

# Water Resources

## for agriculture and horticulture

Building resilience and sustainability whilst protecting the environment



### Food Production

The Defra Plan for Water<sup>2</sup> commits to "at a minimum, maintain the current level of food we produce domestically."

#### POLICY ASK

The Government to commit to undertake a Food Impact Assessment when access to water for the agriculture and horticulture sector changes.



### Economic Growth

The UK Agri-Food sector is worth £110bn and has the potential for further growth.

#### POLICY ASK

The Government to ensure access to water for food is maintained. To support business sustainability, abstraction licence holders require fair and adequate time for adaptation when licences are changed.



### Food Security

The Defra Plan for Water states water "is vital for food security." The NFU Horticulture Growth Strategy<sup>3</sup> cites access to water as a building block to success and growth.

#### POLICY ASK

The Government to develop and set out a Food Strategy which recognises water's value.

## Importance of Water for Food



### Ecosystem Services

Protecting the environment through catchment scale approaches is fundamental to water resources resilience.

#### POLICY ASK

The Government to support a properly funded governance structure ensuring a fully integrated, multi-sector, catchment based approach to water systems planning as set out in the NFU's Integrated Water Management report<sup>1</sup>.

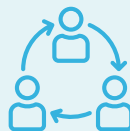


### Global Water Scarcity

Globally, water resources are being impacted by climate change which affects food production.

#### POLICY ASK

The Government to support Agriculture Water Resources Management Plans, Drought Plans and Water Abstractor Groups to build resilience and support the multi sector Water Resources Regional Groups.



### Employment

The UK Agri-Food sector employs 3.8million people.

#### POLICY ASK

The Environment Agency to commit to timely communication and engagement with abstraction licence holders ensuring access to water is maintained, safeguarding employment.

1. NFU's Integrated Water Management report [integrated-water-management.pdf \(nfuonline.com\)](#)

2. Defra Plan for Water: Our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water. **Our Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water** [publishing.service.gov.uk](#)

3. UK Horticulture Growth Strategy [nfu-uk-horticulture-growth-strategy](#)