Leveraging FAO WaPOR Data for Enhanced River Basin Management and Water Productivity in Africa

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As climate variability and competing human demands intensify pressure on African river basins, advanced monitoring tools are essential for sustainable water management. This presentation explores the application of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) WaPOR portal - Water Productivity through Open access of Remotely sensed derived data - a near-real-time, open-access database that uses satellite remote sensing to monitor water productivity. By tracking evapotranspiration, biomass production, and water-use fractions (consumptive vs. non-consumptive), WaPOR provides local and regional stakeholders with actionable insights. This session highlights how WaPOR's open-access, big-data resources can optimise agricultural water use, assess irrigation performance, and support decision-making frameworks across critical African river catchments, aligning scientific evidence with socio-ecological water governance.