



RESPONSIBLE  
SUSTAINABLE  
KNOWLEDGEABLE

## Water Stewardship Through Supply Chain Visibility: Risk, Resilience & Opportunity

A webinar for the Food and  
Drink Federation by RSK's Toby  
Townsend and Sarah Taylor

[www.rskgroup.com](http://www.rskgroup.com)





# Context and content

You need to understand your water risks

How do I do that when I don't have supply chain visibility? Where do I even start?

## Overview of webinar:

- Brief introduction to water stewardship and the importance of identifying water risks
- Progression of water stewardship maturity
- Identifying water risks for ingredients
  - Visible supply chain
  - Limited visibility of supply chain
- Moving towards Leadership in Water Stewardship
- Q&A





# WATER STEWARDSHIP

Using water in a way that is  
**socially equitable,**  
**environmentally sustainable**  
**and economically beneficial.**



# Why Water Stewardship Matters



## TOO LITTLE WATER

---

Insufficient quantity to meet the demand of all users



## TOO MUCH WATER

---

Excessive volumes of water in terms of flooding or extreme and intense weather



## POLLUTED/DIRTY WATER

---

Water is polluted or otherwise altered to a state that makes it inappropriate for its intended use

= IMPACTS ON BUSINESS CONTINUITY

# Opportunities for food and drink businesses

Creating a Water Stewardship strategy is an important step to **mitigating the risks** that food and beverage clients are exposed to and increasing the long-term viability of a business.



## Reduced Costs

Rising inflation and treatment costs make efficient **water use a competitive advantage**.



## Engagement with community stakeholders

Proactive engagement in stressed catchments builds **trust and long-term access**.



## Reduced Financial Risks

Increasing scrutiny under CSRD and water-related **supply disruptions** raise the stakes.

# Progression of Water Stewardship Maturity



# Where are you on your **Water Stewardship** journey?



## **WATER VISIBILITY**

- Do you know where water risks lie across your operations and supply chain?
- Are your suppliers sharing useable water data?
- Have you connected water risk to your sourcing choices and product decisions?

# Think of the ingredients that are in your products

- What are the ones that you use the most?
  - Which are the ones that are vital to your products?
  - What claims have you made about these ingredients?
    - 100% British, locally-produced, organic, regenerative
- What would happen if their supply was compromised?
  - How might water risks impact these ingredients?
  - Have you put in place mitigation actions to limit these risks?





# Visibility of supply chain



## SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

---

- Map production locations.
- Assess the water risks within these specific catchment zone.
- Move production away from at-risk locations.



## SPECIFIC SUPPLIERS

---

- Engage with your suppliers understand how they are measuring and mitigation water risks.
- Diversify supply chain.



## SPECIFIC PRODUCERS

---

- Engage with producers to understand how they are managing water risks.
- Model water use to identify actions for greater efficiency.
- Support farmers to adopt best practice.

---

**= REDUCING WATER RISKS**

# Limited or no visibility of supply chain



## WHAT LOCATIONS?

---

- Identify regions where these ingredients are produced.
  - Is production dispersed or concentrated?
- Identify climate risks in these catchment zones, now and in the future.



## WHAT SUPPLY CHAINS?

---

- Map key supply chains.
- Identify competition for ingredients.



## WHAT PRODUCERS?

---

- Identify types of system are supplying these ingredients – e.g., rainfed vs irrigated.
- Use standard water footprints of production.
- Identify priority areas for increasing visibility.

---

**= REDUCING WATER RISKS**



# Progression of Water Stewardship Maturity



# What's Next: The Shift Toward **Water Positive**



## WATER STEWARDSHIP TODAY

- Efficient use
- Risk mitigation
- Local engagement



## WATER POSITIVE FUTURE

- Replenish **more** than you consume
- Quantify **benefits** (volumes, access, quality)
- Support community and ecosystem **health**



# What Water Stewardship Looks Like in Practice

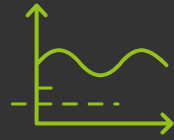
## EXAMPLE: A GLOBAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPANY'S APPROACH TO WATER STEWARDSHIP

- Commitment to **replenish more water than it uses in its finished products**
- Identified over **200 high-risk sites across its global operations**, representing nearly a third of its footprint.
- Improving **water-use efficiency** across its operations
- Treating and safely **returning water** to communities
- **Investing** in local water access and ecosystem restoration projects

# What can RSK do for you?



**ASSESS  
RISKS**



**CREATE  
BASELINE**



**DEVELOP  
STRATEGY**



**ACT**



**MONITOR  
AND REPORT**

Water-related companies within the RSK Group:





Book your free consultation with RSK experts using this QR code:



**Sarah Taylor, Environmental Economist**  
**[sarah.taylor@wrcgroup.com](mailto:sarah.taylor@wrcgroup.com)**

**Toby Townsend, Principal Consultant**  
**[toby.townsend@adas.co.uk](mailto:toby.townsend@adas.co.uk)**



[www.rskgroup.com](http://www.rskgroup.com)