



MAY 2023



## A message on behalf of the 2030 WRG team

Dear Partners,

Welcome to our latest 2030 WRG newsletter. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Sudipto Sarkar, the acting Program Manager of the 2030 Water Resources Group [2030 WRG], for his outstanding contributions to our mission. Sudipto's leadership has been instrumental in driving our progress, and we truly appreciate his efforts. I am pleased to announce that a new program manager will be joining us as of the new fiscal year. We are confident that their expertise and leadership will further strengthen our efforts and propel us toward even greater achievements.

In the past year, we have reshaped our strategic initiatives, accelerating our impact. This transformation has been exciting and crucial, and we are eager to share our progress in this revamped newsletter.

Partnerships have been at the heart of our work, and we are grateful for collaborations with organizations like UPL and the Gates Foundation. Together, we forge a path toward a more water-secure future.

Our revised approach focuses on greater impact on the ground. We leverage multistakeholder partnerships to foster dialogue, enhance the private sector's role in finance and innovation, and facilitate key public sector reforms. 2030 WRG seeks stronger synergies with the World Bank Group, aligning closely with the Maximizing Finance for Development agenda to advance water SDGs and climate objectives.

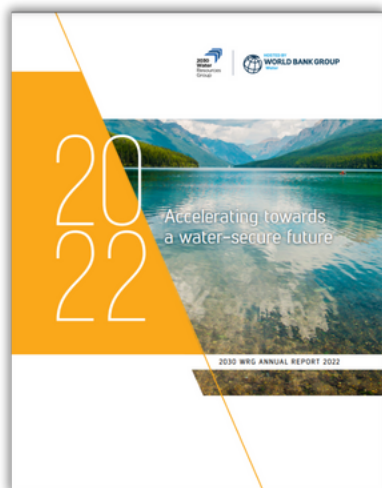
As we enter the final leg of our journey to 2030, we are energized by bold ideas and the commitment of our strategic partner network. We invite you to continue this journey with us.

Thank you for being part of our mission.

Warm regards,

**- Saroj Kumar Jha**  
World Bank, Global Director, Water Global Practice / Co-Chair, 2030 WRG Steering Board

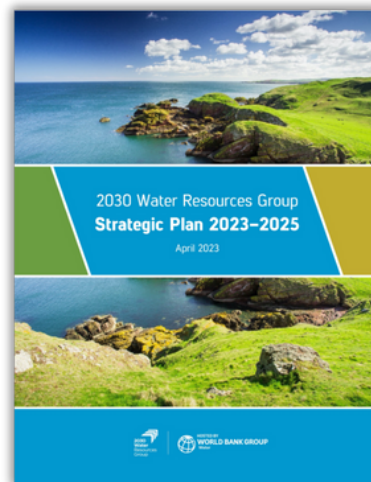
# WHAT'S NEW?



## 2030 WRG Annual Report 2022

In the past year, 2030 WRG continued to function as a catalyst for change, leveraging the power of partnerships for transformative impact in the water sector. This report tracks the trust fund's activities and impacts between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022. It provides a record of 2030 WRG's strategic approach, work at country/state level, and strategic vision for the future.

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## 2030 WRG Strategic Plan 2023–25

Following a close consultative process with the Steering Board over the past year, 2030 WRG has finalized a new, forward-looking strategic plan for the trust fund. This new strategic roadmap is warranted to focus on accelerating and scaling transformational impact on the ground. A key principle of engagement of this new strategy is for 2030 WRG to work closely and establish greater synergies with the World Bank Group. A [summary](#) of the new strategic plan is also available.

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# GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

## 2030 WRG Governing Council meeting: Key discussions and decisions

On 24 March 2023, the 2030 WRG Governing Council (GC) met at the World Economic Forum (WEF) office in New York City, where the GC members endorsed the new 2030 WRG Strategic Plan and Operational Plan for 2023–2025, which covers financing and innovation as priority areas. As such, the meeting also spotlighted the need for more innovative instruments to finance water sector investments (e.g., impact bonds, green/blue/sustainability-linked financing, microfinance, climate finance, “debt for water” swaps, etc.). Finally, the gathering featured reflections of public sector representatives from India, Mexico, and South Africa, who reaffirmed the value of 2030 WRG's on-the-ground activities, particularly the advancement of public-private partnerships, the focus on circular economy solutions, and the design of upstream policy, institutions, and regulatory reforms, among other areas.

## Scaling up Finance for Water: ongoing strategy development

2030 WRG and the World Bank Water Global Practice are developing a strategic and operational framework for the World Bank Group on Scaling up Finance for Water to support client countries to improve the planning, mobilization, and efficiency of funding and financing for water sector investments, aimed at achieving the SDGs on water and addressing climate change. It aims to do so by optimizing the contributions of the public and private sectors and facilitating greater engagement of the private sector in the provision of capital, innovation, and expertise. The framework will work on both the demand and supply sides of financing, going beyond individual transactions to tackle systemic shifts in the sector.

# COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT

FUTURE ISSUES SHALL FEATURE DIFFERENT COUNTRY ACTIVITIES BASED ON AVAILABLE UPDATES.

## Transforming agricultural value chains in Uttar Pradesh, India

On 5 December 2022, the Cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP) approved the UP Accelerator (UP-PRAGATI) and its mandate of increasing farmer incomes through sustainable strategies that reduce carbon and water footprints, prioritizing rice and sugar value chains. The UP Accelerator focuses on scaling micro-irrigation, fast-tracking farm mechanization, leveraging private capital, and aligning with government and market linkages. The Government of UP had requested 2030 WRG to provide technical support to increase 5 million farmers' annual incomes to surpass the national average, reduce water footprint by 60% annually, and halve agricultural emissions across 5 million hectares.

## EVENTS



### UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event: Unlocking the Innovation and Financing Ecosystem for Water Security.

2030 WRG and the WEF organized a broadcasted high-level event in New York alongside the United Nations 2023 Water Conference on 24 March 2023 to discuss financing models, policies, and regulations for managing water efficiently and supporting innovation and financing for water security. The event brought together ministers of water from Hungary, India, Kenya, and South Africa, together with corporate partners AB InBev, Bayer, The Coca-Cola Company, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, IFC, Nestlé, Suez, Veolia, and international organizations. View the session [recording](#) and [photos](#).



### Water Can't Wait, Accelerating Innovation for Water Security: high-level roundtable dialogue

As water risks are becoming more severe in the face of climate change, the call to action is ever more urgent. This hybrid high-level roundtable dialogue held on 30 November 2022 at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC engaged around 150 participants and focused on bottlenecks and workable solutions to accelerate the adoption, scaling, and acceleration of innovation and technology to address water challenges. Learn more from the session materials: [Video](#) | [Blog post](#) | [Synthesis report](#)



# RESOURCES



The Kenya Accelerator has published [Market-Based Models and Public-Private Partnership Options for Non-Sewered Sanitation in Selected Cities and Towns in Kenya](#), a joint report of the World Bank Water Global Practice (GWSP/CWIS) and 2030 WRG. The findings are a key input to the Accelerator and new bank operation – KWASH, under Program-for-Results (PforR) financing.



The 2030 WRG team in Rwanda has published a [Hydro-Economic and Climate Change Analysis \(HECCA\)](#) for the country – which contributed as background technical research for, and a deep-dive to, the Rwanda Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR)'s analysis – and finalized an [Assessment of the Small-scale Irrigation Technology \(SSIT\) Subsidy Program](#) in Rwanda.



**"Keys to accelerating nature-based solutions (NBS) integration into water projects"**: This World Bank Water blog post explores the keys to successfully integrating NBS in water projects, with a focus on experiences in Peru. Gain insights to the critical components – frameworks, metrics, financing options, and stakeholder engagement – using real-world examples that demonstrate the potential of these sustainable approaches. This blog post is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## 2030 WRG IN THE NEWS

ON THE CONTRARY PODCAST  
EP 1 | [Is India going to run out of water?](#)

“

If India needs to prosper, if India needs to grow, then obviously it needs to conserve its water resources better.

[AJITH RADHAKRISHNAN](#)

idr

Listen to **2030 WRG India Country Coordinator Ajith Radhakrishnan** as a guest speaker on award-winning podcast, On the Contrary by IDR.

This Season 5 opening episode (["Is India going to run out of water?"](#)) discusses the complexities of India's water crisis and why innovations at the community and policy level are crucial for water security.

Season 5 dives into water security issues in India and is supported by Hindustan Unilever Foundation, a 2030 WRG partner.

- WEF | [World Water Day: These innovators are improving access to clean water](#)
- WEF | [How technology can help address the world's water security crises](#)
- WEF (via Forbes) | [5 Ways Business Leaders Can Make an Impact in Their Communities](#)
- Times of India | [DSR can help make rice cultivation more sustainable, eco-friendly](#)
- Indian Express | [Here's how Corteva Agriscience is looking to introduce seed treatments in India](#)

# PARTNER VOICES



"We are so delighted to be part of 2030 WRG and to contribute to its work and purpose through the invitation to join its Governing Council. Agriculture has such an important opportunity to improve the way water is used, building greater resilience for farmers and food systems alike. I am certain that other members will benefit from the many successful examples of water stewardship that UPL has overseen with farmers around the world, and look forward to learning from other industries too."

- Jai Shroff, Group CEO, UPL Ltd.



"The Accelerator program of 2030 WRG, supported by the Gates Foundation, offers a unique opportunity to leverage synergies of PPPs and create social, economic, and environmental dividends for small and marginal agricultural producers in Uttar Pradesh, India. The Special Purpose Vehicle [SPV] is expected to catalyze innovations in technology and blended financing, achieve convergence with public schemes, and create better returns for capital as farmers move towards climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural transformation."

- Alkesh Wadhvani, Program Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation India



"The Accelerator program of the Government of Uttar Pradesh in partnership with 2030 WRG focuses on the sustainable agricultural transformation through adoption of water use efficiency, mechanization and decarbonization in key value chains. The Accelerator will significantly boost public expenditure in the adoption of water-saving micro irrigation and mechanization, leveraging private sector partnerships and market linkages facilitated by 2030 WRG."

- Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, APC & IIDC, ACS, Government of Uttar Pradesh

- **Press Release:** [Coca-Cola Shares Key Goals Detailing 2030 Water Security Strategy](#)

## 2030 WRG GLOBAL PARTNERS



[Let us know](#) how we can improve our newsletter to better meet your needs.

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The 2030 Water Resources Group is a public, private, civil society partnership hosted by the World Bank Group.

Secretariat address: 701 18th St. NW, Washington DC, 20433, USA  
E-mail address: [2030wrg@worldbank.org](mailto:2030wrg@worldbank.org)

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