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**A Food-Water-Energy Nexus – The road to a sustainable development**

Confederation of Danish Industry

Food, water and energy are closely interconnected. Soon we will be 9 billion people on Earth, and resource scarcity will occur.

Most production or operations with impact on nature will need a “license to operate”. The framework will be the UN SDGs.

The UN SDGs will be the basic business drivers in the near future. Food and related industries need to keep the water consumption under control, because it is a limited resource in most parts of the world. Water is a too expensive raw material. Therefore, recycling and minimizing the water consumption will be a business driver. Does the legal framework support this development? Are the environmental and food safety regulations working in different directions?

Development towards zero water consumption and discharge is moving quickly: We see new innovations within measuring methods, online sensors, cleaning methods and resource recovery. Innovations that drive the Danish industry towards a low water footprint. Are the authorities ready to move and collaborate to ensure both food security and sustainable water handling at the same time?

Today we also see examples of use of pure drinking water for purposes, where drinking water quality is not necessarily needed. Use of water fit for purpose will be the future.