NEXUS GAME

3-4 HOURS

8-24 PLAYERS

1 MODERATOR

Challenges of water management for energy and food production

The Nexus Game gives participants a unique opportunity to get an insight into challenges of water management for energy and food production, at the same time sustaining environmental flows. The aim of the game is thus to provide an opportunity for practicing how different water management policies can lead to sustainable development of society in harmony with Nature. It can be used both as a training tool and a policy exercise.

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Participants strive to address water needs of population, industry, and agriculture, at the same time facing challenges of climate change. The game is designed to demonstrate many interconnected Water-Food-Energy Nexus challenges.

The players take on the roles of policy makers in two countries that have access to the same river. They have to match the increasing water demand with adequate supply. In order to achieve this goal, effective collaboration and information exchange must be established between stakeholders both within and across the borders. Since the goals of both countries overlap, the game provides an opportunity for practicing conflict resolution and cooperation at the international level.

APPLICATIONS

The game was developed in collaboration with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

The game was met with an enthusiastic reception from players in many countries around the world, including Ivory Coast (African Development Bank), Republic of South Africa (Southern African Systems Analysis Centre), Egypt (Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology) and Pakistan (Lahore University of Management Sciences).

The Nexus Game provides players with a strategic overview of interconnections between water and energy in the context of security and sustainability at the transboundary level. Information sharing, collaboration and communication between various stakeholders is a key element of the game.

Benefits

Learn how to balance increasing water demand and solve water-supply conflicts between different sectors and countries

Experience problems and opportunities connected with transitions in complex systems where multiple parties, stakeholders and their needs collide

Discover the potential of new technologies for increasing energy and water use efficiency

Practice collaboration among various organizations and groups of interest whose individual and collective goals differ

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY:

„Even if the link between water-food-energy is simple in this game, you can see how these nexus elements interact. You can see how uncertainty of natural processes influences the result of your decisions. Group dynamics can vary a lot between two groups and between two games, and is an important (maybe the most important) part of arriving at decision."

„Thanks to the Nexus Game I've learned about cross-sector decision-making processes and how water, energy, food, ecosystems, climate change are intricately linked."

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