

# Water shortage and governance – what role for the public policy dialogue

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The CEO Water Mandate at the Fifth World Water Forum  
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# From water shortage to food shortage

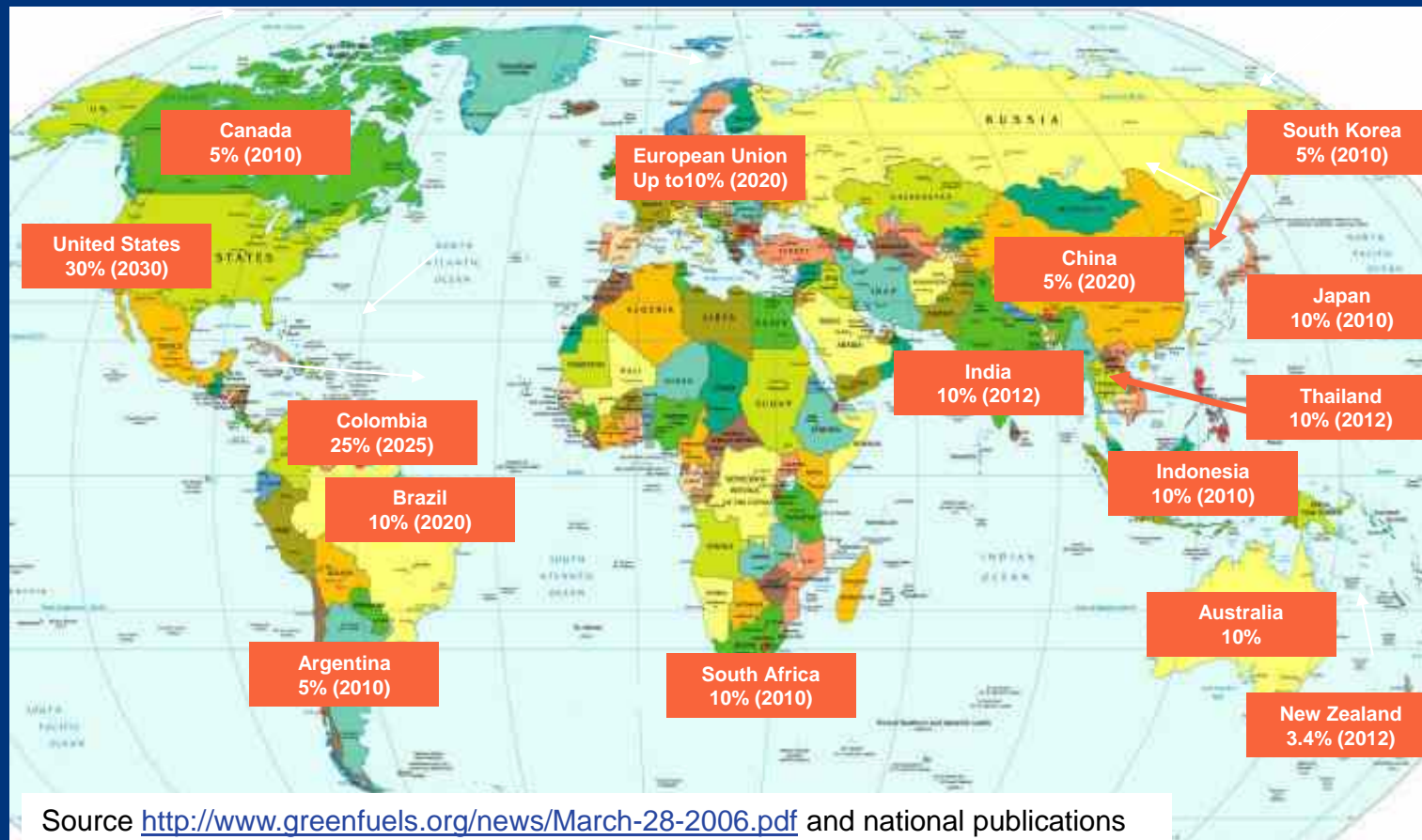
“If present trends continue the livelihoods of one third of the world’s population will be affected by water scarcity by 2025.

**We could be facing annual losses equivalent to the entire grain crops of India and the US combined.”**

*Frank Rijsberman, Director General  
International Water Management  
Institute, 2003*



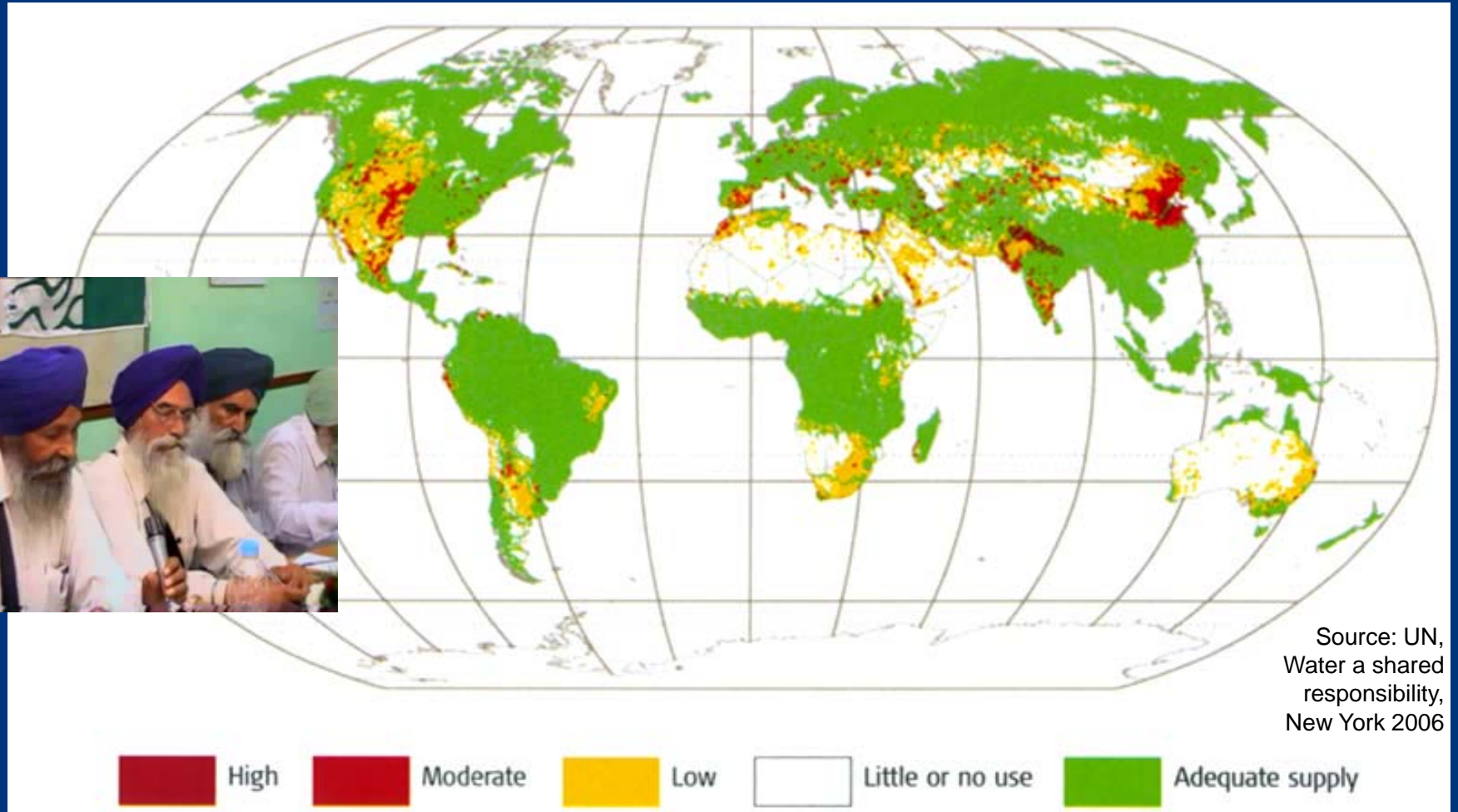
# Proliferation of political targets for biofuels



Only 6 % of total energy used worldwide supplied as biofuels:

the equivalent of all food grown globally (both in calories and water withdrawn in agriculture)

# Water withdrawals exceeding natural supply: „Tragedy of the Commons“



# Nestlé no heavyweight, neither in water withdrawals, but concerned and committed

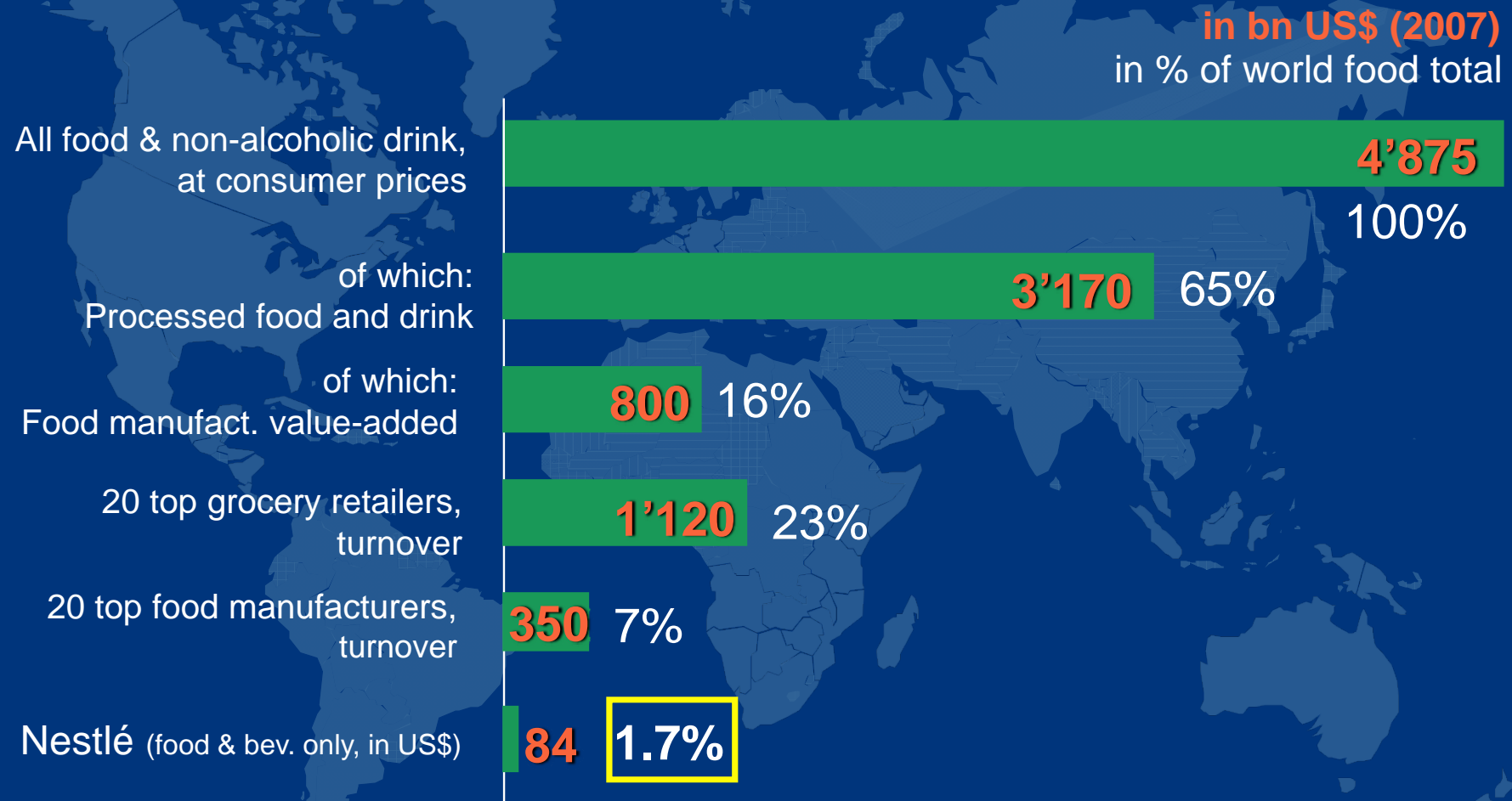
## Water withdrawals (per USD sales)

Nestlé (including for bottled water)	1.8 litres of water
Major competitors food	1.5 – 2.8 litres of water
Chemical, mining, oil, pulp/paper	120 – 370 litres of water

Savings (water per USD sales):

**withdrawals down 64% over the last 10 years**

# Food: a fragmented and competitive market



Sources: UNIDO; UN WIDER; var., analyses EIR

# Water – contradictions

*“Floods swamp Iowa town; drinking water near gone”*



Water:  
a complex  
substance, needed

- at the right time,
- at the right place,
- in the right form,
- ready for the right  
user

# Water for agriculture: full cost recovery, private property rights and tradability of water in Oman



Source: [http://whc.unesco.org/archive/advisory\\_body\\_evaluation/1207.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/archive/advisory_body_evaluation/1207.pdf)



# Necessary exemptions from tradability and private property rights: the poor, nature

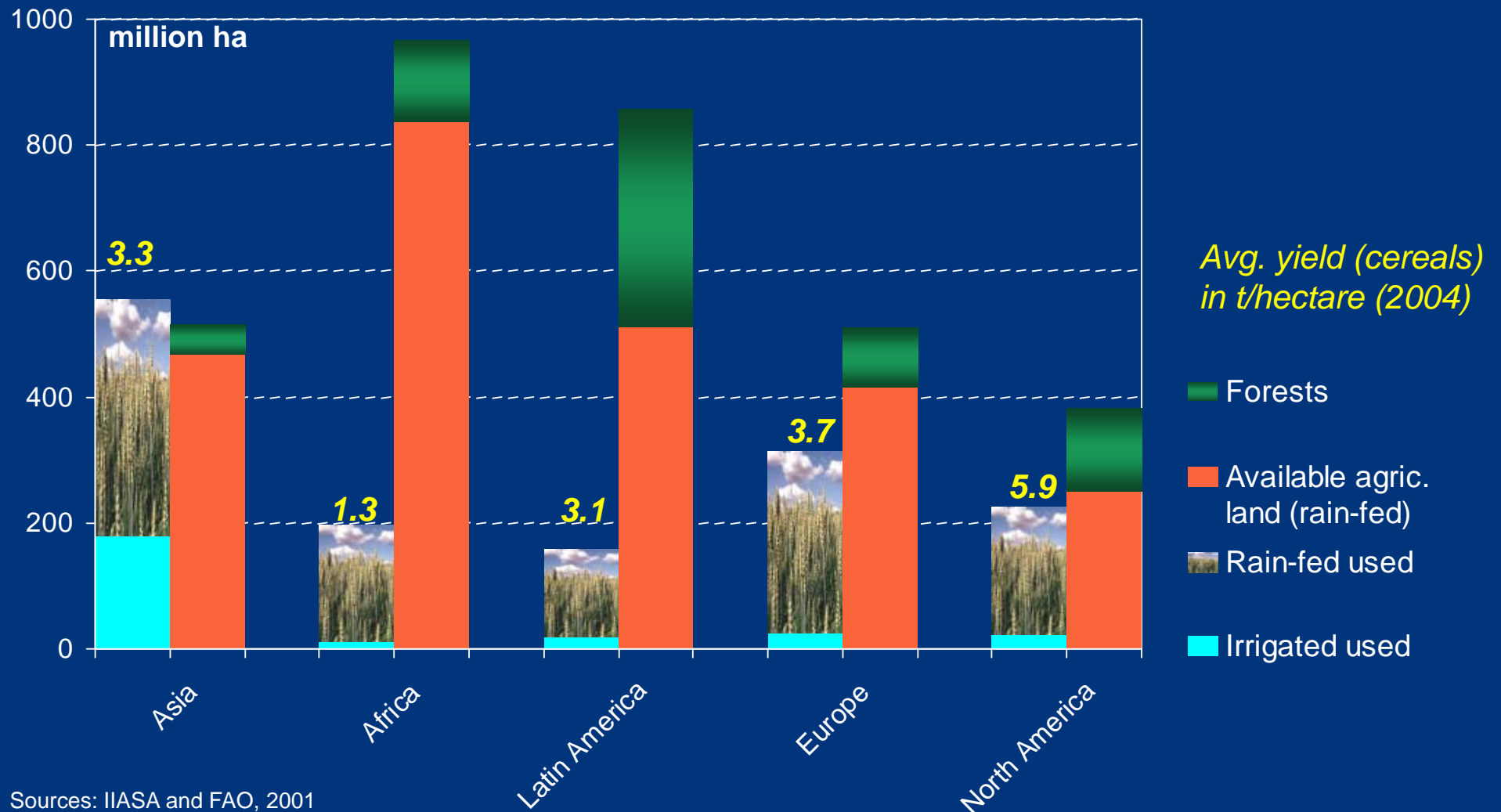


**The poor:** e.g., in South Africa 6,000 litres of water per family and month, if necessary free of charge.



**The environment:** quotas/caps to make sure **enough water remains** for rivers, lakes and wetlands.

# Available land for rain-fed cultivation and land used



Sources: IIASA and FAO, 2001

# The need for a comprehensive view, with clear responsibilities

*“The problem is that we have no coordinated global [water] management authority in the UN system or the world at large. There is no overall responsibility, accountability or vision for how to address the related problems of agricultural stress and water technology.”*

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Davos 29 January 2009

Thank you!

# Water for the poor: the realities

