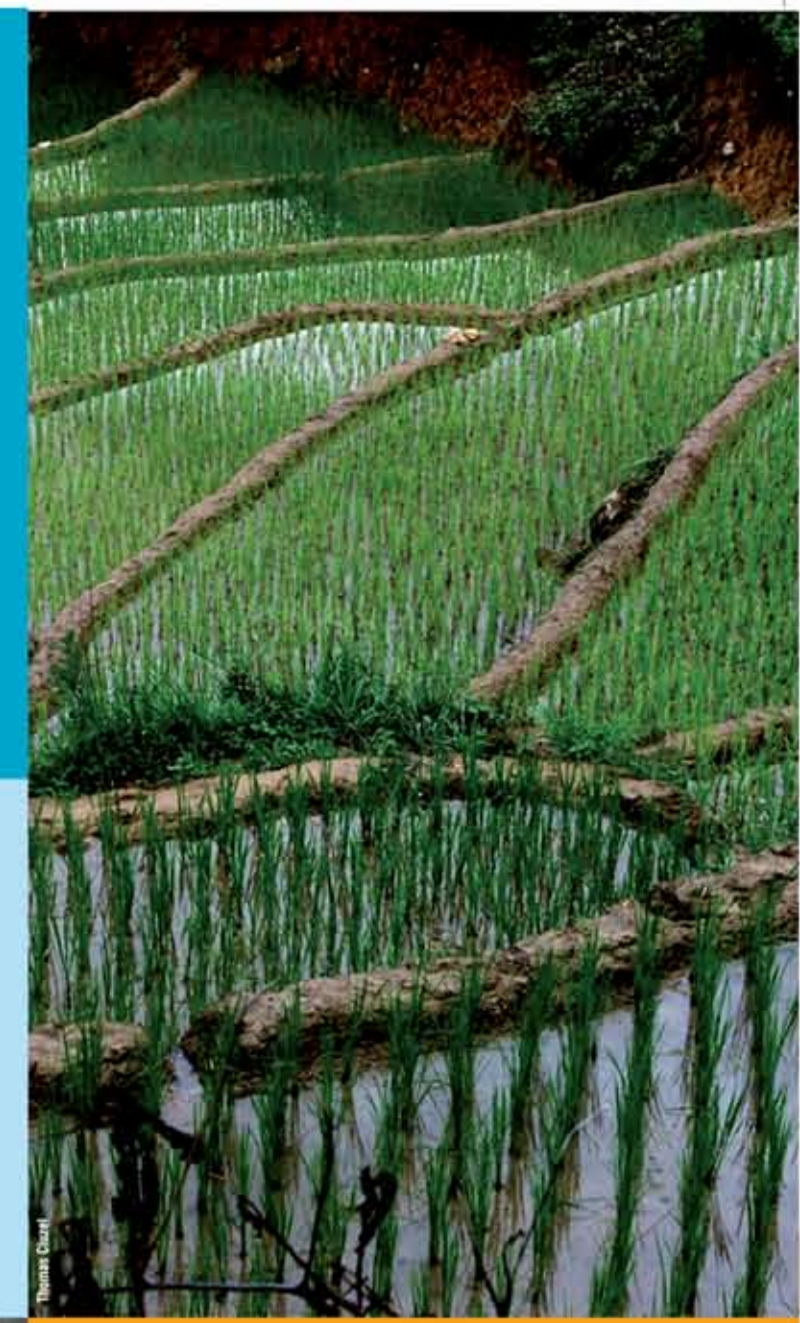


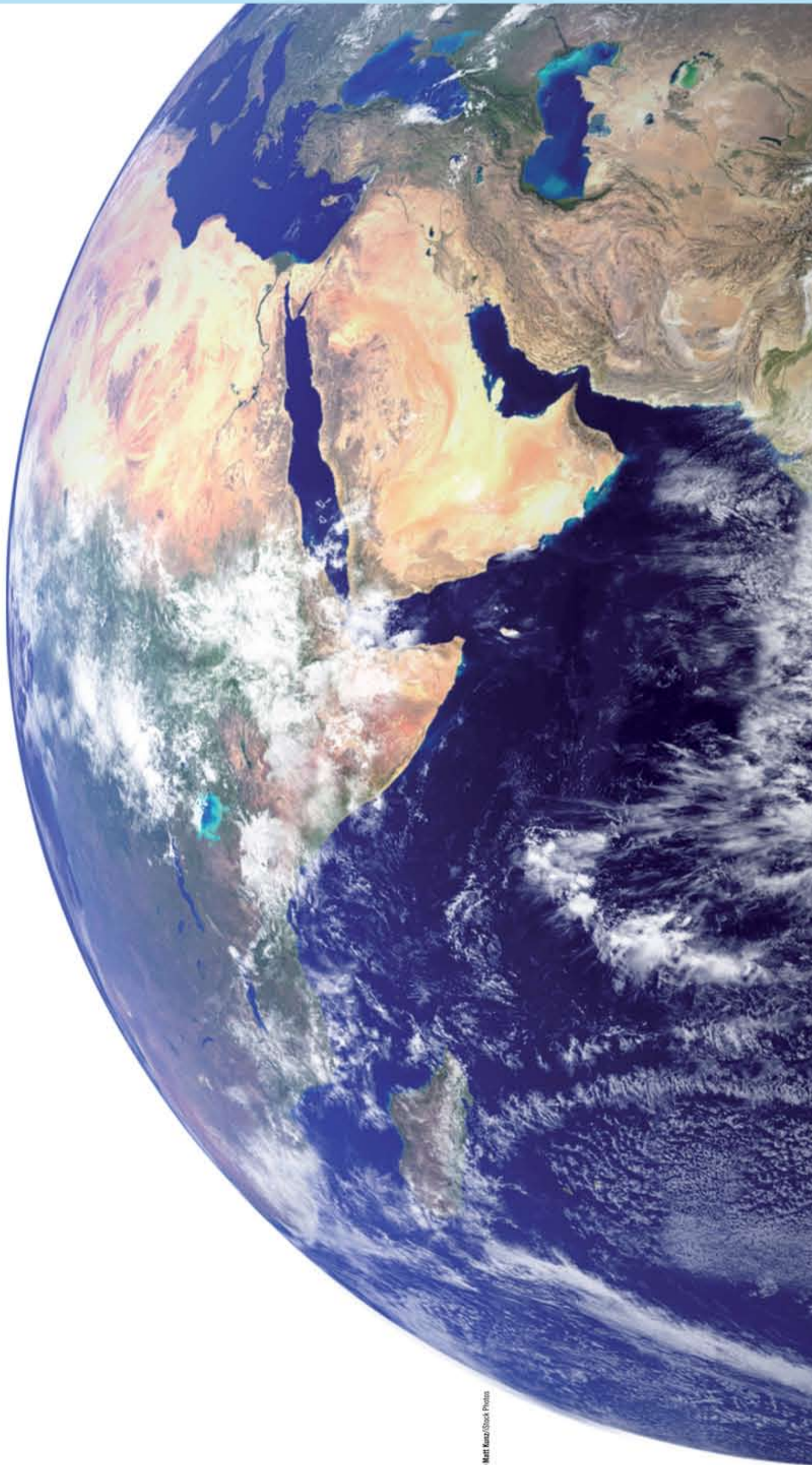
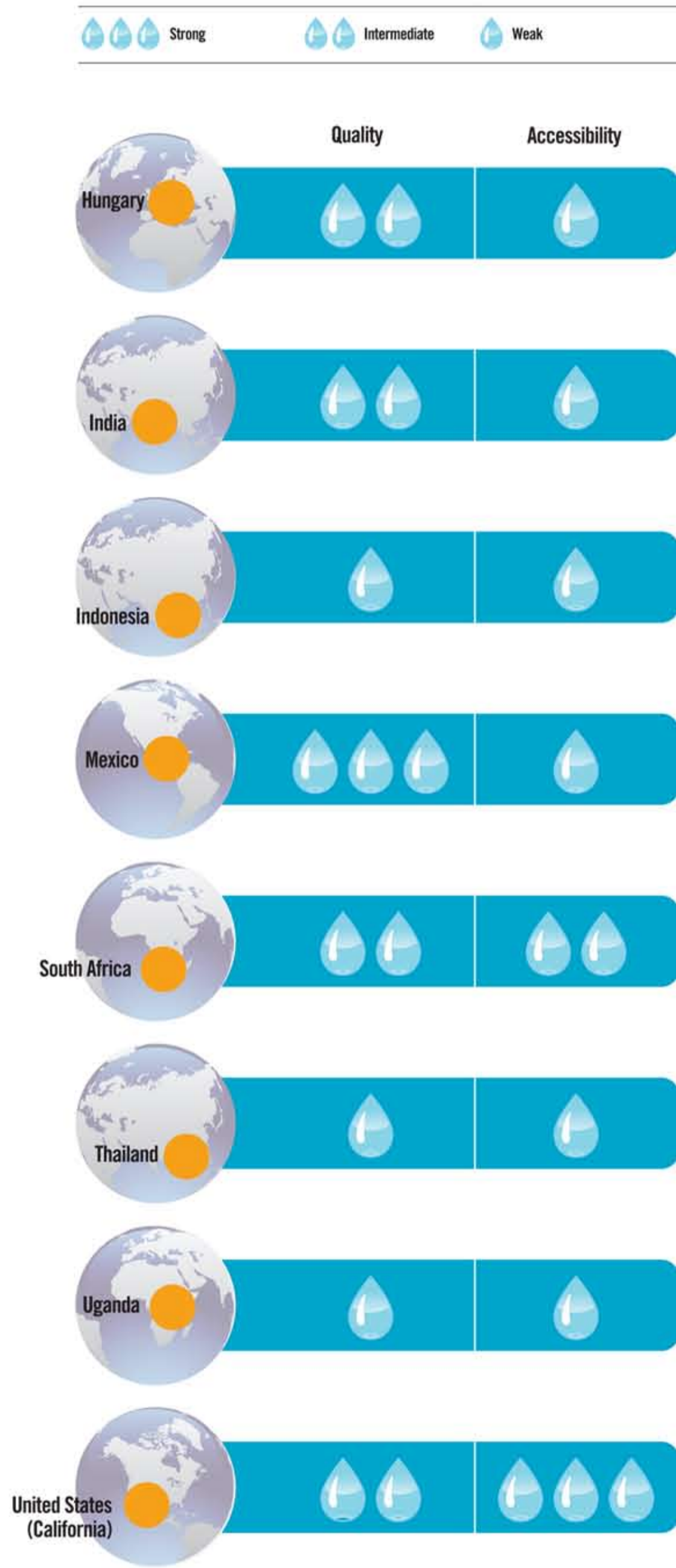
Tradition, innovation and water



It is of crucial importance to share and combine traditional knowledge and techniques with new technologies in order to make sustainable management of water resources a reality. This collaboration must be based on respect for local knowledge, use and customs with regard to water.

Accessibility and quality of water data in selected countries

Source: UN-WWDR2, based on data from the Access Initiative (2004).

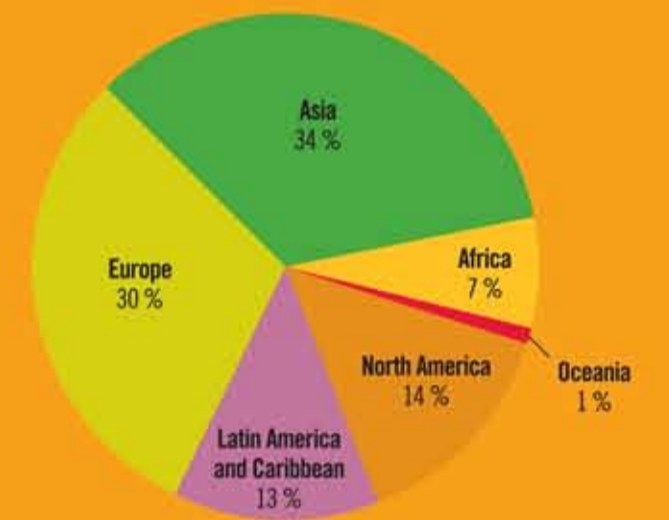


Throughout the world, communities have traditional techniques for conserving water, especially in regions where water is scarce.

Technological improvements allow, for instance, poor farmers to be supplied with efficient, affordable systems, such as drip irrigation and treadle pumps to extract groundwater.

Institutes offering water-related subjects in higher education

Source: UN-WWDR1, based on IAU (2002).



If investment were stepped up and the most were made of ancestral and modern knowledge and techniques, a great deal of progress would be made towards solving the world's water problems.



Collaboration among scientists and people who have ancestral knowledge of their territories can be invaluable in seeking solutions to attain integrated water resource management.

Despite technological innovations such as remote satellite systems, much of the world still lacks knowledge about water resources and techniques for managing them. Measures to improve water knowledge and increase our capacity to adapt in a constantly changing world are urgently needed.