

## Editorial

Low oil prices have created concern all over the world. This is an issue with numerous economic, social and geopolitical implications, including some related to global agriculture and thus food and water security. According to the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2012–2021 (OECD-FAO, 2012), oil prices have strongly influenced agricultural price projections and affected oil-related costs of production, as well as demand for biofuels and the agricultural feed stocks that are used in their production. These demands have also impacted the water sector in numerous ways because of water resources use, allocation, (mis)management and pollution.

As the report stresses, rising global demand (due to urbanization and affluence), resource limitations, environmental pressure and the high costs of certain inputs are expected to constrain agricultural supply response even further all over the world. By 2021, developing countries are projected to produce and export to the world the majority of exports of rice, oilseeds, vegetable and palm oil, meals, sugar, beef, poultry meat, fish and fish products. Further research is essential to understand the related economic, social, and natural resource impacts and necessary national policy responses on water resources use and availability as well as on mismanagement and pollution, and the importance of implementing policies that address the requirements of the water, food and energy sectors in an interrelated manner.

In the March issue of *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, we are publishing 10 papers that focus on water supply in Colombia (Acevedo Guerrero, Furlong & Arias, 2015); impacts and interaction in irrigation development in Chile (Frederiksen, 2015); institutional arrangements for watershed development programmes in Western Cape, South Africa (Saldías, Speelman, van Koppen, & van Huylbroeck, 2015) and Madhya Pradesh, India; hydraulic bureaucracies and irrigation management transfer in Uzbekistan; impacts of hydropower development in Turkey, Kenya and Ghana; megaprojects in deserts and drylands; and water allocation in the Chao Phraya River basin.

As has been the case throughout the past 32 years, we shall continue providing a forum for analysis and discussion that advances knowledge and contributes to positive impacts.

We continue to invite the water and development communities to put forward ideas, challenge traditional wisdom and join us in the advancement of knowledge with high-quality discussions.

## References

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