

Headline:

IFC completes ground-breaking water footprint assessment with Jain Irrigation

Main Idea:

The first comprehensive water footprint assessment has just been completed with Jain Irrigation, a diversified Indian company with headquarters in Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India and a world leader in micro-irrigation systems. It is a groundbreaking pilot report as it comprises all three steps of a water footprint assessment for the very first time. It serves as an example of an effective tool for managing water-related risks and can pave the way for similar assessments with IFC clients in countries which face water scarcity.

About the story (Nut Graf)

About Water Footprinting

As defined by the Water Footprint Network of which IFC is a founding member, a Water Footprint Assessment comprises the following three steps: (1) the identification of volumes of water associated with business activity, in the company's direct operations and in its supply chain, (2) the identification of social and environmental impacts associated with that activity and (3) the determination of response strategies to mitigate those impacts. It can play a key role in helping businesses to manage water related risks, improve water efficiency and identify and mitigate environmental and social impacts.

About Jain's Water Footprint Assessment

For Jain Irrigation, which operates in an area where water scarcity is an imminent issue, a water footprint assessment would prove particularly useful. The report comprised two distinct water footprint assessments: one of Jain's dehydrated onions production business and one of its micro-irrigation system (MIS) manufacturing business. Among the most important findings was that onions grown under drip have a 42% smaller water footprint and almost 90% less water pollution than onions grown under flood irrigation.

The pilot report was conducted by IFC, in partnership with LimnoTech and the Nature Conservancy, and was funded by the client with the support of the Netherland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Jain Irrigation has also been nominated to receive the 2010 IFC Client Leadership Award.

What makes it unique

This is the first water footprint assessment of its kind as it is the first time that a company in an emerging market is undertaking such an assessment. Moreover, whereas past assessments have focused merely on water footprint accounting, which is the first step in the three-step water footprinting process, the assessment with Jain takes a comprehensive view to include the other two steps as well. In addition, one potential response strategy is a Public Private Dialogue (PPD) among all users in the Tapi river basin, which would be the first time a PPD, an IFC Advisory Services product, would be used in the context of sustainable water.

[Link to the Report](#)