

The Importance of the Water Industry.

The global water industry is one of the most important industries in the world. It not only provides drinking water and other water services to the world population, but also supplies the industrial and agricultural areas as well. The agriculture section by itself accounts for almost 75% of global water withdrawals. Pressure on the water industry is expected to increase in the coming years as climate change shrinks the water availability on a global scale and populations continue to grow. On the topic of drinking water, In the year 2020. 90% of the world's population had access to clean drinking water. The countries with 100% accessibility to basic drinking water services were North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. Although these are great statistics for a select few regions, some regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania had less than 60% population with basic access. Another area in the Sub-Saharan region, 16% of the population only had access to the surface and unimproved water sources. Currently eight out of ten people in these rural areas lack basic drinking water services. Moving on to another huge issue with water. Agriculture production is highly dependent on water and is subject to water risks. It is also the largest using sector of water and also a large polluter. Improving agriculture's water management is therefore essential to a sustainable and productive food sector. In recent years, agricultural regions around the globe have had extensive and increasing water constraints. Major droughts in the United States have affected agricultural production while wiping out surface and groundwater reserves. These and other weather events, like floods or storms, are also expected to be more frequent. Climate change is projected to increase the changes in precipitation and surface water supplies, reducing snow and glaciers and affecting crop water requirements.

With these changes, farmers in many regions will face increasing competition from non-agricultural users due to an increasing population density and water demands from the energy and industry sectors. In addition, water quality is likely to go down in many regions, due to the growth of pollution activities. Overall, the United States and Global Water industry is changing every day. I am so lucky to be able to learn all about it through my father who is in the department of water resources. It is my hope that we can continue to find ways to improve are water industry issues.

Works Cited

“Water and Agriculture.” *OECD*, <https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/topics/water-and-agriculture/>.

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