

An Initiative of the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research

GRoW

WATER AS A GLOBAL RESOURCE



Breakout Session 5

Water-use efficiency, sustainability guidelines, water footprint

Inputs by **Prof Dr Matthias Finkbeiner** (TU Berlin) and
Johannes Schmiester (WWF Germany)

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Breakout Session 5 – Water-use efficiency, sustainability guidelines, water footprint: Key challenges

Diverging interests

- Finding a balance between water and other sustainability issues and interests (e.g. ownership)

Data availability

- Agricultural, industrial and biodiversity data is difficult to be obtained – Not available for free/non existent
- There is no economic driving force to collect data

Governance issues

- Lack of governance induced incentives
- Most governments remain with a national perspective – governments need to understand the impacts beyond their control
- (Differing definitions of water efficiency/WF related terms)

Breakout Session 5 – Water-use efficiency, sustainability guidelines, water footprint: Key opportunities

Companies

- Foster interlinkages between different departments to reach higher impacts
- Integrate water related indicators in the public procurement process

Consumers

- Consumer demand initiation

Integrated approaches

- Engage stakeholders to help with data acquisition
- Collective action in the decision making process
- Consider stakeholders in the research process
- Find common interests
- Capacity building and rising awareness

- Link current crisis to the overall issue
- Be transparent about the assessment of the weaknesses/ the consequences

Breakout Session 5 – Water-use efficiency, sustainability guidelines, water footprint: Recommendations

- Bring different perspectives to one table
- Considering the complexity of co-designing efforts
- Linking GRoW results to existing initiatives