

## ASSISTING IN THE SUSTAINABLE SATISFYING OF GLOBAL FOOD DEMAND



The World Bank Group has issued a warning that the sustainable food production of less than half of the global population will be only possible with the current agricultural water management practices (The World Bank Group, Global Water Monitoring Report-Nourish and Flourish: Water Solutions to Feed 10 Billion People on a Livable Planet, March 19, 2026).

The depletion of critical resources in water-scarce regions is resulting in the need to feed 10 billion people, while in water-rich regions, underutilization is resulting in unused production capacity. As a result, it has been determined that the most effective approach to satisfying future food demand is to implement more intelligent water management.

The report aims to identify the areas where rain-fed agriculture can be expanded, where irrigation investments can create jobs and foster growth, where water use needs to be rebalanced to protect ecosystems, and where trade offers a more sustainable path than local production by classifying countries based on water scarcity and their status regarding food imports or exports.

It is anticipated that by 2050, an additional USD 24–70 billion will be necessary to modernize existing systems and expand irrigation in areas with available water.

In addition, it is imperative to offer the requisite financial assistance to agricultural operations in order to facilitate the transition of small-scale farmers from subsistence farming to surplus scale. Subsidies comprise the majority of government agricultural support. Nevertheless, a portion of this expenditure must be redirected through regulatory reforms, blended finance, and public-private partnerships.