

# **Water Management for Food Security: The Role of Water Policy Reform**

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**Rapporteur's Report**

**December 15, 2011**

# Whose Food Security is it?



Are we speaking about food security at the global, national, or household level?

Do we care only about calories, or do we care about nutrition, as well?



# Should we focus on Supply or Demand?

*[There go those economists, again!]*



Will we produce enough food to feed the planet in 2050?  
Yes.



But will there be sufficient  
Demand?

# First they must eat!

We must consider our policy goals very carefully before we proceed with reform.



Often we must balance our quest for efficiency with concerns regarding equity.



# So many small farmers... What can we do?

Water pricing and other policies often are easiest to implement in areas with few, large-scale farmers

The policy task can be much more challenging in regions where thousands of small-scale farmers share a single canal system

The notion is challenging, but not overwhelming



# Keeping one eye outside the water box



Water policies are critical in ensuring wise water use

But so, too, are agricultural and macro-economic policies



The target is clear... No, no, the target is moving, and accelerating!



We should consider adaptive policies that can be changed over time

The targets we perceive today might not be the targets we will be trying to hit tomorrow



# We must not allow the best to become the enemy of the good



It will not be possible – and it is not necessary - to duplicate their success overnight.

Several industrialized countries have made great strides in water policy reform.



# Someone must always be taking the long view (Robert Solow, 1974)



Long-term strategies must recognize social goals, political issues, and financial constraints

We cannot implement all desired policies overnight... But we can be thinking about them, from today, forward



We have seen the future,  
and the future is us!

Success is within our control.

We must plan  
ahead creatively,  
with due  
consideration of  
our goals and the  
challenges we  
will face.

