

# WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

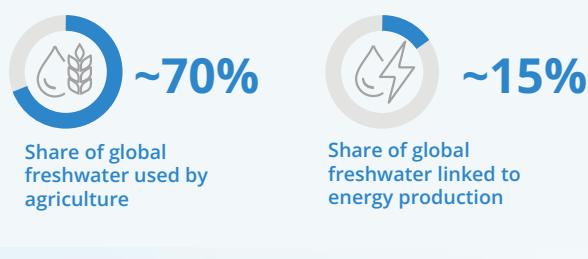
Promoting cooperative solutions for a sustainable future in Central Asia

## RELEVANCE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SECURITY

### What is the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus?

The WEF Nexus recognizes that **water, energy and food systems are deeply interconnected**. Decisions in one sector directly affect the others, creating synergies or trade-offs. Integrated planning and governance help move beyond siloed decision-making to strengthen **resource security, sustainability and resilience**.

#### Global trends reinforce regional risks



By 2030, demand may increase by:



### Why Integrated WEF Planning Matters

Climate change is reshaping water, energy and food systems across the OSCE region, particularly in Central Asia. Seasonal variability, growing demand and transboundary dependencies are increasing risks linked to scarcity, socio-economic pressures and regional stability.

Without integrated planning, climate change increases the likelihood of:

- Disrupted irrigation and food systems
- Reduced hydropower generation
- Heightened tensions over shared resources

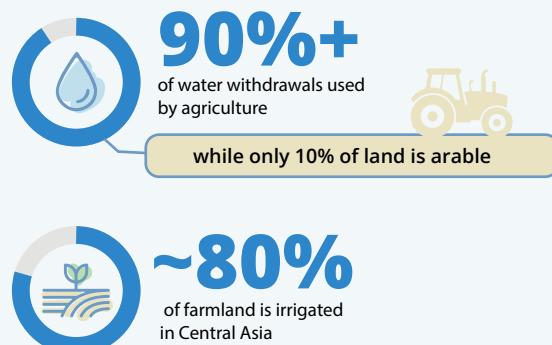
### Key Regional Pressures

Rising pressure on water resources

Climate change and increasing variability are intensifying trade-offs between:

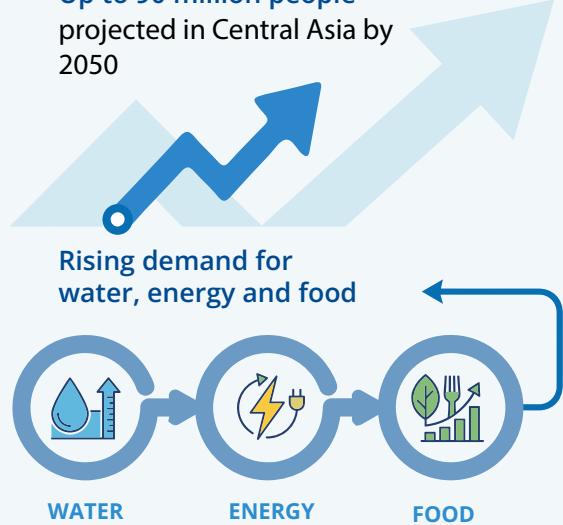
- Agriculture and food production
- Hydropower and energy security
- Industry and domestic water use

#### High dependence on irrigation



#### Growing demand

Up to 90 million people projected in Central Asia by 2050



## OSCE ACTION & IMPACT

### OSCE Action: Turning Nexus Thinking into Practice

In response, the OCEEA together with the Swiss Government and partners launched the **“Drops of the Future”** workshop series. Implemented across Central Asia, the initiative has addressed climate-related risks in the Water–Energy–Food Nexus and equipped young professionals with tools to manage competing water demands through co-operative, consensus-based approaches.

### OSCE's Added Value

The OSCE brings a distinct security-oriented perspective to WEF Nexus implementation by combining:



A **trusted and neutral platform** for dialogue



A **strong regional presence** through Field Operations



Expertise at the intersection of environmental governance, co-operation and conflict prevention



### Linking Regional Action to Global Processes

The OSCE has collaborated with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other partners to ensure youth perspectives from Central Asia contribute to international water and food dialogues, including the **Rome Water Dialogue**, the World Food Forum and UN water-related processes.

**Integrated WEF Nexus approaches are essential for resilience, stability and peace.**

Aligned With:



### From Capacity Building to Global Impact



FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE:

### Drops of the Future

*From learning to action*

#### Impact at a Glance



**5** countries engaged



**150+**  
young professionals trained



Strengthened youth and women's networks



Enhanced skills to manage water–energy–food trade-offs



Practical inputs into policy and dialogue processes



#### Implemented as part of

Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention – Phase III

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