

Interactive comment on “Food consumption patterns and their effect on water requirement in China” by J. Liu and H. H. G. Savenije

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This is a very interesting paper, on a topic that is going to be more and more important in the context of the global water crisis. It fits in well with the overall mission of this journal.

The paper has received 4 excellent reviews and the authors have also responded very well - the resulting discussion can be extremely valuable to research scientists and students alike who are entering this area of research.

I would like to, if at all, close the discussion now and let the authors revise the paper using the many useful comments and constructive criticisms provided by the four reviewers. These have been highly detailed, and very valuable.

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However, I would also like them not to miss the big picture - there are scores of hydrologists and others for whom this may be a new topic. I encourage the authors to bring out the hydrological relevance of their work: given the demand that they have been able to estimate (even if crudely at this stage), how it fits in with the hydrologic cycle in China (precipitation, its partitioning into green water and blue water, and their spatial patterns) will be extremely important for the wise management of available water resources, and the use of virtual water trade to manage the difference.

It is also important not to get lost in the particular issues and problems that apply only to China (which may not be so important to other countries). However, those issues and problems that are common to all the countries of the world must be articulated, since this will provide the motivation for other national, regional and global research on hydrology and water resources.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 5, 27, 2008.

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