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Water for Food Security and Well-Being in Latin America and the Caribbean

Social and Environmental Implications
for a Globalized Economy



Earthscan Studies in
Water Resource Management

earthscan
from Routledge

WATER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND WELL-BEING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This volume provides an analytical and facts-based overview of the progress achieved in water security in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region during the last decade, and its links to regional development, food security and human well-being. Although the book takes a regional approach, covering a vast amount of data pertaining to most of the LAC region, some chapters focus on seven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru).

A full understanding of LAC's progress requires framing this region in the global context: an ever more globalized world where LAC has increasing geopolitical power and a growing presence in international food markets. The book's specific objectives are: (1) exploring the improvements and links between water and food security in LAC countries; (2) assessing the role of the socio-economic 'megatrends' in LAC, identifying feedback processes between the region's observed pattern of changes regarding key biophysical, economic and social variables linked to water and food security; and (3) reviewing the critical changes that are taking place in the institutional and governance water spheres, including the role of civil society, which may represent a promising means to advancing towards the goal of improving water security in LAC.

The resulting picture shows a region where recent socioeconomic development has led to important advances in the domains of food and water security. Economic growth in LAC and its increasingly important role in international trade are intense in terms of use of natural resources such as land, water and energy. This poses new and important challenges for sustainable development. The reinforcement of national and global governance schemes and their alignment on the improvement of human well-being is and will remain an inescapable prerequisite to the achievement of long-lasting security. Supporting this bold idea with facts and science-based conclusions is the ultimate goal of the book.

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**WATER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND WELL-BEING
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**
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Edited by Bárbara A. Willaarts, Alberto Garrido and M. Ramón Llamas

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

earthscan
from Routledge

First published 2014
by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

And by Routledge
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Water for food security and well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean:
social and environmental implications for a globalized economy / edited
by Bárbara A. Willaarts, Alberto Garrido, M. Ramón Llamas.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

TD227.5.W38 2014

338.1'98-dc23

2013043668

ISBN: 978-0-415-71368-9 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-315-88313-7 (ebk)

Typeset in Futura Std light

by M. Carmona

Publisher's note

This book has been prepared from camera-ready copy provided by the authors.

To Eduardo, for his unconditional support, and to Jacques, for his courage
Bárbara A. Willaarts

To my sons, Andrés and David
Alberto Garrido

To Alvaro del Portillo, for his life example and advice
M. Ramón Llamas

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