

## ***Interactive comment on “Assessment of food trade impacts on water, food, and land security in the MENA region” by Sang-Hyun Lee et al.***

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Dear reviewer and editor,

thank you for considering the manuscript for publication in the HESS and in-depth review of the manuscript. We believe food trade bring important impacts on water-food-lands management in the MENA region. Therefore, this study focused on quantifying domestic water-lands savings by food trade, and we analyzed the virtual water trade in terms of volume and connectivity. In reviewer’s comments, we identified the main critiques directed towards the weak explanation of the situation of the MENA region, limitations and contribution of this study, and proposed methodology. We have made substantial changes to the manuscript to improve upon these points. For example, in

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revised manuscript, we added more reference studies for identifying the situation of the MENA region, and clarify the limitation of this study in terms of policy application for example, only historical data use and lack of geopolitical issues. In addition, we rewrote the methodology of eigenvector centrality with more references, and added more explanation about the difference between water saving and virtual water import. We attached revision note and revised manuscript (zip file) in supplement, and you will find an overview of changes and a point-by-point reply to specific comments. We appreciate again your thoughtful comments, and look forward to hearing your reply.

Kind regards, on behalf of all co-authors, Sanghyun Lee

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/hess-2018-398/hess-2018-398-AC1-supplement.zip>

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2018-398>, 2018.

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