

Indicator name	Irrigated land as percentage of cultivated land
<p>Data interval around 2003 ■ Less than 1 ■ 1-5 ■ 5-10 ■ 10-50 ■ More than 50 □ No data</p>	
	Prepared by
Example	WWDR3, Chapter 7, Map 7.5 WWDR2, Chapter 7, Map 7.1
Rationale	This indicator provides a measure of the importance of irrigation in agriculture.
Position in DPSIR chain	State/Pressure
Definition of indicator	Area under irrigation as a proportion of total cultivated land.
Underlying definitions and concepts	<p>Area under irrigation refers to the area equipped to provide water to crops, including areas equipped for full and partial control irrigation (surface, sprinkler, localized), equipped lowlands (wetlands, inland valley bottoms, mangroves, plains, etc.), and areas equipped for spate irrigation (diverted seasonal flood waters).</p> <p>Cultivated land is the sum of arable land and the land under permanent crops. Arable land refers to the land under temporary crops (double-cropped areas are counted only once) + temporary meadows for mowing or pasture + land under market and kitchen gardens + land temporarily fallow (less than five years). The abandoned land resulting from shifting cultivation is not included in this category. Data for “arable land” are not meant to indicate the amount of land that is potentially cultivable.</p> <p>Land under permanent crops refers to the land cultivated with crops that occupy the land for long periods and need not be replanted after each harvest, such as cocoa, coffee and rubber; this category includes land under flowering shrubs, fruit trees, nut trees and vines, but excludes land under trees grown for wood or timber.</p>
Specification of determinants needed	Area under irrigation (AI) Area cultivated (AC)
Computation	100 (AI/AC)
Units of measurements	Percent
Data sources, availability and quality	FAOQUASTAT, http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/globalmaps/07_IRR_PCT_CU.pdf (Accessed 04 March 2009)
Scale of application	All scales; data available at country level
Geographical coverage	Global
Interpretation	As a measure of the dependence of a country’s or region’s agriculture on

	irrigation, this indicator shows the vulnerability of that sector to water stress, which has implications for national food security depending on production and trade patterns.
Linkage with other indicators	Relative importance of agricultural water as withdrawal Relative importance of agriculture in the economy
Alternative methods and definitions	Definition of irrigated land differs per country. In particular paddy irrigation in Asia is monitored in a different way by each country. Also sometimes instead of cultivated land, only arable land is used.
Related indicator sets	FAOSTAT
Sources of further information	FAO http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm (Accessed 04 March 2009)
Other institutions involved	ICID, IWMI