

Interactive comment on “Development and validation of the global map of irrigation areas” by S. Siebert et al.

S. Siebert et al.

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Response to the comments of referee #1 (N. Ramankutty):

1.) We already noticed that first images of the new IWMI-map became available in the meantime and we are in close contact to the authors at IWMI. However, the product is not published yet, also some important characteristics (e.g. irrigated area per country or grid cell) are not available yet and the documentation is still incomplete. Therefore we agreed with Hugh Turrall (IWMI) to wait and to start a joined map comparison initiative at a later stage, probably beginning of next year. Additionally, the researchers at IWMI used a new remote sensing based methodology which is completely different from the methodology used to produce the two global landcover inventories described in our paper. Thus it maybe an advantage to compare our map and the global irrigation map of IWMI later in a separate publication. In any case the readers of the article can navigate to IWMI's web page to see the recent developments by using the link given

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on page 1312 of our article.

2.) The references to both, statistical data and maps, are already available at <http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/aglw/aquastat/irrigationmap/index.stm>, where the online presentation of our project is hosted. We mentioned this on page 1301 of our publication. The references (per country) are to be found in the update section related to the specific continent. For Europe, Latin America and Asia you need to download the related working report (Siebert and Döll, 2001 or Siebert et al., 2005), while for North America, Africa and Oceania the references are given directly on the web page. However, we have plans for a restructuring of the online presentation so that all issues (input data, references, mapping result, map quality indicator) will become more easy available on a country level and we will consider the remark of the referee for this effort.

3.) We completely agree that the information which specific crop is irrigated would also be very useful and we will consider the remark in the future development of our data base. However, sub-national cropping statistics that distinguish irrigated and rainfed cropping practices are rare. On a national level the readers are referred to cropping calendars developed in the framework of FAO's AQUASTAT-program at http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/aglw/aquastat/water_use/index.stm. We plan to improve this data base and we will try to include also more sub-national information.

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