

Wetlands and Food

WETLANDS AID FOOD SECURITY

- Wetlands have underpinned the development of civilizations for thousands of years, providing people with access to fish, other food and freshwater for crops and livestock.
 - Fish harvested from wetlands provide the primary source of protein for more than **1 billion** people.
 - Rice paddies feed **3.5 billion** people annually.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices are damaging and destroying wetlands.
 - More than half of Wetlands of International Importance are damaged by agriculture.
 - Agriculture accounts for **70%** of water withdrawals from the Earth's wetlands.
 - Aquaculture is growing faster than any other food production sector.
- Major changes to global agricultural systems can help stop wetland conversion and reduce water use and pollutants – while providing a future of sustainable food production for the world's growing population.

