



# Understanding spatial dynamics in LCA application: regionalization of CF

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Water use assessment of livestock production systems and supply  
chains

14-16 December 2022, Potsdam, Germany



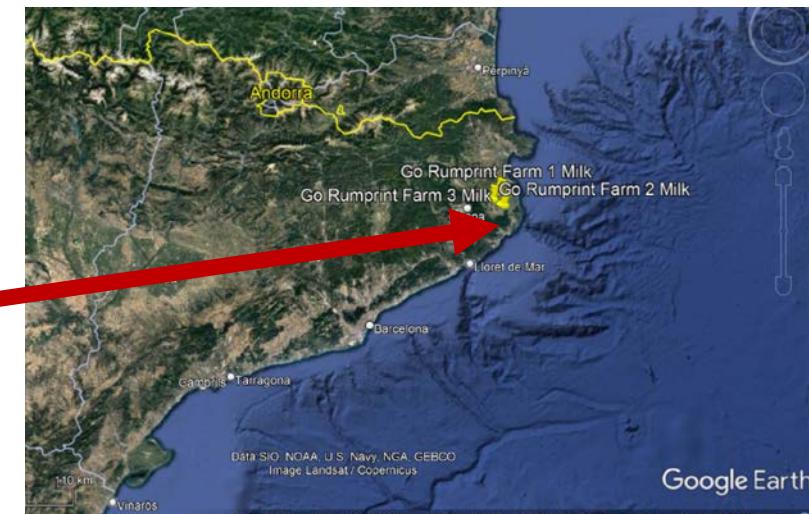
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section on 2020 conferences

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## Context

- to assess the environmental impact of the dairy value chain in Catalonia, north-eastern Spain, from cradle to distribution,

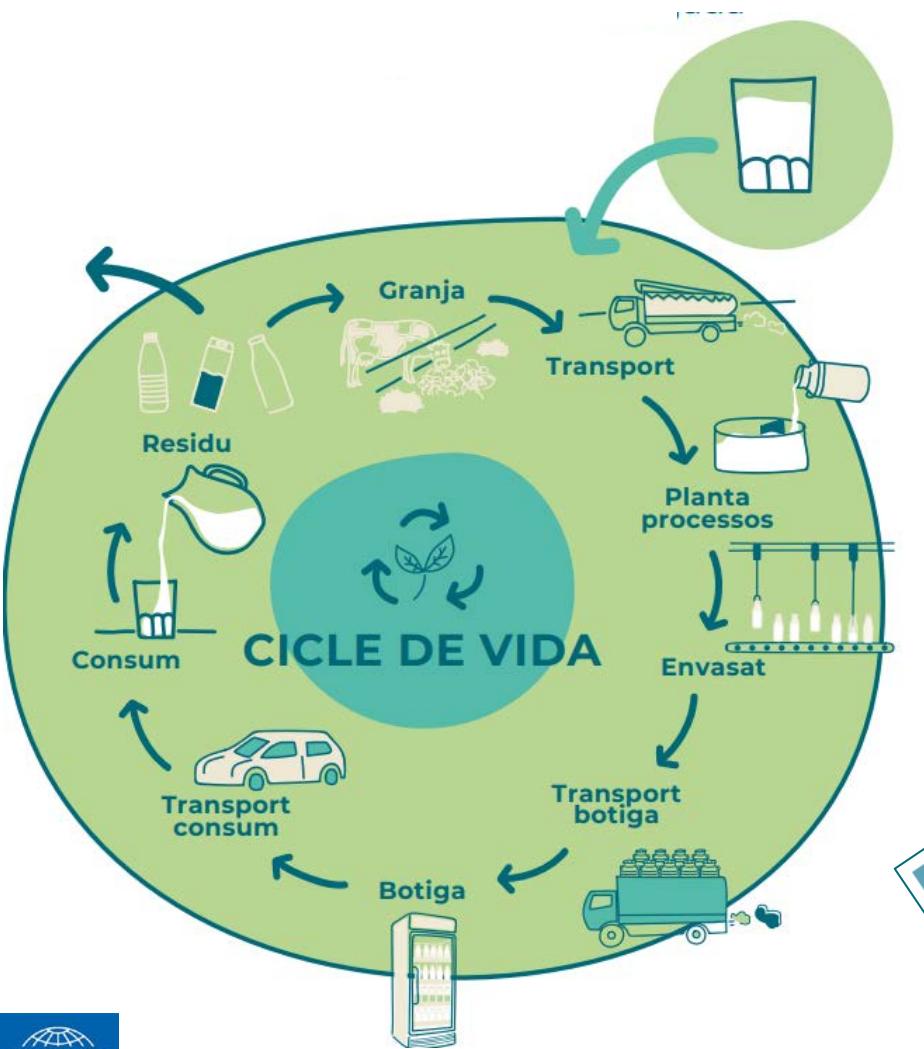


- to test the suitability of the PEF and dairy-specific PEF Category Rules (PEFCRs) guidelines to our production systems.



*PEFCR, Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for Dairy Products  
(EC, 2018)*

# Methodology: Life cycle assessment



ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 (2006, 2016)

Water use  
Weighted user deprivation potential ( $m^3$  world eq)

Impact category	Impact category Indicator (unit of measure)	Description
	Climate change, total Radiative forcing as global warming potential – GWP100 (kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	Increase in temperature, greenhouse gases
	Ozone depletion Ozone Depletion Potential – ODP (kg CFC-11 eq)	
	Human toxicity, cancer Comparative risk to humans	
	Human toxicity non-cancer Comparative risk to humans	
	Depletion of available water depending on local water scarcity and water needs for human activities and ecosystem integrity Water use efficiency relative to U-235 (kBq U-235 eq)	
	Aerosol formation, human health Tropospheric ozone concentration increase (kg NMVOC eq)	Impact on human health caused by particulate matter emissions and its precursors (e.g. sulfur and nitrogen oxides)
	Acidification Accumulated Exceedance – AE (mol H <sup>+</sup> eq)	Impact of exposure to ionising radiations on human health
	Eutrophication, terrestrial Accumulated Exceedance – AE (mol N eq)	Potential of harmful tropospheric ozone formation ("summer smog") from air emissions
	Eutrophication, freshwater Fraction of nutrients reaching freshwater end compartment (kg P eq)	Acidification from air, water, and soil emissions (primarily sulfur compounds) mainly due to combustion processes in electricity generation, heating, and transport
	Eutrophication, marine Fraction of nutrients reaching marine end compartment (kg N eq)	Eutrophication and potential impact on ecosystems caused by nitrogen and phosphorous emissions mainly due to fertilizers, combustion, sewage systems
	Ecotoxicity, freshwater Comparative Toxic Unit for ecosystems (CTUe)	Impact of toxic substances on freshwater ecosystems
	Land use Soil quality index, representing the aggregated impact of land use on: Biotic production; Erosion resistance; Mechanical filtration; Groundwater replenishment (Dissolved substances)	Transformation and use of land for agriculture, roads, housing, mining or other purposes. The impact can include loss of species, organic matter, soil, filtration capacity, permeability
	Water use Weighted user deprivation potential ( $m^3$ world eq)	Depletion of available water depending on local water scarcity and water needs for human activities and ecosystem integrity
	Resource use, minerals and metals Abiotic resource depletion – ADP ultimate reserves (kg Sb eq)	
	Resource use, fossils Abiotic resource depletion, fossil fuels – ADP-fossil (MJ)	Depletion of non-renewable resources and deprivation for future generations

PEF: Product Environmental Footprint (EC, 2013; 2019)



AWARE: indicator recommended by EC (EF) and UNEP (LC-Initiative)



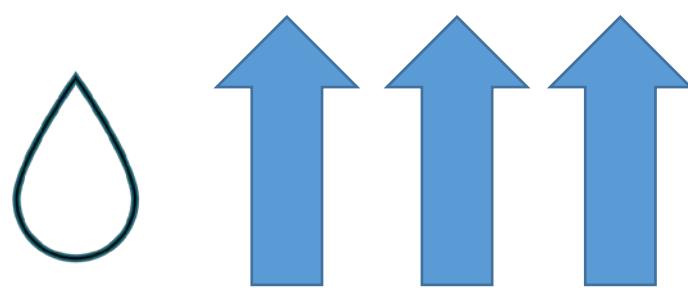
**Consensus-based method development to assess water use in LCA:**  
“midpoint indicator representing the relative Available WAter REmaining per area in a watershed, after the demand of humans and aquatic ecosystems has been met.”

<https://wulca-waterlca.org/aware/download-aware-factors/>

(Excel & Google Earth)

# Results

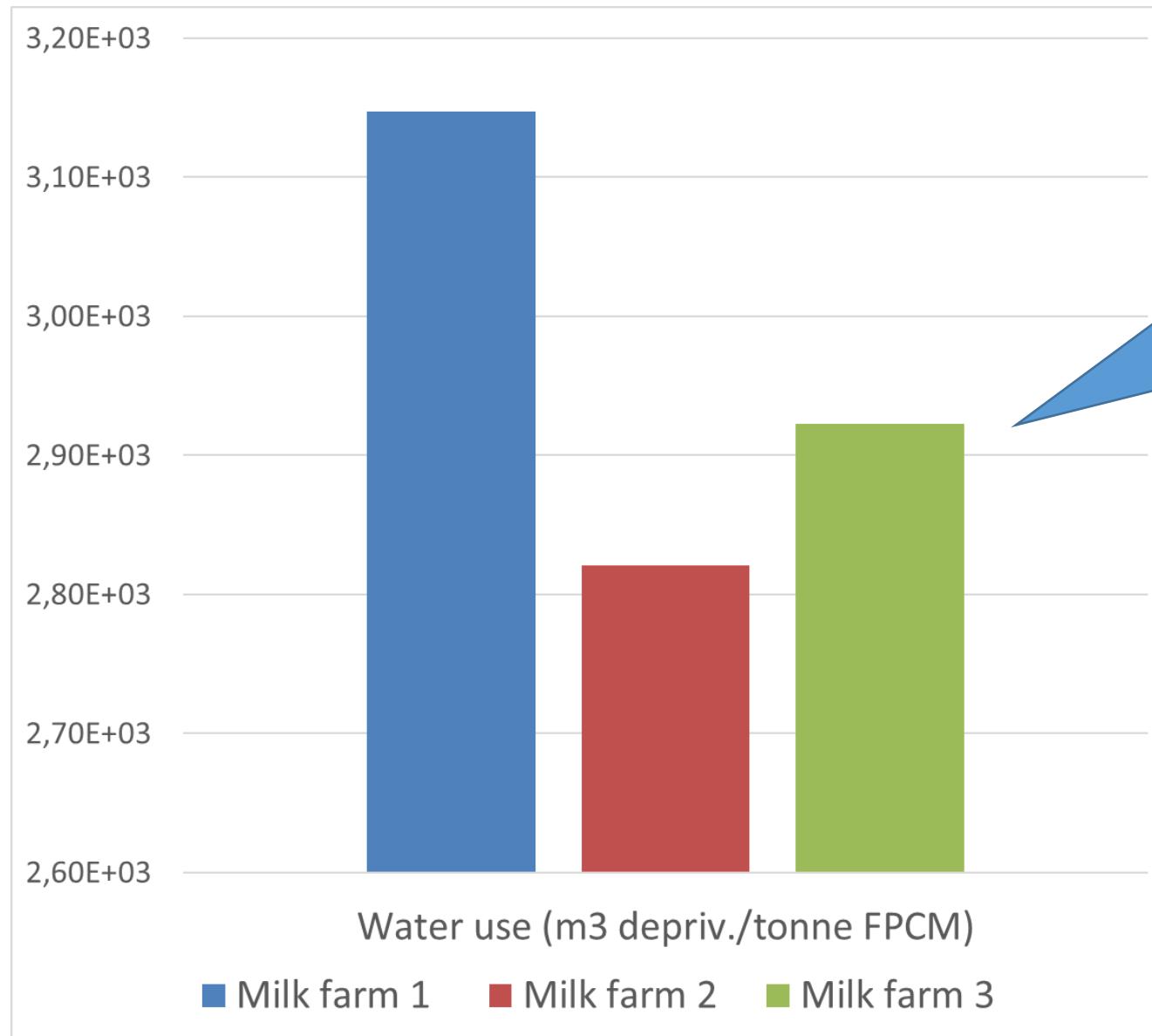
Dairy farms	Farm 1	Farm 2	Farm 3
National CF (Spain)		77.7	
$\text{m}^3 \text{ depriv. tonne}^{-1} \text{ FPCM}$ milk	3.23E+03	2.94E+03	3.09E+03



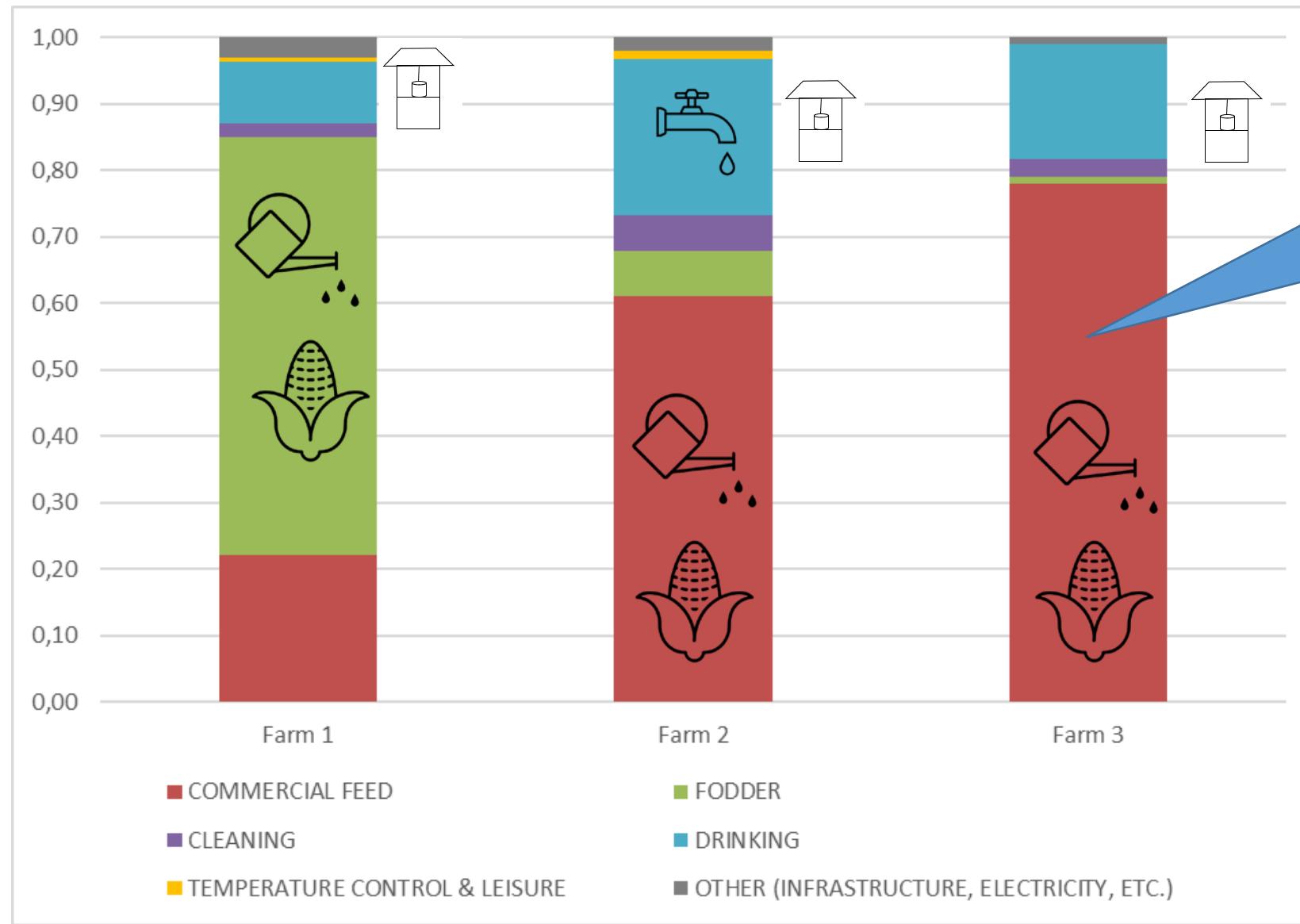
X10 Benchmark value

Benchmark value: 311  $\text{m}^3 \text{ depriv. tonne}^{-1} \text{ FPCM}$  milk.

Literature: 0,20E+03 (5% percentil) to 8,1E+04 (95% percentil)  $\text{m}^3 \text{ tonne milk}$  (Poore & Nemecek, 2018).



Difference between  
max & min = 290 m<sup>3</sup>  
depriv. tonne-1 FPCM  
milk. -> almost reaching  
the benchmark  
value(311 m<sup>3</sup> depriv.  
tonne-1)

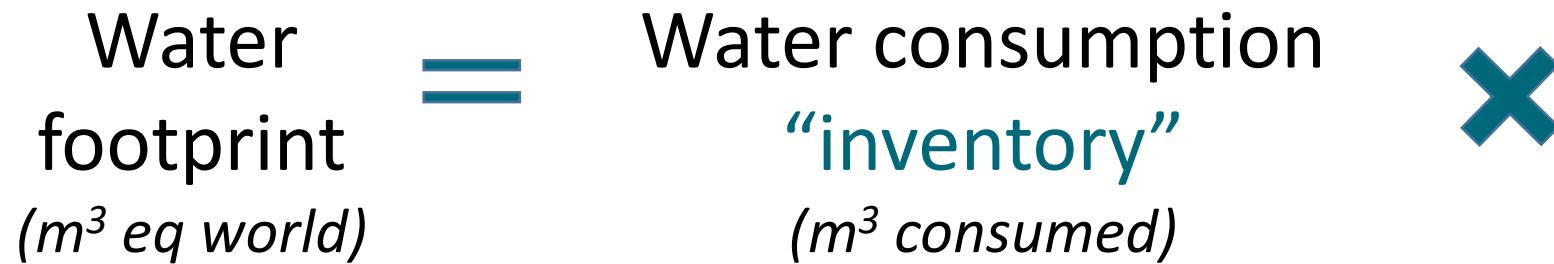


Geographically representative datasets or proxys

Origin not known:  
Average (regional,  
world, product group  
average)

Origin known: dataset  
from another country  
with similar BW  
availab. + climate  
cond; similar crop  
(water needs and  
period); product group

# DISCUSSION: regionalization level of CFs



- EC requires using CF at country-level and year.\*

Dairy farms	Farm 1	Farm 2	Farm 3
National CF (Spain)		77.7	
$m^3 \text{ depriv. tonne}^{-1} \text{ FPCM}$ milk	3.23E+03	2.94E+03	3.09E+03

\*“Notwithstanding the characterization factors of AWARE are available at different temporal and spatial scales (month/year, watershed/country) as well as water use types (agriculture/non- agriculture), due to applicability reasons, they are not part of the recommendation” (Sala et al 2019 - Suggestions for the update of the Environmental Footprint Life Cycle Impact Assessment. Impacts due to resource use, water use, land use, and particulate matter. JRC Publication N°: JRC106939).



France

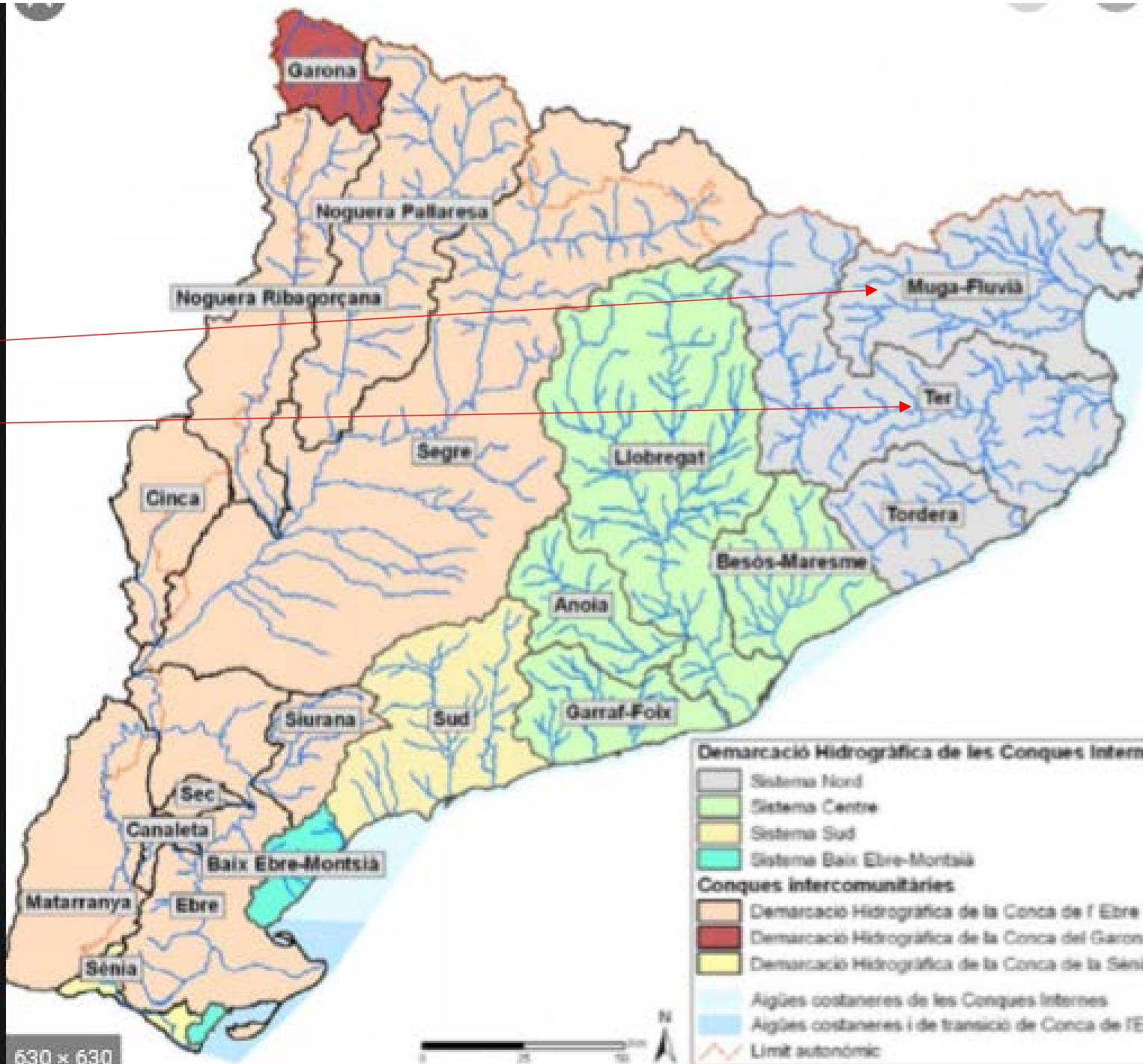
CF: 6,98(\*)  $\text{m}^3 \text{ eq world}/\text{m}^3 \text{ consumed}$

Spain

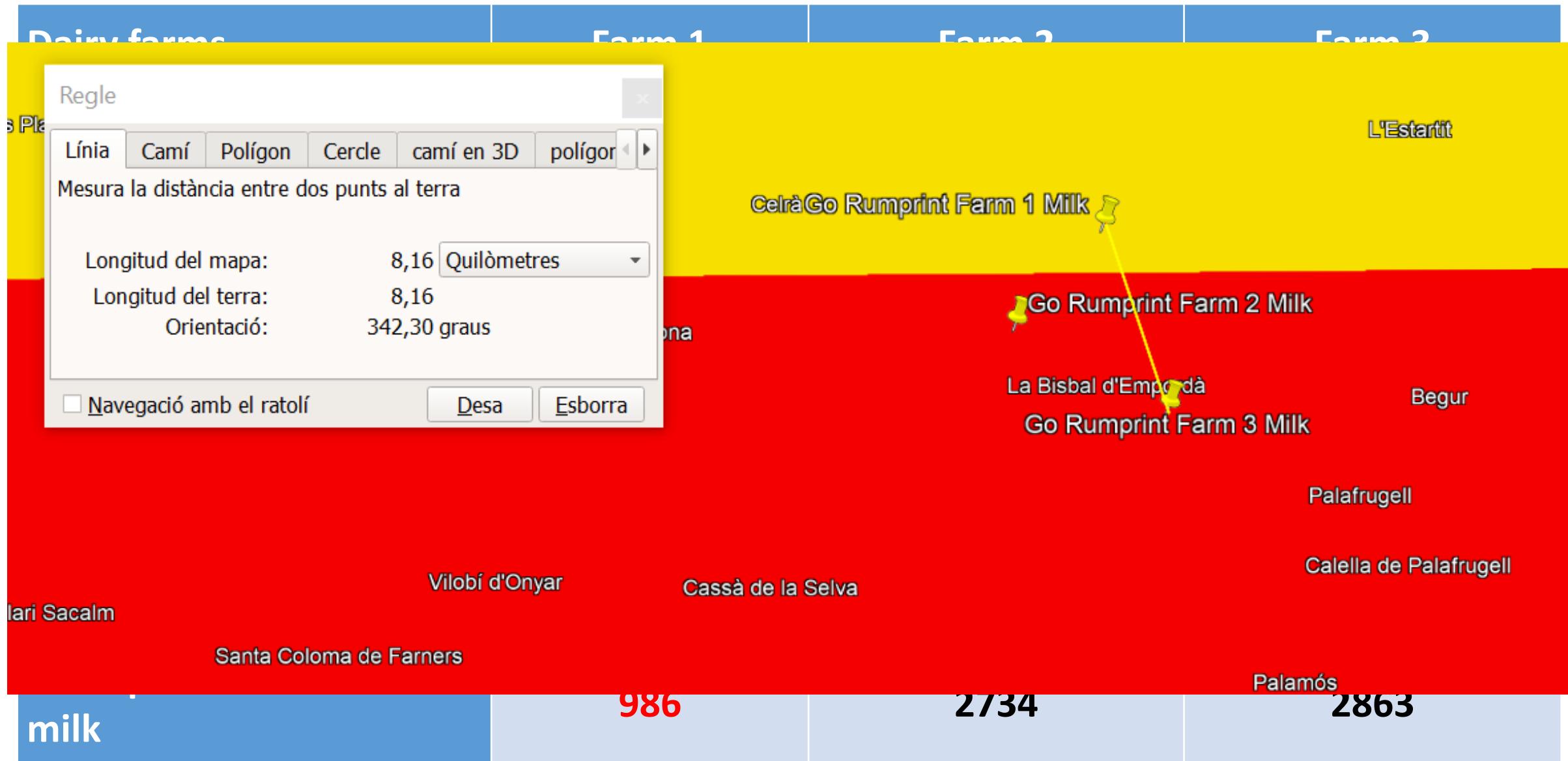
CF: 77,7(\*)  $\text{m}^3 \text{ eq world}/\text{m}^3 \text{ consumed}$

(\*)Rang: 0.1 – 100  $\text{m}^3 \text{ eq world}/\text{m}^3 \text{ consumed}$

BASIN	CONCA	YR_TOT
31897	Muga, Fluvià	3,44
32250	Tordera	62,50
32251	Ter	74,21
32601	Sud	95,08
32602	Garraf-Foix	6,81
32603	Llobregat	5,60
32963	Ebre	88,95
CATALUNYA		80,86



# DISCUSSION: use of different regionalization level



# DISCUSSION: Inventory

Water  
footprint  
( $m^3$  eq world)

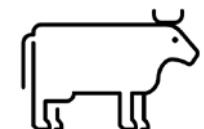
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Water consumption  
“inventory”  
( $m^3$  consumed)



AWARE  
( $m^3$  eq world /  
 $m^3$  consumed)

- Inventory includes “blue” water consumption (tap water, well, etc.).
- Consumed water: water withdrawal where release back to the source does not occur, e.g. due to evaporation, evapotranspiration, product integration or discharge into a different drainage basin (ISO 14046:2014; FAO, 2019).



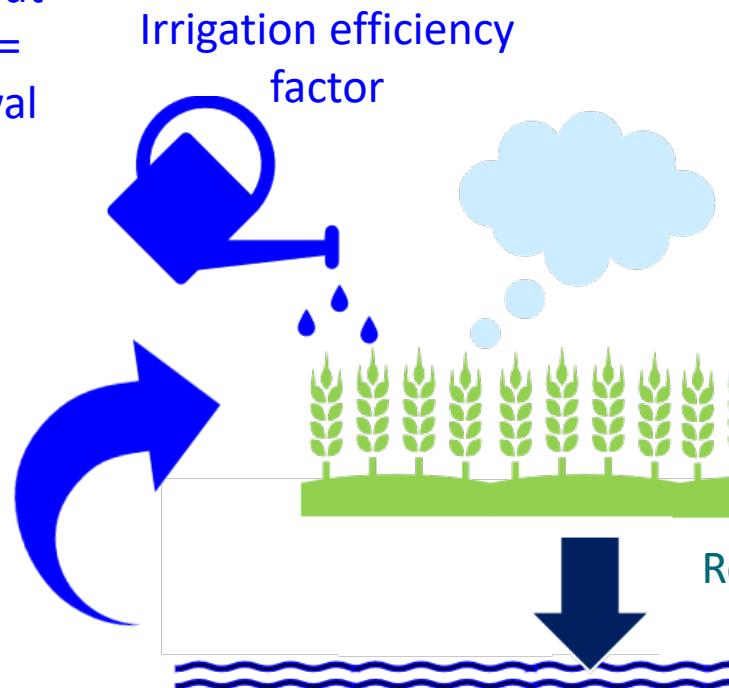
Water use for **animal production** includes drinking water and cleaning water, cooling water, Consumption predicted by indirect means. **When no specific data on water withdrawal and release is available, 83% of water use is considered consumed (i.e. 17% is released)** (Shaffer 2008).



Irrigation water consumption from the **crop production** at the farms is calculated based on consumed blue water which depends on **evapotranspiration** from irrigation (Pfister et al., 2011) and irrigation efficiency factors (FAO, 1989).

## CROP PRODUCTION

Water use = input  
irrigation water= water withdrawal



Evapotranspiration  
from  
irrigation="consumed  
water"=Blue water  
footprint"  
(m<sup>3</sup>/ton harvested  
product by crop and  
country)

$$I_{\text{withdrawal}} = ET_{\text{irr}} / EF_{\text{irr}} \text{ [m}^3/\text{t}]$$

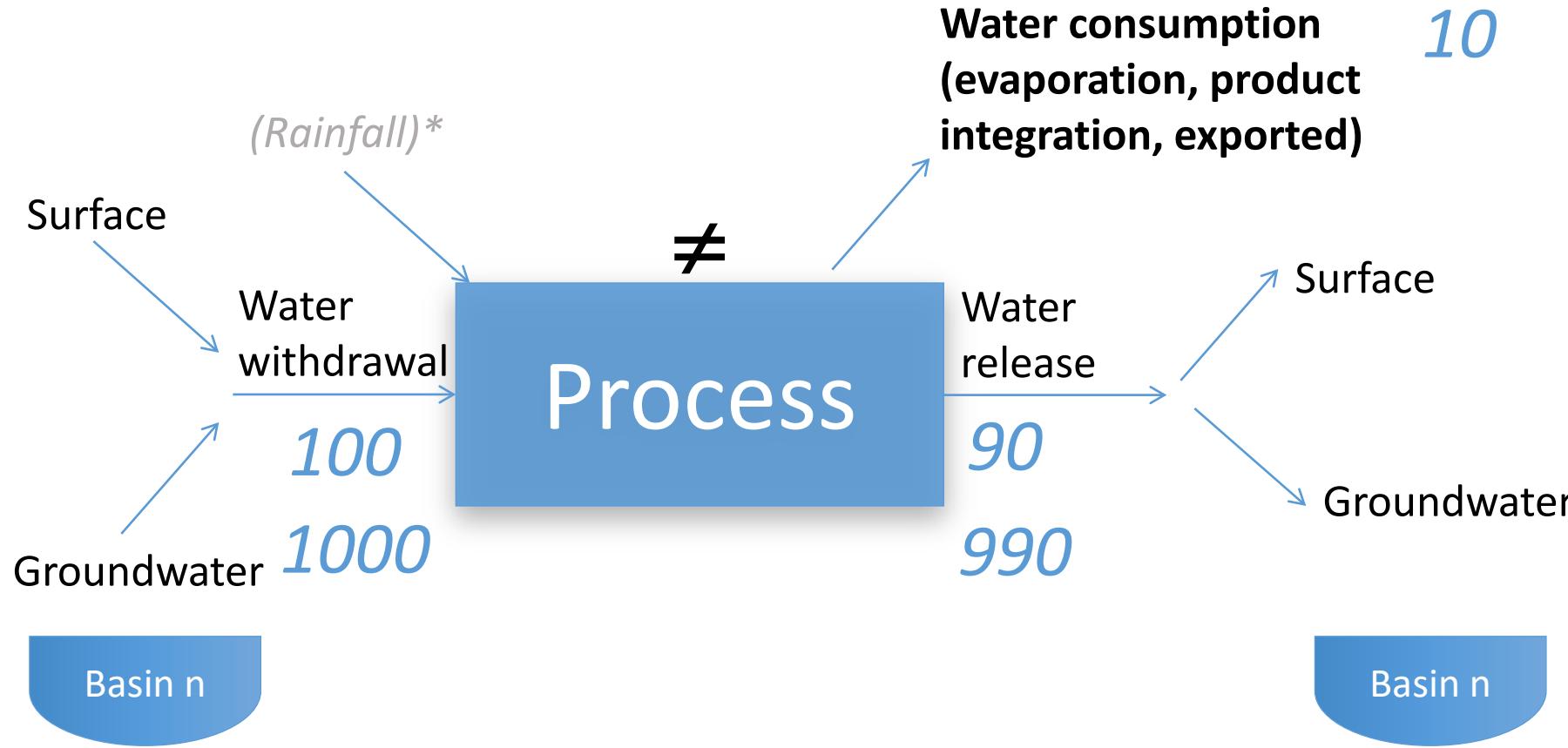
With:

$ET_{\text{irr}}$  = Evapotranspiration from irrigation [m<sup>3</sup>/t]

$EF_{\text{irr}}$  = Irrigation efficiency factor [-]

CROP	BLUE WATER EXPECTED CONSUMPTION SPAIN (Pfister et al 2011) (m <sup>3</sup> /ton) $ET_{irr}$	IRRIGATION TYPE	Irrigation efficiency WFDB (2015) $EF_{irr}$	Water use/withdr awal WFDB $ET_{irr} / EF_{irr}$ [m <sup>3</sup> /ton]	WATER USE (irrigation), (m <sup>3</sup> /ton)	REFERENCE
WHEAT	399,7	sprinkler	0,75	532,9	0	Desherb 21
WHEAT	399,7	surface	0,45	886,7	0	
CORN	326,02	sprinkler	0,75	434,7	222,4	Desher 21
BARLEY	370,46	sprinkler	0,75	493,9	0	Desherb 21- Agriclo 20
APPLE	242,74	drip	0,90	269,7	30-125	Agriclo 20-PMA 19
APPLE	242,74	surface	0,45	539,4		
PEAR	251,22	drip	0,90	279,1	200	PMA 19
PEAR	251,22	surface	0,45	558,27		
ORANGE	144,97	drip	0,90	161,1	183,3	PMA 20
TOMATO	21,8	drip	0,90	24,22	16-40	DIBA 22- PMA 21

# Inventory: water consumption ≠ water use



\*Rainfall ("green water") is considered only for the mass balance  
(i.e., inventory only includes "blue" water consumption)

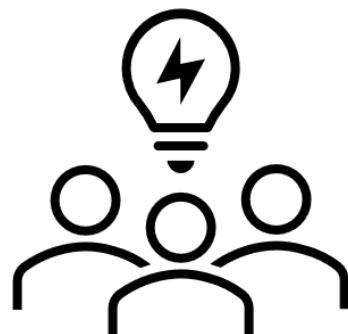
## DISCUSSION

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Water is ~~going to be~~ crucial in Mediterranean countries

Parameter Uncertainty (inventory):

- Availability of primary water use data -> promote work towards better consumption registry
- Water use vs consumption. -> Could water saving be valorised by using “water use” in the inventory rather than the “water consumption”?
- Secondary datasets -> promote work towards traceability of feed compound ingredients and towards having geographically representative datasets (proxies increase uncertainty; adapting datasets create inconsistencies)



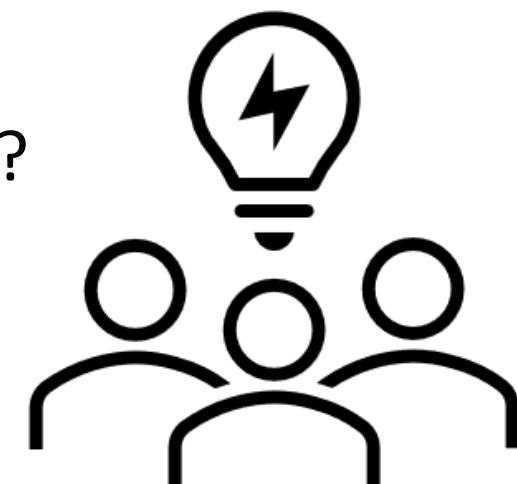
## DISCUSSION

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Water is ~~going to be~~ crucial in Mediterranean countries

Model Uncertainty (regionalization level of CF):

- Spatial representativeness: characterization by watershed (and month) vs boundary effect. -> What level of spatial detail of CF is more suitable for the assessment: watershed, regional, or some type of average?
- Better if CFs not too sensitive to small changes in spatial boundaries-> Can this be solved by some type of interpolation? Could it be better using a conservative global CF?





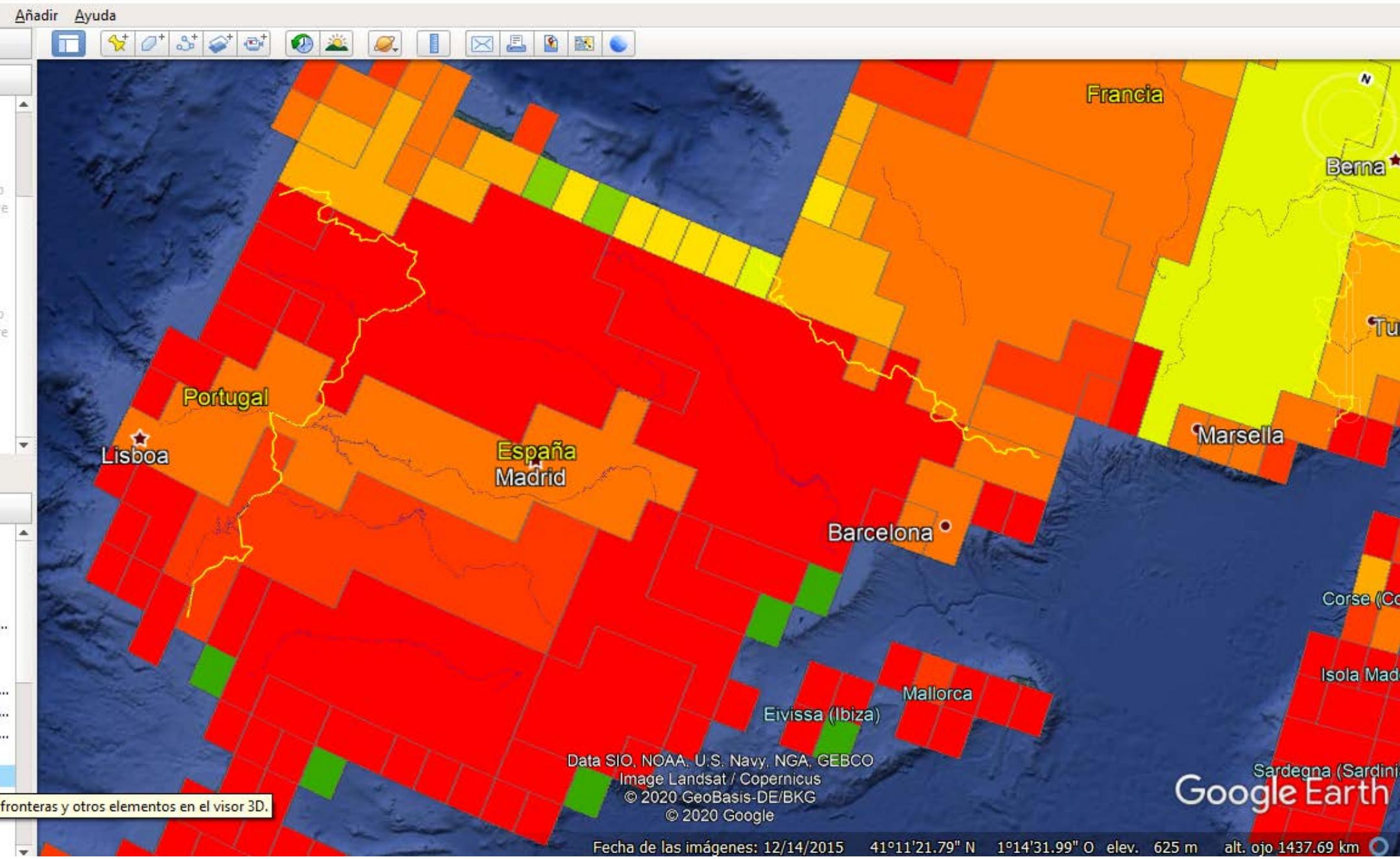
## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

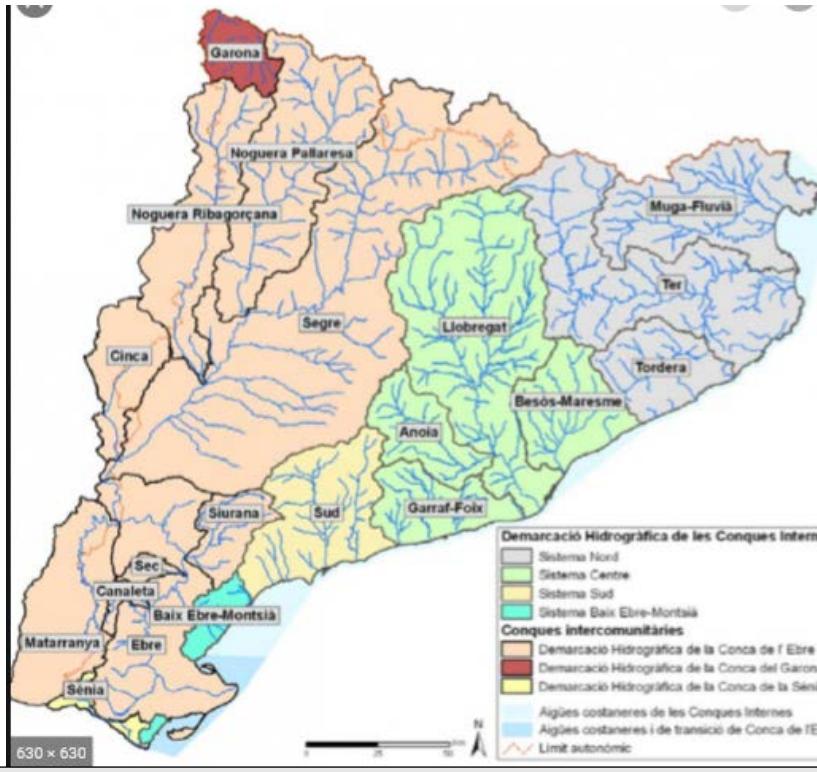
# Factors de caracterització mensuals i anuals per diferents àrees geogràfiques d'acord a la metodologia AWARE

CONCA	BASI N	Gen	Feb	Mar	Abr	Mai	Jun	Jul	Ago	Set	Oct	Nov	Des	Annua l
<b>Muga, Fluvia</b>	3189 7	0,63	0,63	0,73	0,63	0,62	1,09	4,14	6,30	3,07	1,13	0,85	0,68	3,63
<b>Ter</b>	3225 1	3,16	2,71	3,97	6,78	9,87	27,08	100,0	100,0	100,0	5,90	6,13	4,14	80,59
<b>CATALUNYA</b>		1,04	1,16	1,29	1,84	11,76	90,95	92,63	92,54	85,18	43,12	1,81	1,21	84,45
<b>ESPAÑYA</b>		23,44	29,77	21,39	31,30	54,83	71,92	92,62	86,10	73,62	50,70	100,0 0	7,66	79,13

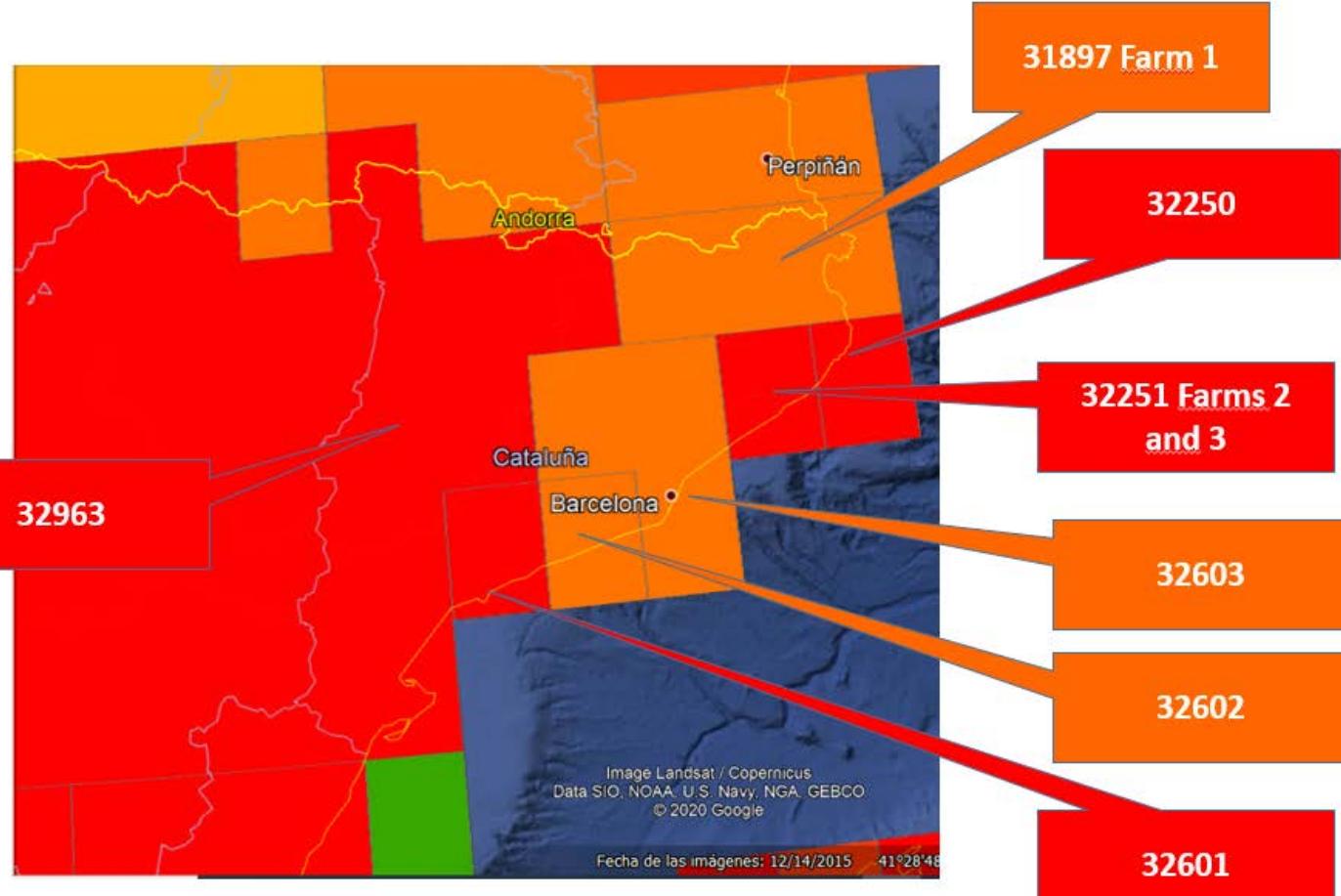
	Drinking water	Cooling water	Cleaning water	Crop
Farm 1 and 3	Literature, depending in animal type and age (for example: Vaca lactante bebe 4,5/L producido (4,5*38,38L leche *67animales) ; Vaca seca: 50L/día; Novilla<1m: 5L; Novilla 15m 24L; Novilla 24m: 40L	Calculated with usage time and low rates (for ex.: 1160ml/min x 13 surtidors; 4 meses/año con °C maxima >24°, 8h/día >24°C, aspersión 1 min, reposo 2min	Estimation: Total water – drinking water – cooling water	Surcos inundados. Estimation: 1,4ha, 1 pozo, bomba 60000L/h. 14h cada 15d. Period: to Aug (5 times). 90 días=100l/campaña & m2
Farm 2	Experimental farm			

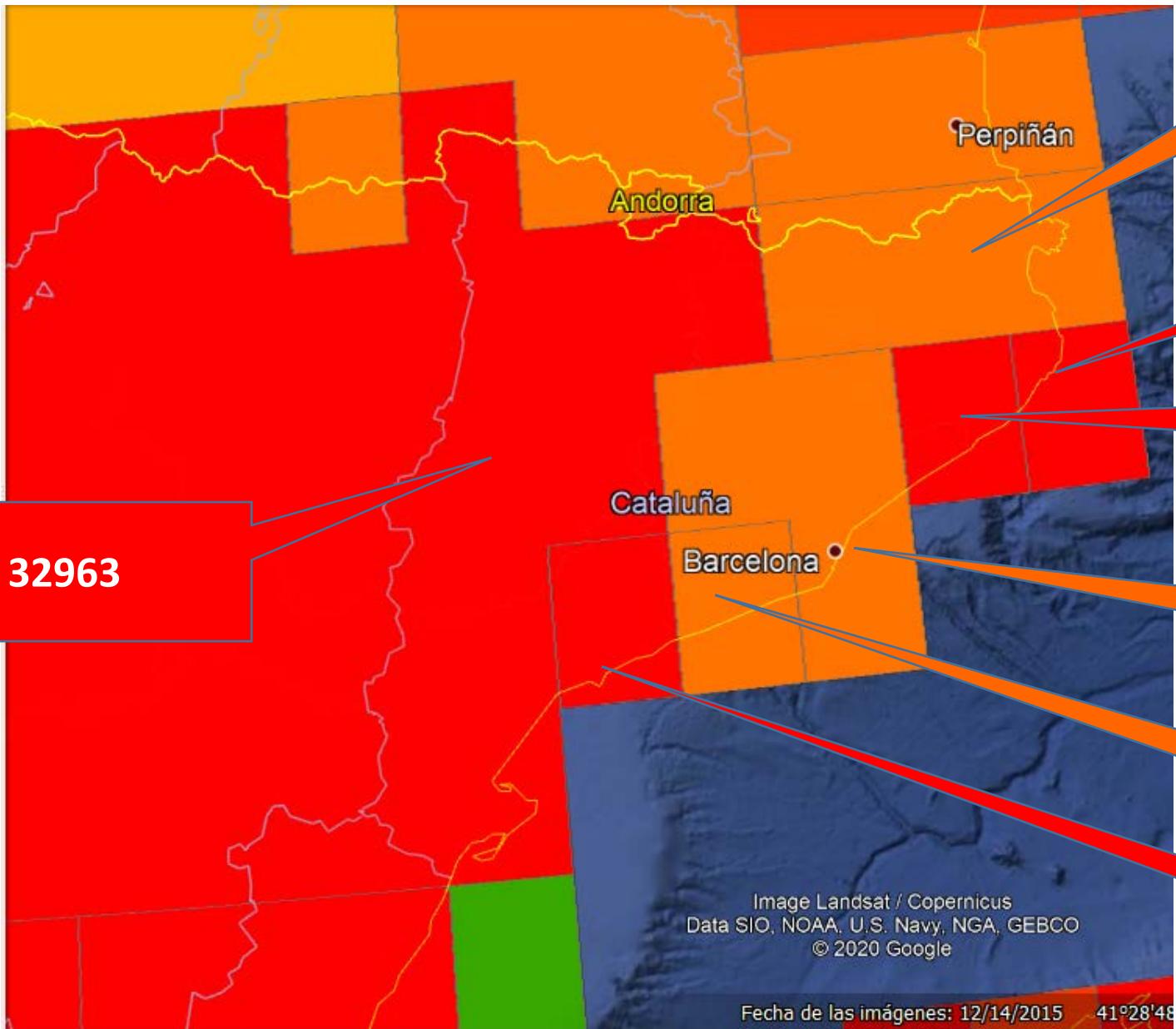
AWARE

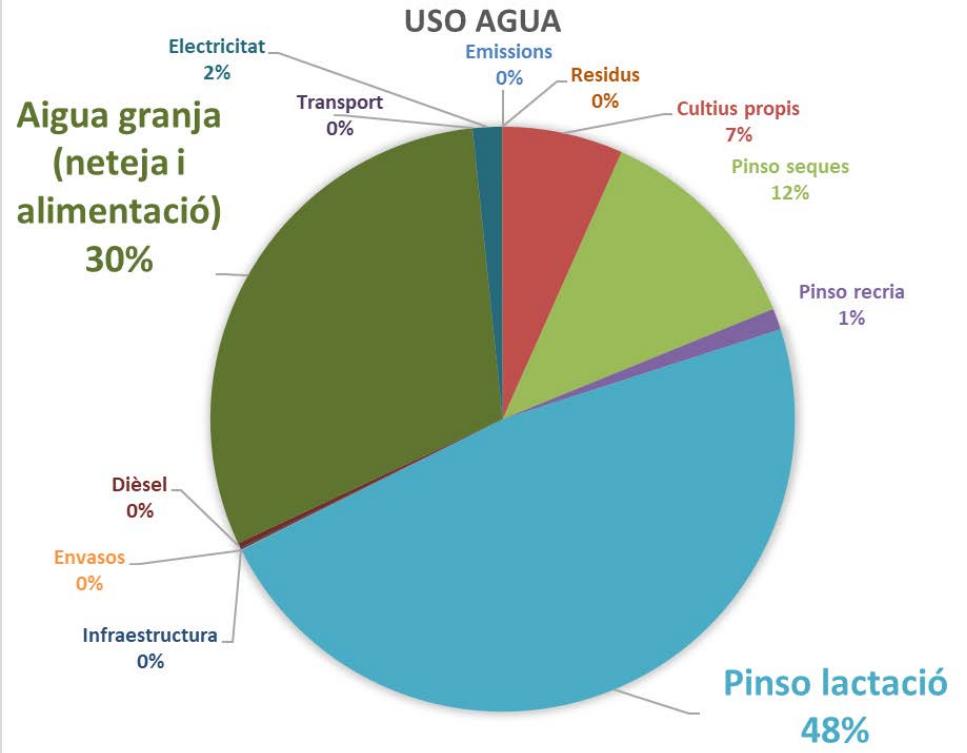
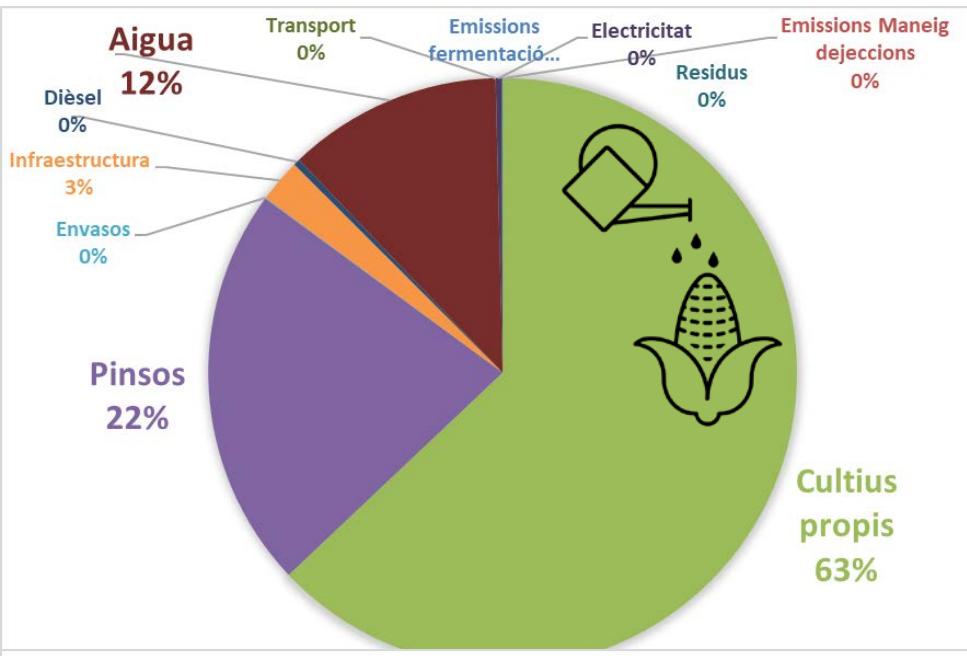




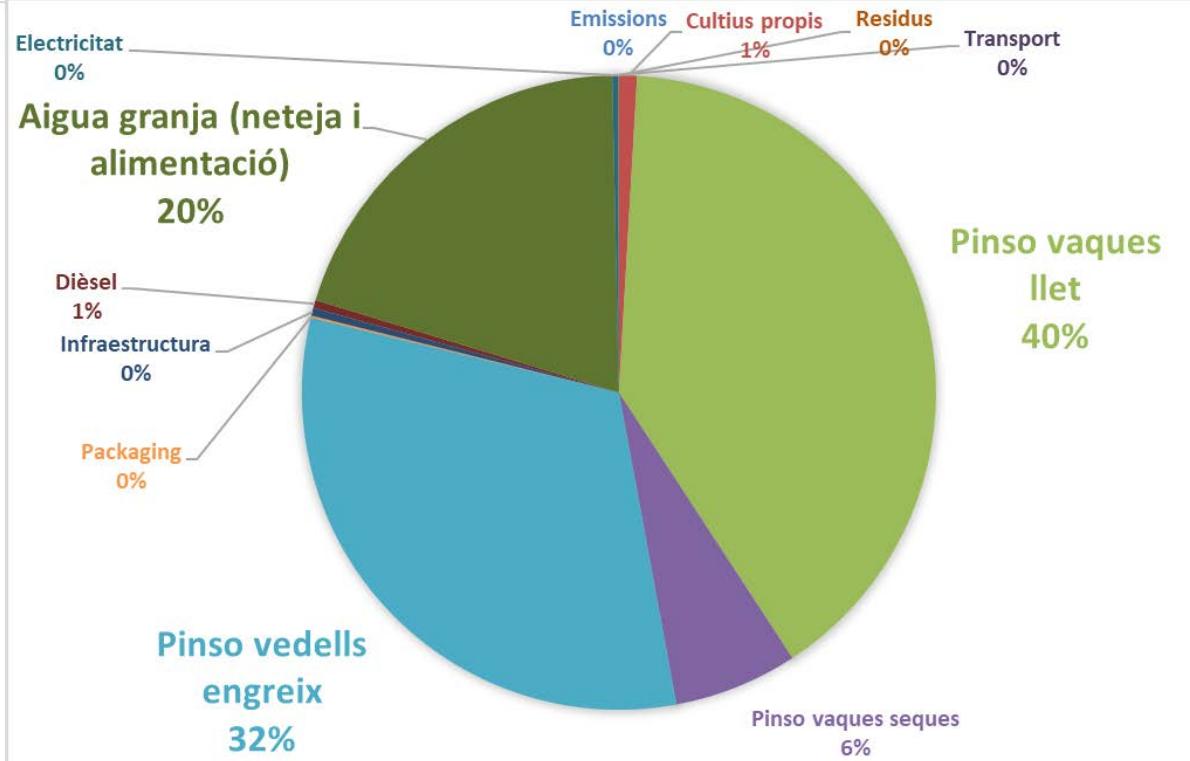
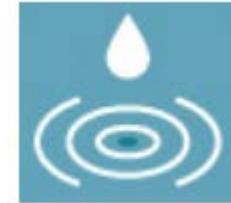
BASIN	CONCA	YR_IRRI
31897	Muga, Fluvia	3,63
32250	Tordera	69,20
32251	Ter	80,59
32601	Sud	98,01
32602	Garraf-Foix	8,59
32603	Llobregat	8,19
32963	Ebre	90,00
CATALUNYA		84,5





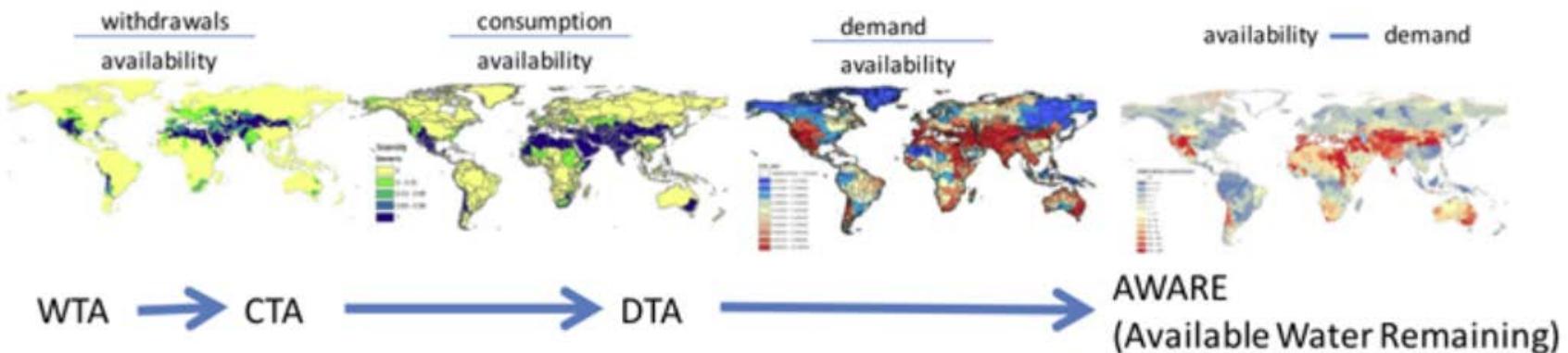


## Uso de agua



	Granja 1		Granja 2		Granja 3	
Total (Pt)	1,39E-01	%	1,70E-01	%	2,11E-01	%
Canvi climàtic	3,77E-02	27,06	3,81E-02	22,34	5,92E-02	28,06
Esgotament capa Ozó	8,34E-05	0,06	9,69E-05	0,06	1,07E-04	0,05
Radiació ionitzant, humans	8,13E-04	0,58	1,60E-03	0,94	1,04E-03	0,49
Formació fotoxidants	4,37E-03	3,14	5,97E-03	3,51	6,94E-03	3,29
Formació micropartícules	1,83E-02	13,16	3,06E-02	17,95	3,96E-02	18,79
SHnc: Salut humana, contaminants no cancerígens						
SHc: Salut humana, contaminants cancerígens						
Acidificació	5,94E-03	4,26	9,08E-03	5,33	8,76E-03	4,16
Eutrofització aigua dolça	2,97E-03	2,13	3,04E-03	1,79	4,79E-03	2,27
Eutrofització marina	6,48E-03	4,64	1,19E-02	7,01	1,30E-02	6,18
Eutrofització terrestre	6,99E-03	5,01	1,15E-02	6,78	1,34E-02	6,35
Ecotoxicitat aigua dolça						
Ús del sòl	5,91E-03	4,24	1,21E-02	7,09	1,37E-02	6,48
Consum aigua	2,44E-02	17,52	1,85E-02	10,88	2,17E-02	10,29
Esgotament recursos fòssils	7,75E-03	5,56	1,03E-02	6,03	1,05E-02	4,97
Esgotament recursos minerals i metalls	1,76E-02	12,64	1,76E-02	12,64	1,81E-02	8,6
		80,95		84,69		84,75

## Evolution of scarcity indicators modeled in LCA



*WTA: Withdrawal-to-availability*

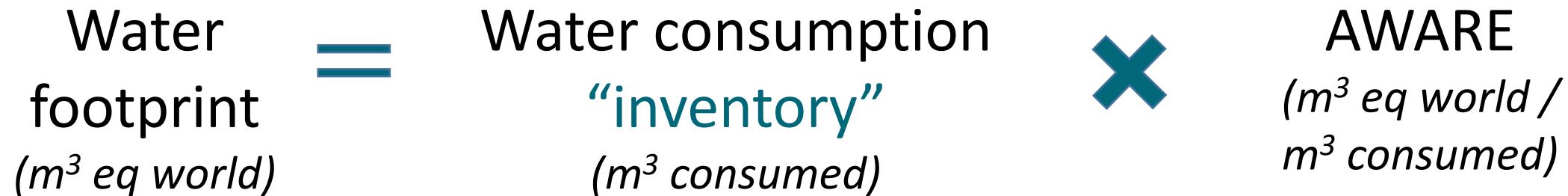
*CTA: Consumption-to-availability*

*DTA: Demand-to-availability (includes humans and ecosystems demand)*



# Methodology: AWARE

IRTA<sup>®</sup>



- It is based in the available water per surface unit and time after human (agriculture + industrial + house + energy production) and aquatic ecosystems demands are fulfilled, per watershed (>11000 worldwide).
- The indicator is calculated at the sub-watershed level and monthly time-step, and then aggregated (It may completely exclude large regions where no/very low consumption occur; It represents where/when water is most consumed: often in dryer months/regions)
- Range: 0.1 (minimum impact) to 100 (maximum impact)  $m^3 \text{ eq world}/m^3 \text{ consumed}$
- A value of 1 corresponding to the world average\*, and a value of 10, for example, representing a region where there is 10 times less available water remaining per area than the world average.

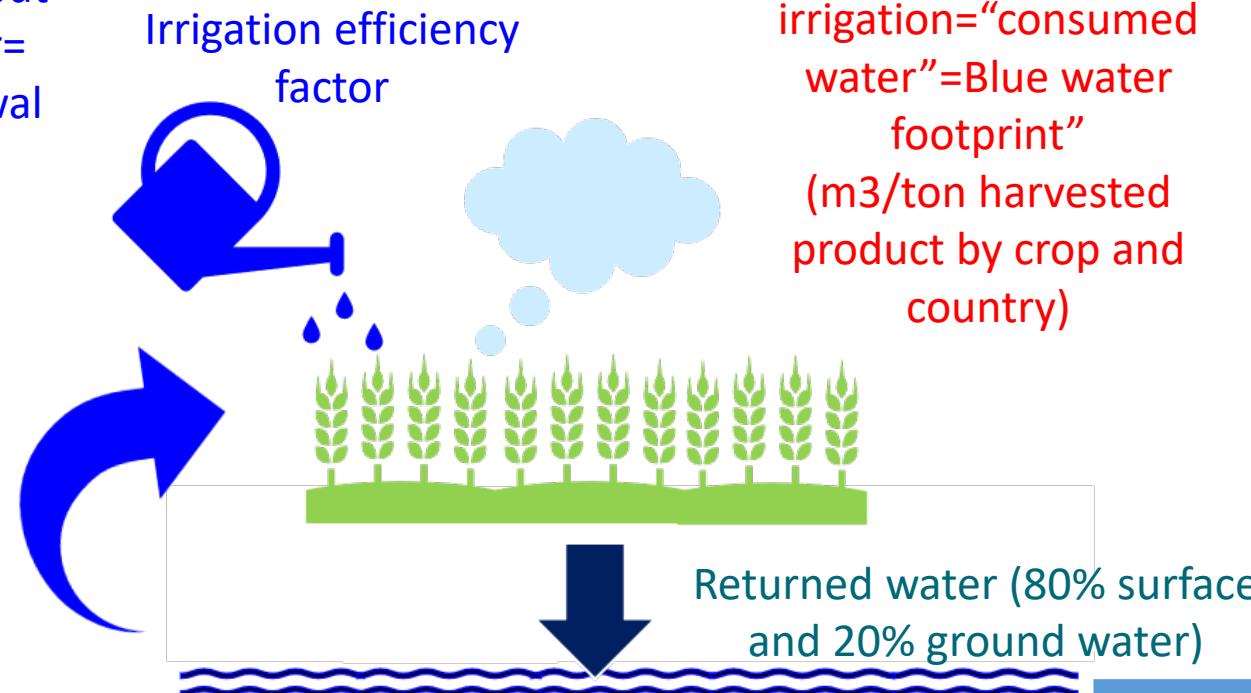
# Methodology: AWARE

$$\text{Water footprint } (m^3 \text{ eq world}) = \text{Water consumption "inventory"} (m^3 \text{ consumed}) \times \text{AWARE } (m^3 \text{ eq world} / m^3 \text{ consumed})$$

- The AWARE value:
  1. water Availability Minus the Demand (AMD) of humans and aquatic ecosystems and is relative to the area ( $m^3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$ )
  2. the value is normalized with the world average result ( $AMD = 0.0136 \text{ m}^3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$ )
  3. the value is inverted: represents the relative value in comparison with the average  $m^3$  consumed in the world (the world average is calculated as a consumption-weighted average).

## CROP PRODUCTION

Water use = input  
irrigation water= water withdrawal



$$I_{\text{withdrawal}} = ET_{\text{irr}} / EF_{\text{irr}} \text{ [m}^3/\text{t}]$$

With:

$ET_{\text{irr}}$  = Evapotranspiration from irrigation [ $\text{m}^3/\text{t}$ ]

$EF_{\text{irr}}$  = Irrigation efficiency factor [-]

Technique	EF <sub>irr</sub> (Efficiency factor)	
Surface irrigation	0.6	
Gutters	0.65	
Canons	0.7	
(Micro-)Sprinkler	0.75	
Sprinkler with fixed or mobile cover	0.8	
Pivot	0.85	
Drip	Irrigation methods	Field application efficiency
Located and buried		

Conveyance efficiency (FAO 1989)

	Earthen canals			Lined canals
Soil type	Sand	Loam	Clay	
Canal length				
Long (> 2000m)	60%	70%	80%	95%
Medium (200-2000m)	70%	75%	85%	95%
Short (< 200m)	80%	85%	90%	95%

# FCs anuals vs mensuals; País vs Conca

Espanya

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YR_IRRI
23,44	29,77	21,39	31,30	54,83	71,92	92,62	86,10	73,62	50,70	100,00	7,66	<b>79,13</b>

32963 Ebre

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YR_IRRI
1,13	1,41	1,40	1,39	2,02	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	2,5	1,33	<b>90,0</b>

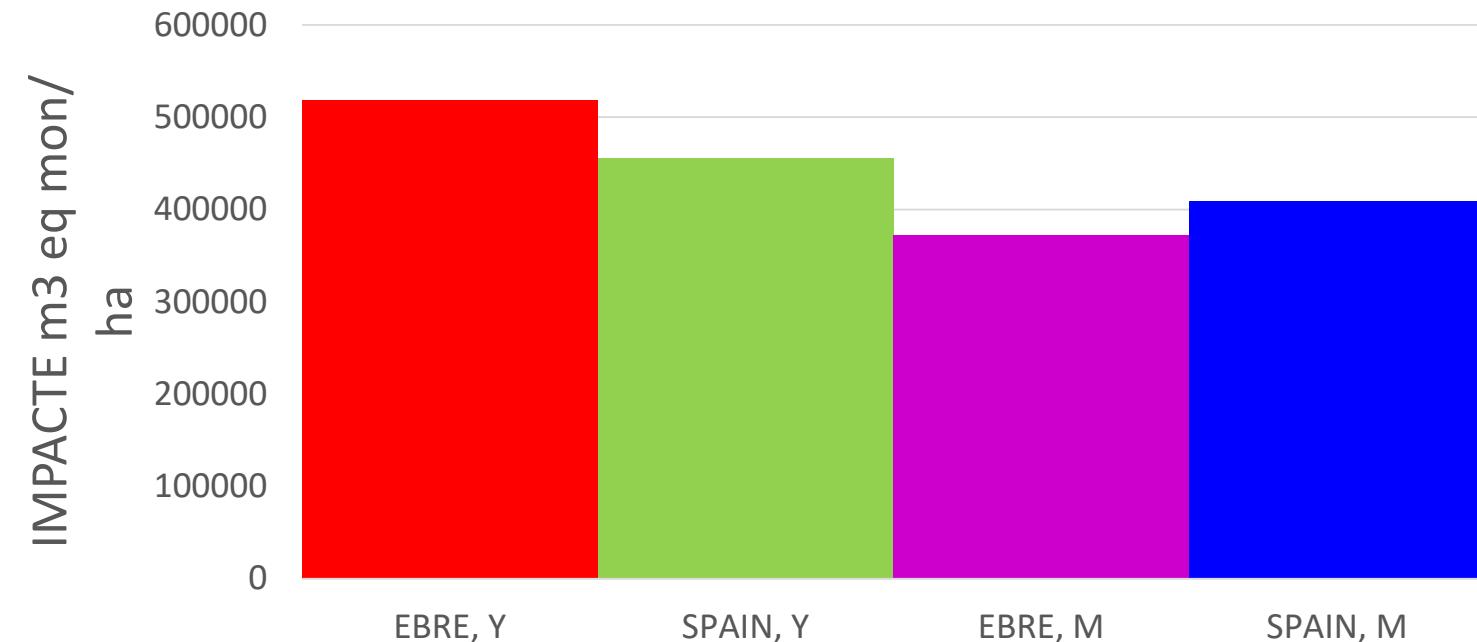
31897 Muga-Fluvià

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YR_IRRI
0,63	0,63	0,73	0,63	0,62	1,09	4,14	6,30	3,07	1,13	0,85	0,68	<b>3,63</b>

# Example

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	Gen	Feb	Mar	Abr	Mai	Jun	Jul	Ago	Set	Oct	Nov	Des	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REG, m<sup>3</sup>/ha</b>	0	115	230	402	575	748	1150	1035	869	403	230	0	<b>5757</b>



*Figura 1. Consum d'aigua de reg, aigua blava, expressada en L/kg de producte, referenciada per alguns productes de Catalunya\**

