

Session: Climate-Adaptive Water Productivity: Building Coherence across Food, Water, and Land

31 October 2023 11:30 - 13:00 (Heliopolis Ballroom)

Background:

With a population of over 100 million citizens, growing demand increased for water and food production in Egypt. However, major trade-offs in the food, land, and water (FLW) systems attenuated its ability to operate on the relevant sustainable development goals. Figures showed that the agriculture activity (including fisheries) consumed 80 to 85% of water resources; the amount of irrigation water used increased annually, especially for summer crops; and poor irrigation water management degraded land, which in certain areas diminished its ability to sustain the production of food (Mahmoud & Bably, 2019; El-Ramady et al., 2019). As a result, Egypt's per capita share of renewable internal freshwater decreased to around half the minimum amount required for water security, which is 585 m³ compared to 1,000 required cubic meters annually (World Bank, 2020; CAPMAS, 2022). To fulfill water demands, non-conventional water sources are explored but suffer from weak wastewater treatment infrastructure, preserving water quality, and monitoring the application of the existing treated wastewater reuse laws and codes (Elbana et al., 2017).

With a growing agriculture and fisheries sector that contributed in 2021 to 12.5% to the Growth Domestic Product (GDP) (CAPMAS, 2022), along with a boost in agricultural exports that reached 6.5 million tons in 2022 (MALR, 2023), water demand is therefore set to intensify affecting nutrition and food security, livelihoods and sustainable jobs, and the economy. Therefore, to create more productive, resilient, and responsive water, food, land systems in Egypt, there is a need to optimize water productivity mechanisms. However, a key challenge for many parts of the world is largely due to fragmented and uncoordinated policy and governmental actions towards the integration of food, land, and water systems, creating synergies and minimizing trade-offs to sustain the use and management of water resources. To create a road map, there is a need for a comprehensive policy coherence that acts on improving water productivity that combines water, land, and food systems, in addition to climate change and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

At the National Policies and Strategies (NPS) initiative, we focus on analyzing the coherence of water productivity policies between the different relevant strategies in Egypt towards a potential coordinated and integrated policy environment contributing to water and food security and sustainable development in Egypt. Accordingly, an analysis of the different synergies and trade-offs between policy objectives and instruments, in addition to an emphasis on stakeholders cross-coordination mechanisms, are significant to minimize policy incoherence.

Objective of the panel:

This session is an initiative to provide an empirical analysis of the policymaking related to climate-adaptive water productivity programmes in Egypt. It aims to highlight the multifaceted aspects of water productivity, and emphasize the existing and best practices, as well as the opportunities of enhancement to achieve policy coherence around water productivity policies.

Expected outcomes:

After participating in this presentation, the attendees will be able to:

1. Compile a list of best practices for the NPS initiative;
2. Influence the reflection on the methodology of policy coherence analysis;
3. Document reflections and recommendations on policymaking and policy coherence around water productivity.

Session Structure

Timeline	Description	Moderator
11:30 – 11:50	Session Kick-Off by the moderator Mentimeter question 1 ¹ : Keynote talks (5 mins each): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Rabab Gaber Hassan - General Director of the Water Resources Department, Planning Sector at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation▪ Dr. Alan Nicole “Co-Lead of NPS – Principal researcher at IWMI”. (<i>Remotely</i>)▪ Dr. Youssef Brouziyne “MENA Regional Representative of IWMI”	Dr. Juan Carlos Sanchez Ramirez
11:50 – 12:00	Presentation on NPS initiative in other countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Best practices and recommendations on policy coherence practices from other countries by: Dr. Juan Carlos “NPS coordinator – Senior Researcher at IWMI”	Dr. Youssef Brouziyne
12:00-12:10	Presentation on NPS in Egypt: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Policy and Institutional Mapping by: Ms. Fayrouz Eldabbagh “Political Science Researcher at IWMI”	Dr. Youssef Brouziyne
12:10-12:15	Show Mentimeter results on Question 1	Dr. Youssef Brouziyne

¹ Menti Question 1:

- *From your point of view, who are the key stakeholders leading programs related to climate adaptive water productivity?*

	Show Mentimeter Question 2 ²	
12:15 – 12:45	<p>Panelist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Rabab Gaber Hassan - General Director of the Water Resources Department, Planning Sector at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation ▪ Dr. Ahmed Nasr-Allah - Country director at WorldFish Egypt ▪ Dr. Sikandra Kurdi - Country Program Lead at IFPRI Egypt ▪ Dr. Abdel-aziz Ibrahim Tageldin – Professor Emeritus Water Resources Economics at the Institute of National Planning <p>Main Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the different practices around climate-adaptive water productivity? 2. What are your reflections on policymaking in Egypt towards coherent water productivity strategies? 	Dr. Youssef Brouziyne
12:45 – 13:00	Q&A Show Mentimeter results. Wrap up.	Dr. Juan Carlos Sanchez Ramirez

Detailed Panel Discussion Questions:

1st Question (3 mins for each):

- **Dr. Rabab Gaber Hassan:** what are the main adopted policy instruments and programs related to climate-adaptive water productivity in Egypt?
- **Dr. Ahmed Nasr-Allah:** What are the major Egypt-adapted innovations that can increase water productivity with a focus on aquaculture?
- **Dr. Sikandra Kurdi:** can you please elaborate on the trade-offs between water allocation and productivity and food (wheat) import in Egypt?
- **Dr. Abdel-aziz Ibrahim:** What are the current significant practices that improve economic water productivity?

2nd Question (3 mins for each):

- **Dr. Rabab Gaber Hassan:** What are you doing from your side to increase cooperation on the central and local scale?

² Menti Question 2:

- *What is the most important step/measure you would recommend doing to achieve coherence in water productivity policies?*

- **Dr. Sikandra Kurdi:** Based on your evaluation studies with local communities, what are the IFPRI's policy recommendations for integrating the social and local side of water productivity initiatives?
- **Dr. Ahmed Nasr-Allah:** How can we strengthen private sector engagement in biophysical and economic water productivity?
- **Dr. Abdel-aziz Ibrahim:** What are your policy recommendations to enhance investments and exports that support the economic water productivity?