

Dear Editors,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to you and the reviewers for your insightful suggestions, which have significantly enhanced the quality of this study. In response, we have made several revisions to the previous version to improve clarity. These include defining the various dimensions of water stress (section 2.2), analyzing the impact of vegetation changes on water stress (section 4.2), assessing the role of improved irrigation efficiency in alleviating future surface water deficit (section 3.3), and refining the phrasing of several other sentences. We hope the revised manuscript is now acceptable to you.