

## ***Interactive comment on “A global dataset of the extent of irrigated land from 1900 to 2005” by S. Siebert et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

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The author has made the global irrigation dataset from 1990 to 2005, which I believe would be valuable for many end-users from various sectors in hydrology, water resources, agriculture and food production etc. The development of this dataset is also helpful for research on irrigation evolution and global changes. The paper reads very well and I think it could be published after the minor revision. I have only two questions about the developed datasets:

1. Given the coarse resolution and perhaps uncertainty of AEI in the dataset, could the authors highlight again who can benefit from and make use of this dataset? Do the end-users have to pay special attention when they try to use this dataset? What are the limitations when the dataset is applied in different fields?

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2. Given data availability differs from country to country, the dataset is likely associated with different level of uncertainty from one country to another. Due to this inconsistency, therefore, could this dataset be used for the purpose such as studying the global changes due to irrigation? I noticed the authors have mentioned this issue in section 4.4, so the question is how do we understand this inconsistency in terms of uncertainty and how do we deal with it?

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 11, 13207, 2014.

## HESD

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