

Strategic Workshop
**Accounting for water scarcity and pollution
in the rules of international trade**

Amsterdam – NEMO Science Centre – 25-26 November 2010



Water Footprint
NETWORK



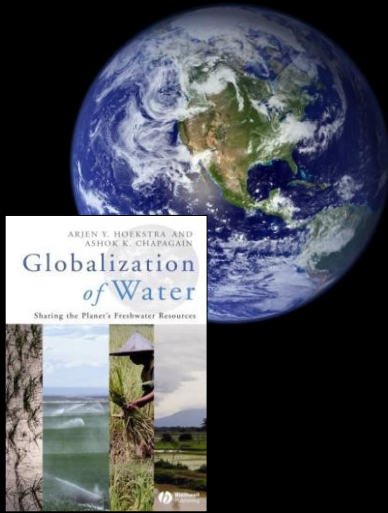
Global Water
Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Workshop objectives

- interdisciplinary forum; share knowledge and expertise
- identify issues of concern, such as the inter-linkages between water conservation and international trade
- discuss rules of trade necessary to ensure sustainable, equitable and efficient water allocation and use worldwide
- follow-up: proceedings & ESF science policy briefing.

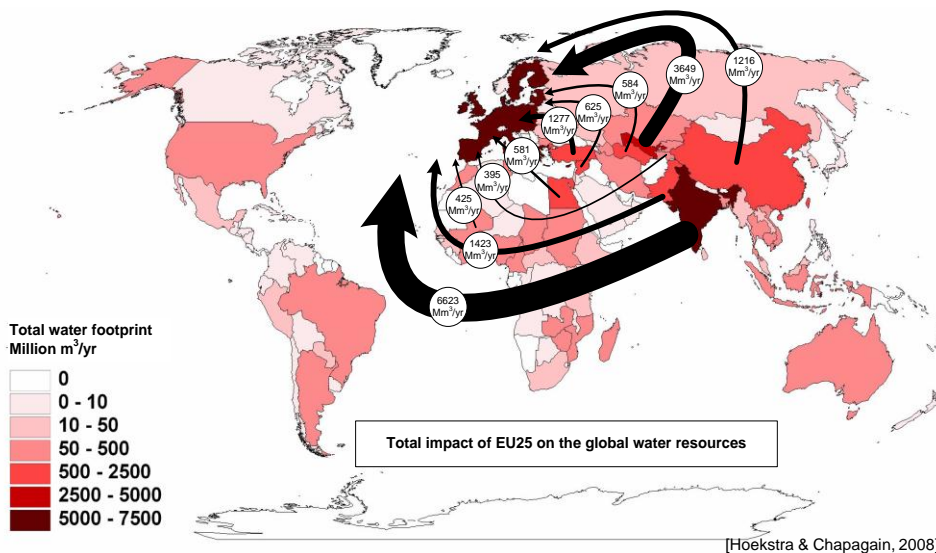
Water & trade



- Economic perspective.
Water-abundant regions have other opportunities than water-scarce regions, but water is not factored into the price of commodities.
- Environmental-social perspective.
Consumers indirectly contribute to water depletion and pollution elsewhere, without covering the cost.
- Political perspective.
Several nations become increasingly dependent on external water resources. Water becomes a geopolitical resource.

There is a growing need to harmonize national water and trade policies.

Water footprint of EU's cotton consumption



The water footprint of cotton consumption



Cotton for export



Shrinking Aral Sea

The water footprint of strawberries

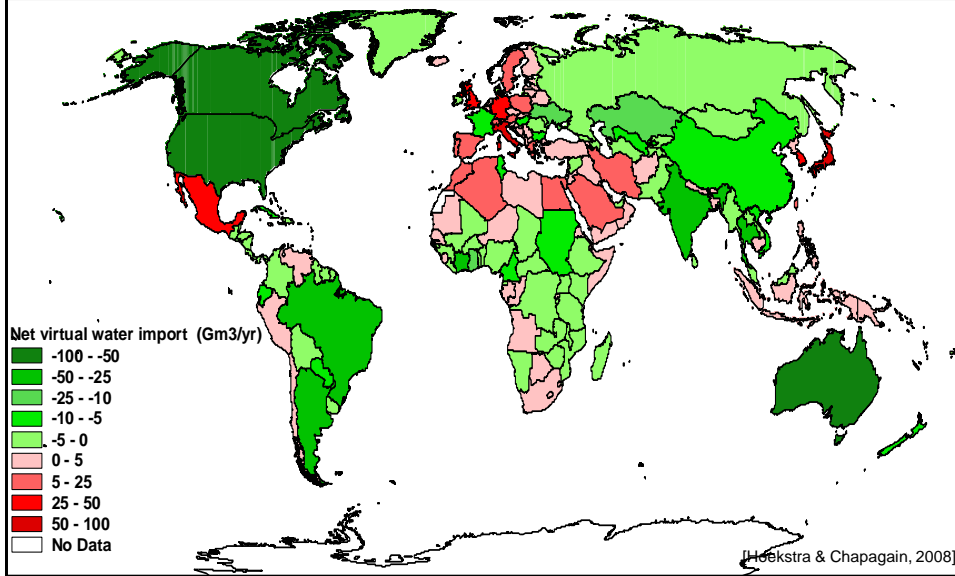


Strawberries for export

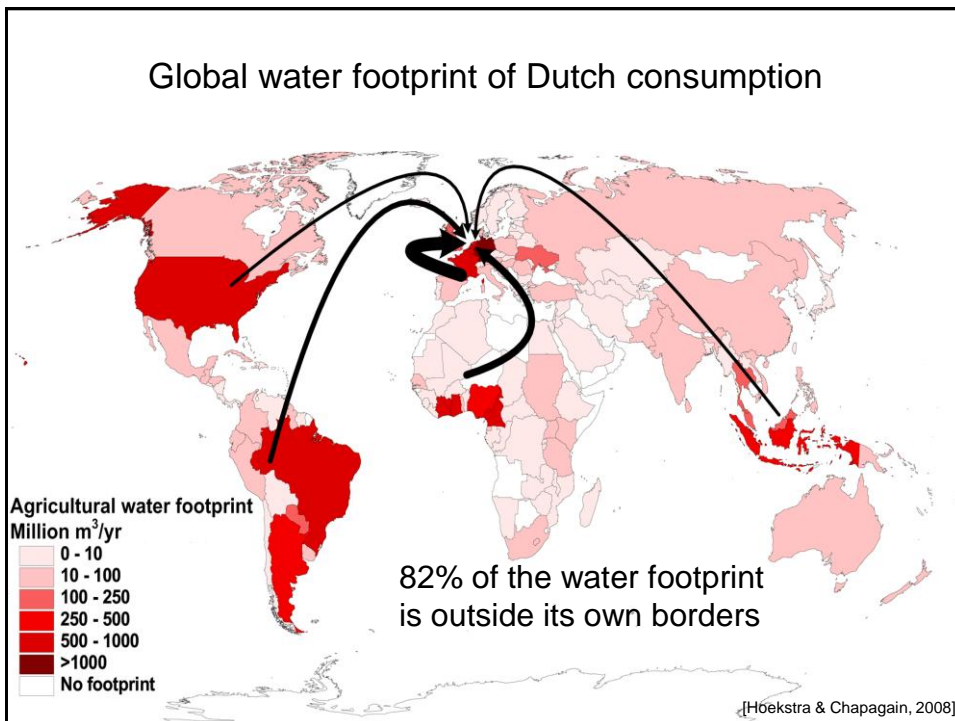


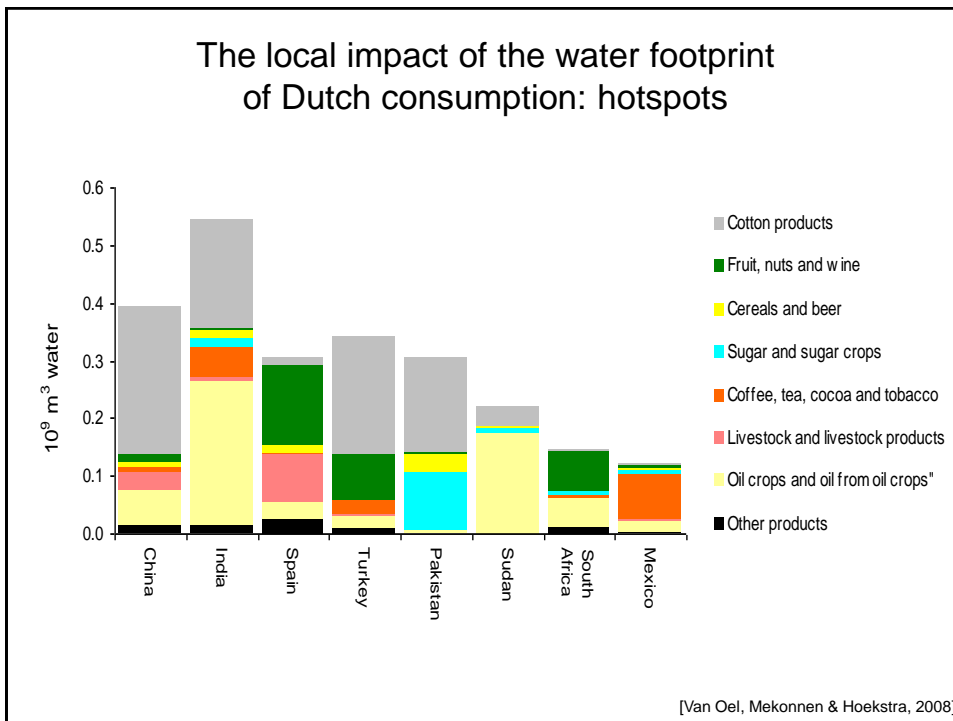
Coto Doñana National Park, southern Spain

National virtual water trade balances



Global water footprint of Dutch consumption





The relation international trade – freshwater scarcity

What is special about freshwater?

The effect of international trade on domestic water resources

- Import of water-intensive commodities reduces national water demand
- Export of water-intensive commodities raises national water demand
- The effect of international trade on local water pollution

The effect of water availability on international trade

Global water-use efficiency

- Global water savings as a result of international trade
- The downside of virtual-water trade as a solution to water scarcity

The relation international trade – freshwater scarcity

What sort of international trade rules would contribute to a better use of the world's scarce water resources?

- The principles of product transparency and non-discrimination
- The imbalance between international trade agreements and international agreements on sustainable water use
- International Water Pricing Protocol
- An international water label for water-intensive products
- An International Water-Footprint Permit System
- The Doha Development Round



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