

Interactive comment on “Virtual water trade and water footprint of agricultural goods: the 1961–2016 CWASI database” by Stefania Tamea et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This study describes a very useful database for research on regional and global water resources in agriculture. The authors combine data of crop production, consumption, and trade from the FAO with the WaterStat by Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2010) to generate a dataset of water consumption in agriculture and virtual water trade that is crop specific, country-specific and runs from 1961 to 2016. The manuscript is clear and well written. The methodology used by the authors is sound and robust. The dataset will facilitate and advance research on the globalization of water. I think this is an important contribution that will draw a lot of attention. I support the publication of this manuscript. I only have very few minor points.

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Line 14: please remove the funding source from the abstract. I think the abstract should be about the science questions, how they are addressed and the results. It is not a common practice to include acknowledgements in the abstract. Line 21: “15 years ago” Lines 37-40: poorly phrased Line 38: uWF are not data but “estimates” Line 43: “presented in Hoekstra et al. . .” Line 46: “available from the literature. . .” Line 82: “quantified in this study aims. . .” Line 86: “open access database” Line 90: “extent it to provide annual statistics of. . .” Line 94: “ the results of this analysis constitute the CWASI database

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