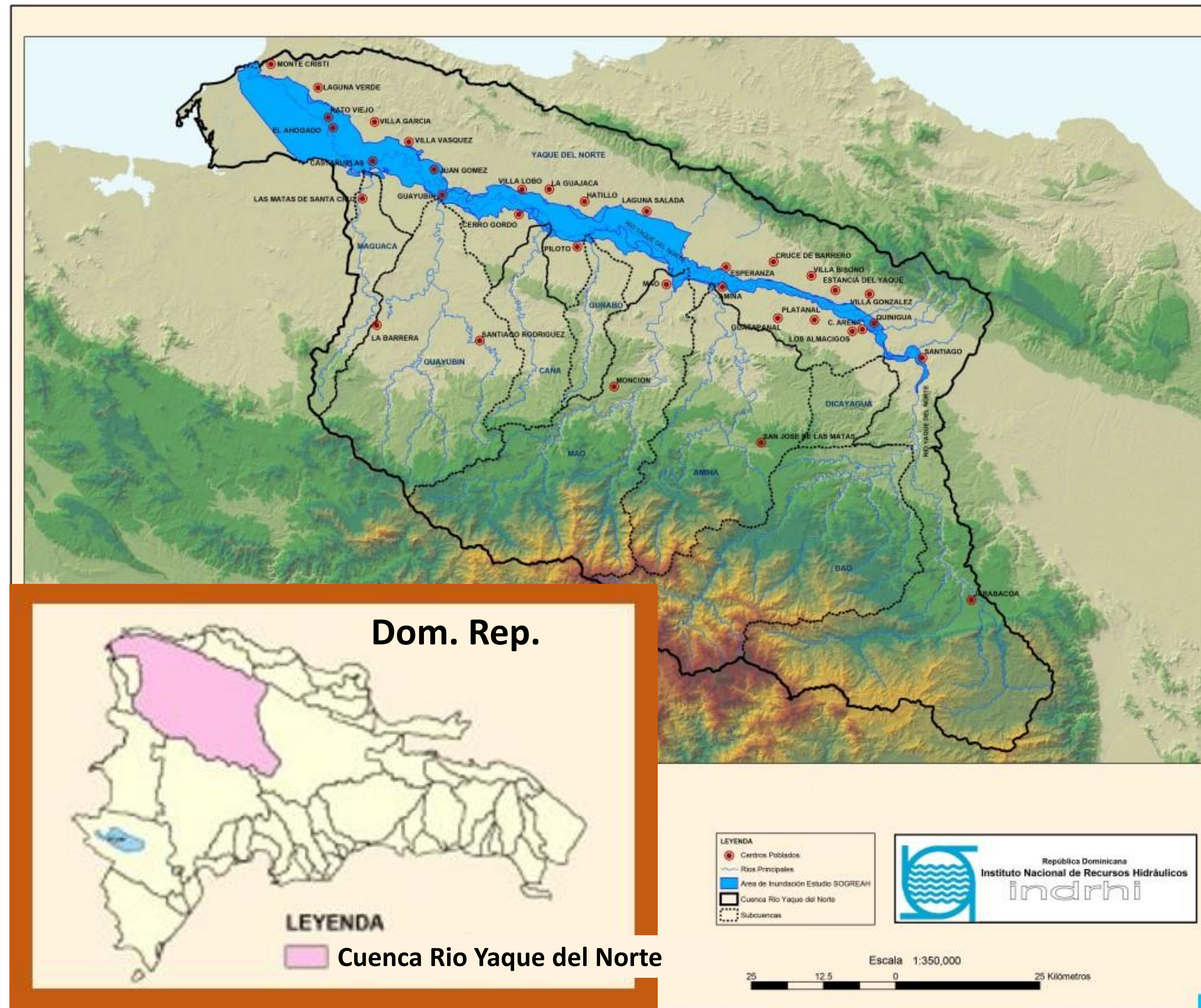


# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AWS STANDARD IN ORGANIC/BIODYNAMIC BANANA PLANTATIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC :



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## STUDY OF THE PLANTATIONS WATER MANAGEMENT AND CHALLENGES



### CONTEXT

Yaque del Norte river catchment:

- tropical dry climate (precipitation < 900mm)
- 80% of the water used for the agricultural sector
- Pollution of water bodies
- Unsuitable policies in the last 50 years
- Inadequate use of soils, water demand exceeding availability
- Droughts and devastating climatic events

### THE AWS PILOT PROJECT

2021: project started in 5 organizations. supported by the importers and the supermarket.

### OBJECTIVES

implement good water stewardship principles that are : « socially and culturally equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial, achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves **site-and catchment-based actions.**” Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

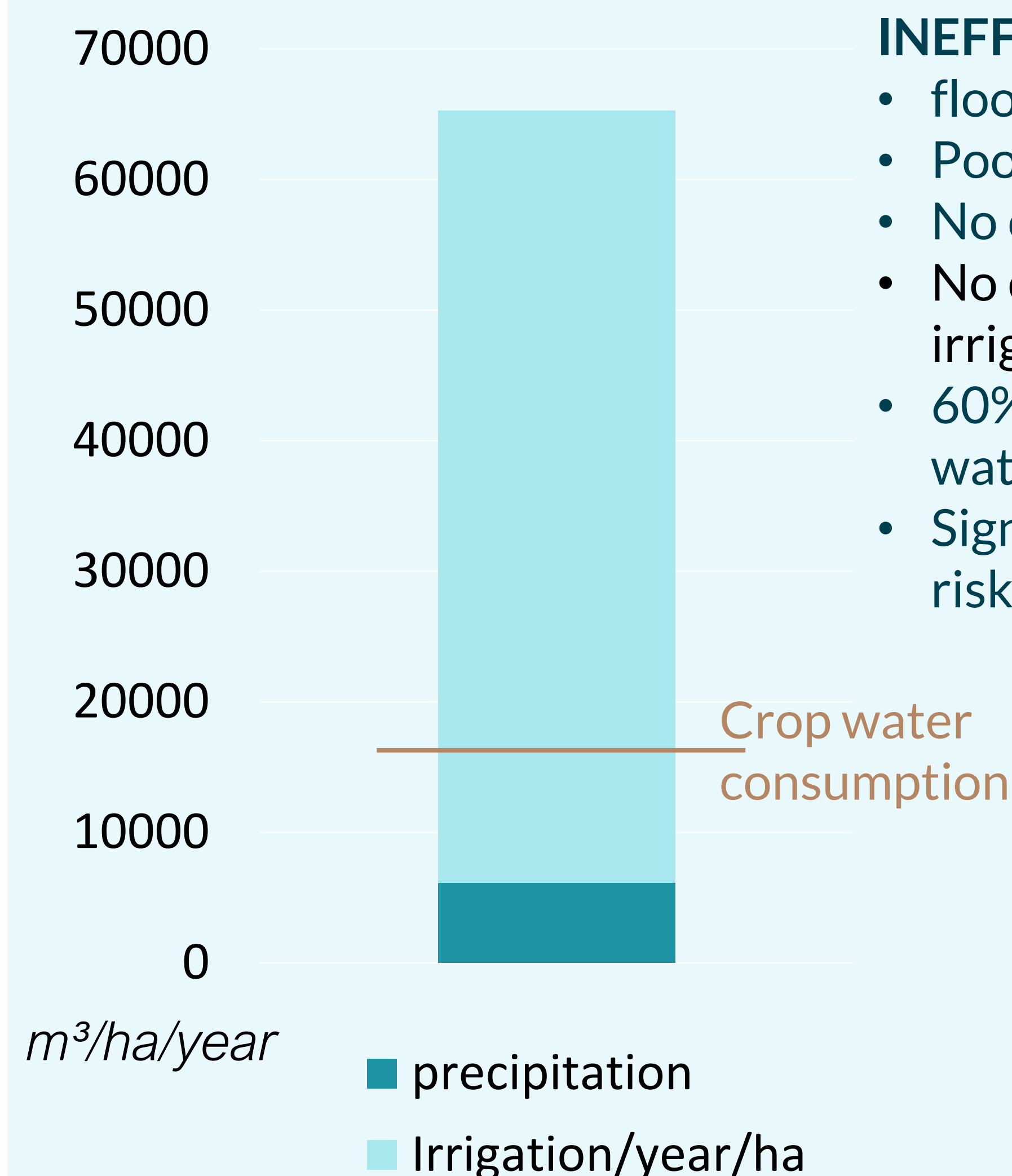


IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARD IS INTENDED TO ACHIEVE FIVE MAIN OUTCOMES FOR THE SITE AND ITS DEFINED PHYSICAL SCOPE:

- GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE
- SUSTAINABLE WATER BALANCE
- GOOD WATER QUALITY STATUS
- IMPORTANT WATER-RELATED AREAS
- SAFE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR ALL (WASH)

International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard) - [www.a4ws.org](http://www.a4ws.org)

### Example of water supply by irrigation in a plantation



### INEFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM

- flooding irrigation: high consumption-high losses
- Poor infrastructure
- No control over used water volumes nor quality
- No consideration of soil and climate conditions for irrigation
- 60% of water supply from irrigation but access to water unsecure
- Significant physical, regulatory and reputational risks associated

### INADEQUATE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Alternating between water stress and excess of water
- Lack of staff training
- Fear of water shortage
- Short term profitability target
- Lack of economic motivation
- Lack of awareness about water preservation

CROP WATER CONSUMPTION	IRRIGATION WATER REQUIREMENT	VOLUME OF WATER APPLIED	IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY
16 157 m³/ha/year	15 217 m³/ha/year	59 139 m³/ha/year	26%

## 1. MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE PLANTATIONS

## 2. OPPORTUNITIES

## CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

### DEVELOPP ACTUAL STRATEGIES

- Agricultural practices for water retention and evacuation
- Strategies for saving water
- Mitigation of water risks in the fields

### IMPLEMENT WATER STEWARDSHIP IN PLANTATIONS & BASIN:

Sustainable water stewardship according to the 5 step continual improvement framework (that enables sites to commit, understand, plan, implement, evaluate and communicate water stewardship):

- **Governance:** Involve with relevant stakeholders of the basin and associate with AWS implementers
- Make long term changes towards continual improvement
- **Water balance :** Monitoring and scheduling irrigation, infrastructure , training of the workers, securing water supply and anticipating risks.

### Early benefits of AWS implementing:

- New challenges with huge potential for improvement
- Major benefit created through data collection : realizing the site's and basin's shared risks and challenges, the importance of water preservation, and basin-wide actions and the stakeholder's commitment.

### Major difficulties faced:

Governance in the water sector institutionally backward, lack of regulation and coordination. Inequalities between smallholders and companies with large areas > 100 ha. Difficulty to implement theoretical concepts into the fields, particularities of the agricultural sector. Lack of economic motivation to implement this demanding standard.

### Continuation of the project:

Implementation the rest of the standard up to certification. (first planned end of 2022/starting 2023)