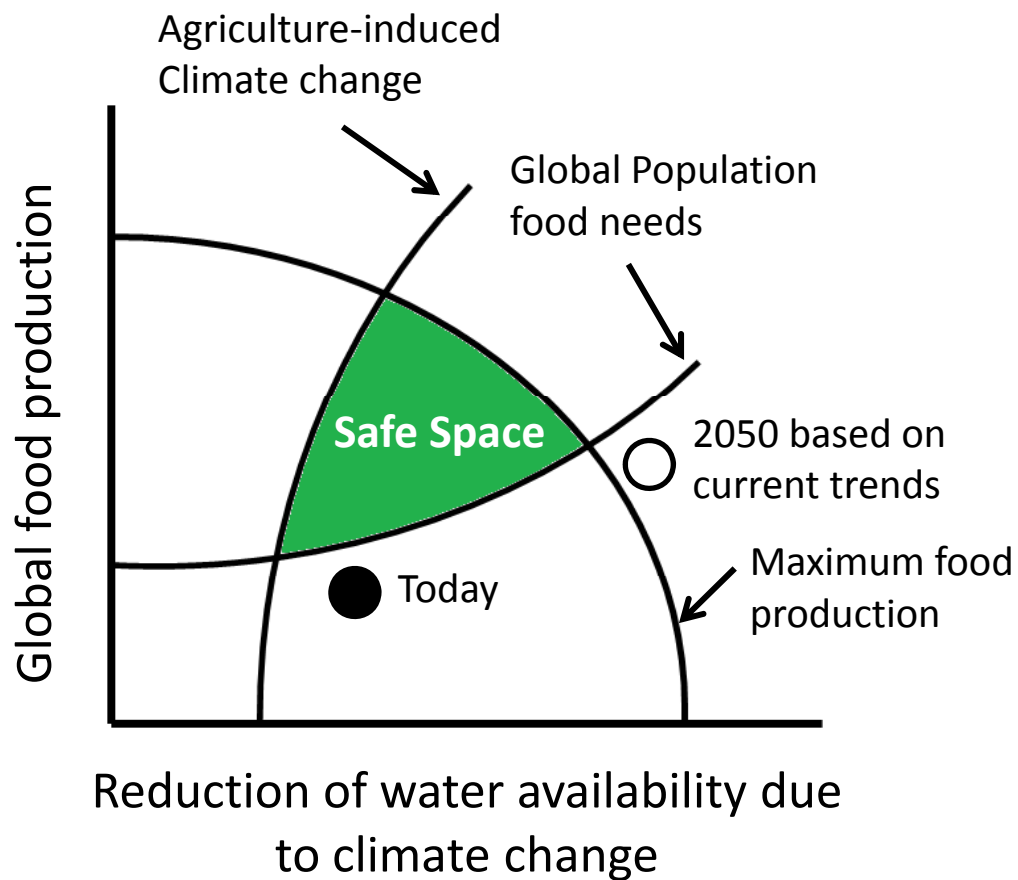
**From field to fork: estimation of food losses, conversion and wastage in the world food chain.**

**Source: Lundqvist et al. (2008) from Smil (2000)**



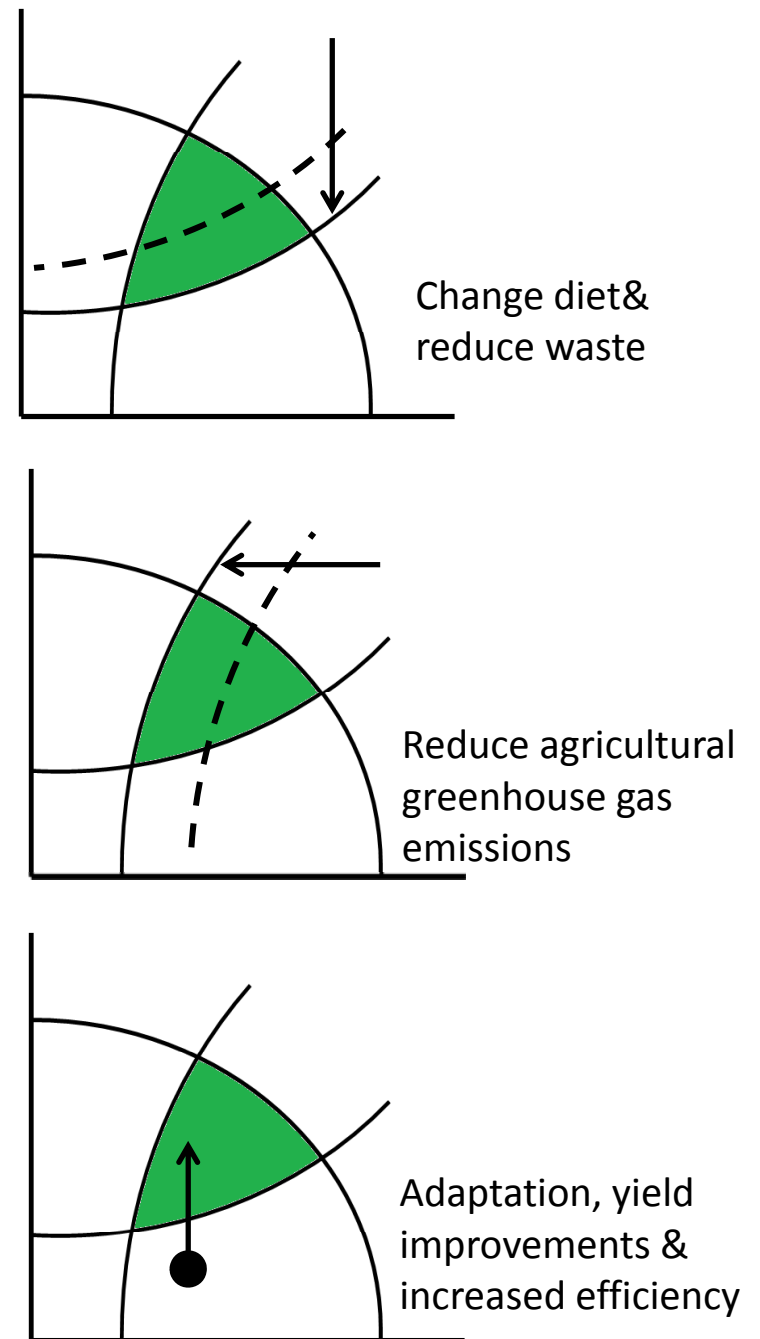


**Figure 10. Balancing food supply and demand.** Globally, food demand will grow in the future due to population growth and changing



*Based on Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change, p. 7, 2012.*

Operating within the safe space

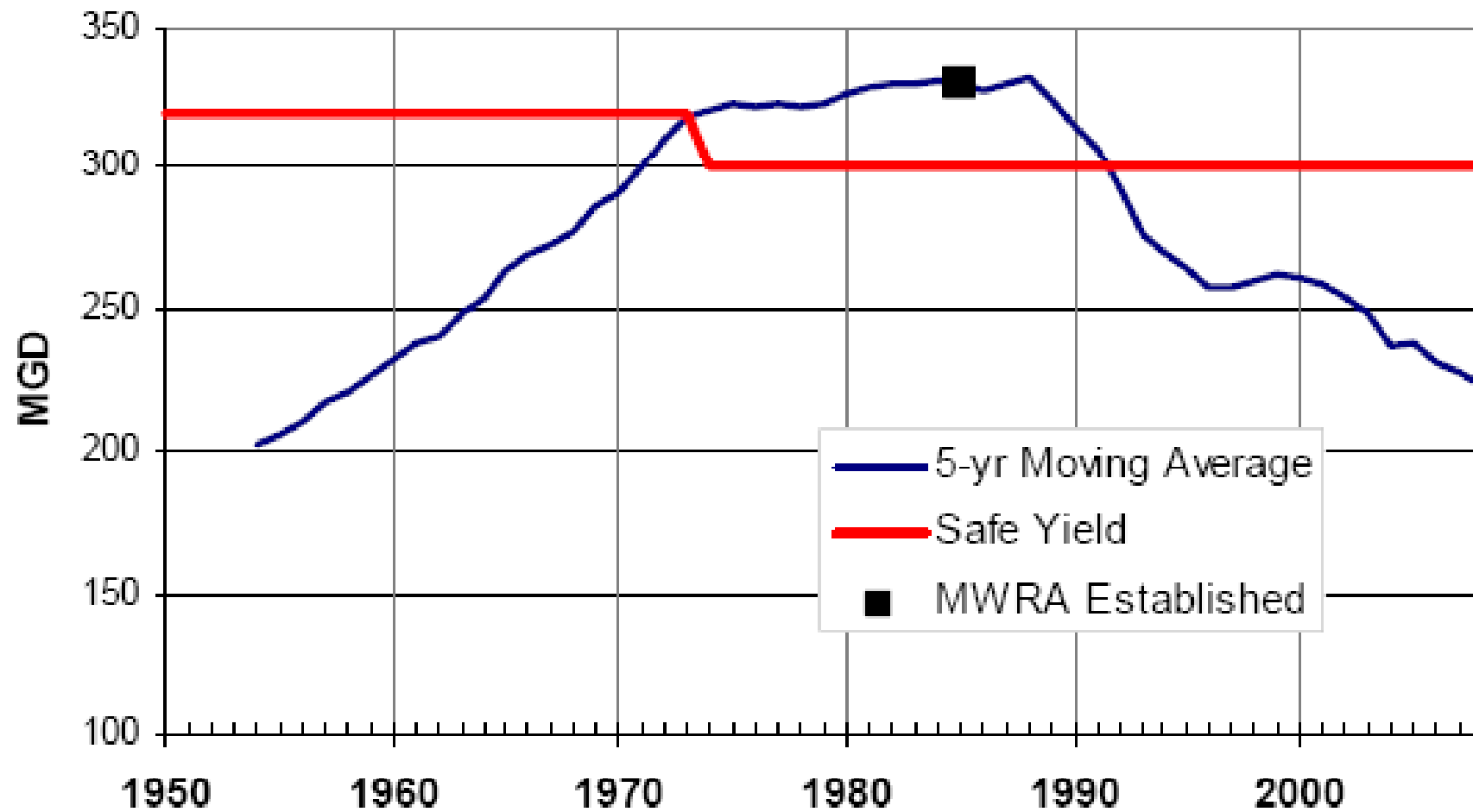


# Valuing water and the role of economic thinking in managing urban water resources

## Valuing water and the role of economic thinking in managing water resources: Boston Harbor

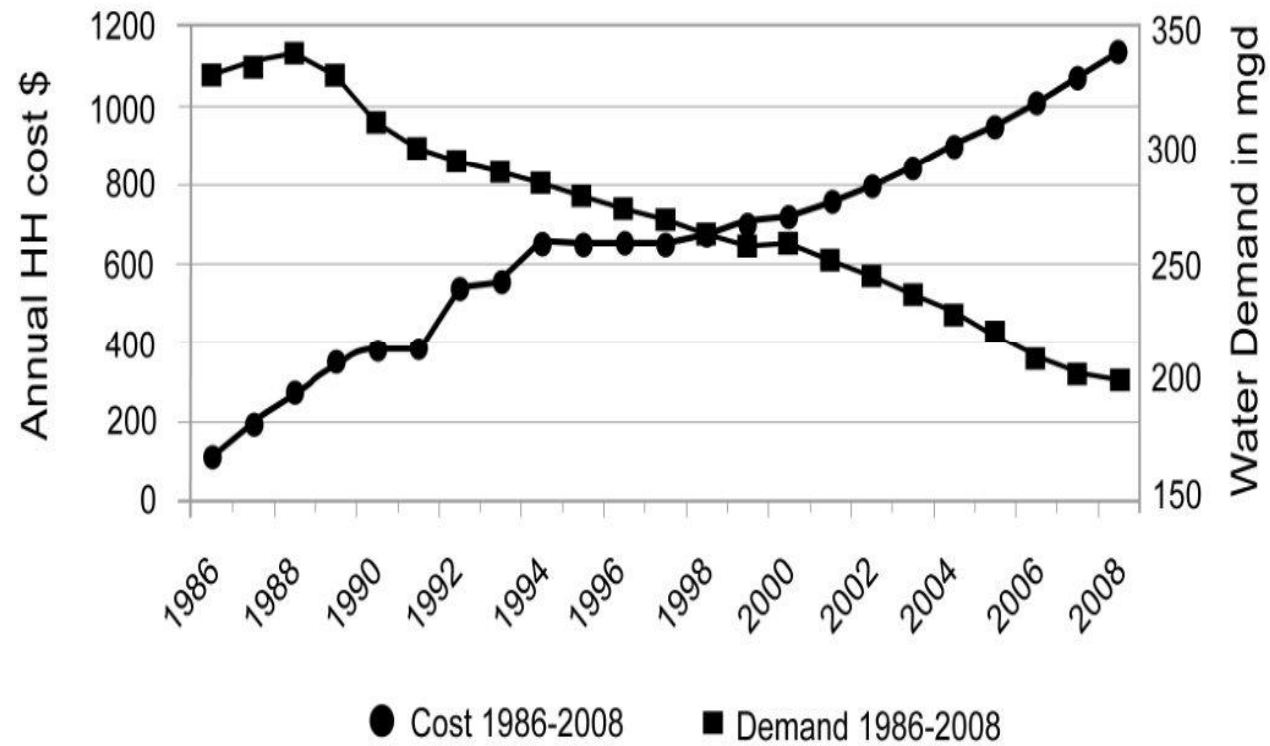
- 2.1 million in MWRA service area
- 1973 demand reached 300 mgd and exceeded the safe-yield of the system
- In 1986 \$3.8 billion WWTP completed and an average water and sewer bill was \$116/hh/yr
- By 2008 the bill had risen to \$1,132 /hh/year and system demand had declined to 200 mgd
- Pricing works!

## MWRA 5-Year Average System Demand



**Figure 1 – MWRA Reservoir Withdrawals**

## Cost vs Demand 1986-2008





# **Matching Supply with Demand**

Not a theoretically sound approach as value of the water increases with scarcity

## **McKINSEY STUDIES (2009)**

**China and India dominate all discussions on resource use in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (all those \$20 bills lying on the ground)**

## Opportunity of India's urbanization to 2030

**5** times – the number by which GDP will have multiplied by 2030

**590** million people will live in cities, nearly twice the population of the United States today

**270** million people net increase in working-age population

**70** percent of net new employment will be generated in cities

**91** million urban households will be middle class, up from 22 million today

**68** cities will have population of 1 million plus, up from 42 today; Europe has 35 today

**\$1.2** trillion capital investment is necessary to meet projected demand in India's cities

**700–900** million square meters of commercial and residential space needs to be built – or a new Chicago every year

**2.5** billion square meters of roads will have to be paved, 20 times the capacity added in the past decade

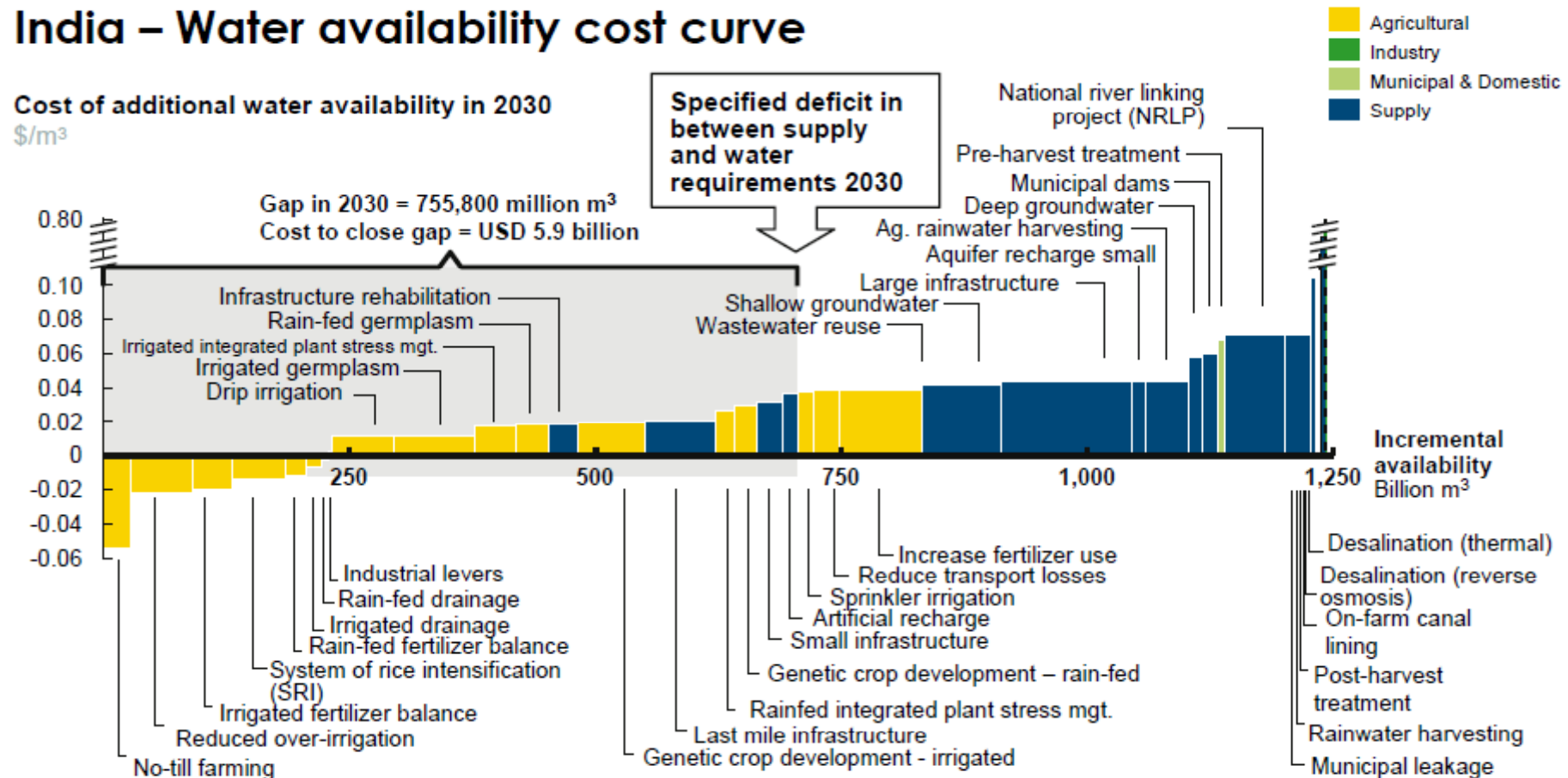
**7,400** kilometers of metros and subways will need to be constructed – 20 times the capacity added in the past decade

## Exhibit V

### India – Water availability cost curve

Cost of additional water availability in 2030

\$/m<sup>3</sup>



SOURCE: 2030 Water Resources Group

# China's Urban Growth until 2025

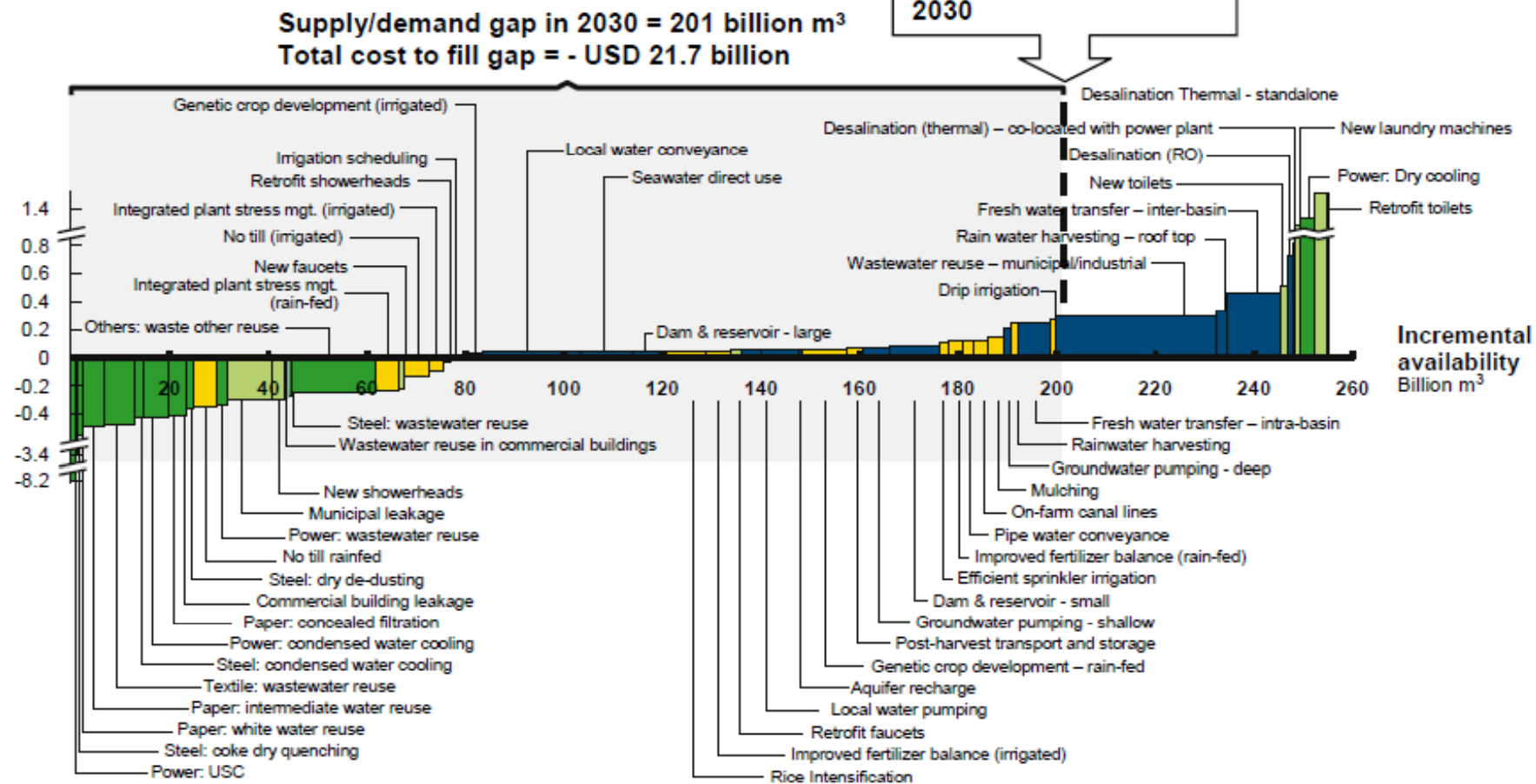
- 350 million people added to urban population
- One billion urban dwellers
- 221 cities with more than one million people
- Five billion square meters of road paved
- Forty billion square meters of floor space built
- 50,000 skyscrapers; equivalent 10 New Yorks
- 170 mass-transit systems built
- GDP increased by a factor of 5

## Exhibit 24

# China – Water availability cost curve

Cost of additional water availability in 2030,  
\$/m<sup>3</sup>

- Agricultural
- Industry
- Municipal & Domestic
- Supply



SOURCE: 2030 Water Resources Group

# **The Infrastructure Challenge: How Large Is It Really?**



# Gaping Reminders of Aging and Crumbling Pipes



Robert Stolarik for The New York Times

## Deferred Maintenance?



## Exhibit 1: The Infrastructure Challenge

Percentages of total projected cumulative infrastructure investment needed during the next 25 years to modernize obsolescent systems and meet expanding demand, broken down by region (rows) and sector (columns).

### Middle East

\$0.9T

Total projected cumulative infrastructure spending 2005–2030: **\$41 trillion**

Africa \$1.1T

U.S./Canada

\$6.5T

South America/  
Latin America

\$7.4T

Europe

\$9.1T

Asia/Oceania

\$15.8T



**Source:** Booz Allen Hamilton, Global Infrastructure Partners, World Energy Outlook, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Boeing, Drewry Shipping Consultants, U.S. Department of Transportation

# The Infrastructure Challenge: How Large Is It Really?

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- The \$22.6 trillion global need for all types of water infrastructure from 2005 until 2030 seems like a daunting number, but really how large is it compared with the global GDP and expenditures in other social sectors?
- It turns out to be about 1.5% of annual global GDP, or about \$120 per capita.
- Global spending on health amounted to 4.3% of global GDP in 2005.

# **Current Financial Disaster is Crying out for Government Investment in Infrastructure**

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- Water and Sewer looks like a good place to invest.
- The Cadmus Group (August 2008) estimated that \$1 invested in water and sewer infrastructure increases Gross Domestic Product in the long run by \$6.35 (9.7% rate of return).
- One job in water and sewer infrastructure creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy to support that job.
- They claim that these are larger than for highways.

# **Six Steps to Enhance Water and Food Security**

*Water Crisis: Myth or Reality (Rogers et al., 2006)*

## **1. Conserve irrigation water: technical changes.**

Using water saving technologies such as center-pivots and drip can greatly reduce water use by as much as two thirds, and double crop yields. In a given setting these technologies have the potential to expand the water resource base by significant amounts.

## **2. Invest in water infrastructure: maintenance issues.**

In many settings water is lost due to non-beneficial evaporation and seepage due to poor maintenance of both irrigation systems and urban systems. As water becomes more scarce (and valuable) improving maintenance practices reduces losses

## **3. Exploit advanced desalination technology**

Due to the rapid development and the reduction in cost of desalination it is certainly now cost-effective for municipal and industrial uses in most parts of the world and may be close break-even for irrigating horticultural products.

#### **4. Wastewater Recycling: cuts water demand.**

Taking advantage of the new low cost desalination techniques enables urban areas to recycle their wastewater for potable and non-potable uses. This will relieve the pressure for new sources for urban areas leaving more water for food and ecosystem use.

#### **5. Water pricing: toward full socio-economic costing.**

In most parts of the world water is underpriced with huge subsidies from the governments. This leads to overuse of the resource. Policies need to be set in place to gradually raise the water tariffs to cover full economic costs and ultimately full economic and environmental costs. This will require major social and political efforts, but will in the long-run result in substantial savings of water. Also increased charges for water will make the newer technologies for substituting for water sources via desalination more economically attractive and will also enable utilities to implement maintenance and conservation technologies which are currently uneconomical.

## **6. Ship virtual water: rationalize food trade.**

One of the major ways of conserving water and increasing water and food security is by exploiting the potential for using the virtual water embedded in imported food and agricultural products. One other way is by direct importation of water. For conventional foodstuffs, however, nothing comes close to relying on importation of virtual water. Bulk water imports are “bulky” virtual water imports are much more efficient.



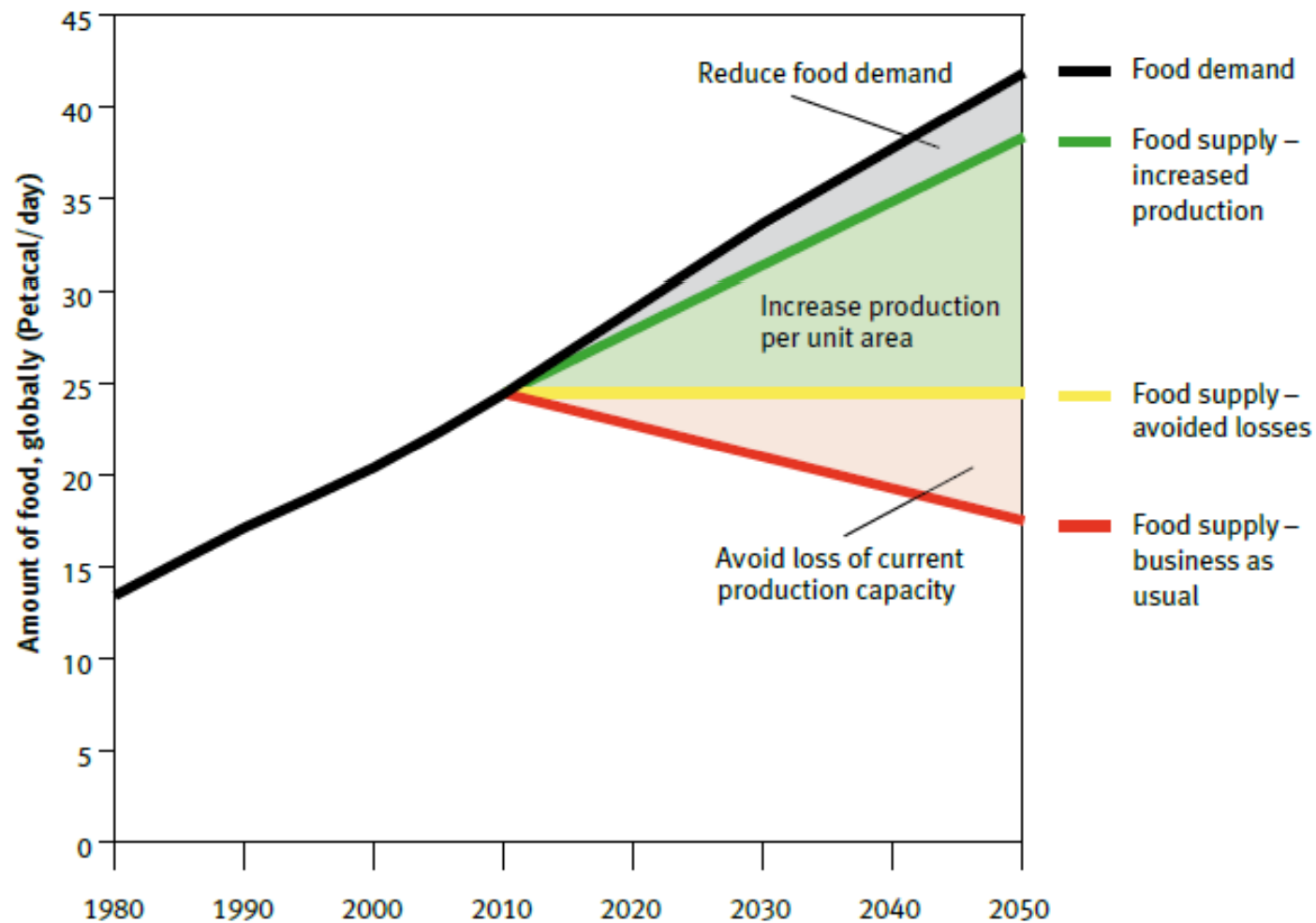


Figure 10. Balancing food supply and demand. Globally, food demand will grow in the future due to population growth and changing

Sus Ag Climate, p. 19. Discuss here the 6 steps mapped on this

# The Romans Ignored The AD 202 GAO Report!

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Source: InfoRoma, 2004. [www.inforoma.it](http://www.inforoma.it)

**DEFERRED MAINTENANCE?**