



**RESOURCE**

# Virtual Water: Its Implications on Agriculture and Trade

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**Description / Abstract**

Water is the basis of life. And, unlike various forms of energy generation, water cannot simply be created where it is needed. Freshwater is remarkably scarce, comprising just 2.5% of the global water supply. Although this water at an annual level may be judged as sufficient for human use, spatio-temporal variations in the availability of freshwater over the globe is a challenge. Growing populations and rising levels of affluence mean increased competition for water, raising vital questions of equity, access, and social justice at the global scale. Water is thus a lens through which to examine an array of vital issues facing humanity and the planet: human and animal health; food production; environmental management; resource consumption; climate change adaptation and mitigation; economic development, trade and competitiveness; and ethics and consumer trust – to name but a few.

**Publication year**

2018

**Publisher**

Water International

**Keywords**

Virtual Water

**Thematic Tagging**

Ecosystems/Nature-based solutions

Language English

[View resource](#)

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**Source  
URL:**

<https://beta.toolbox.venthic.com/resource/virtual-water-its-implications-agriculture-and-trade>