



Tackling Water Security Challenges in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region

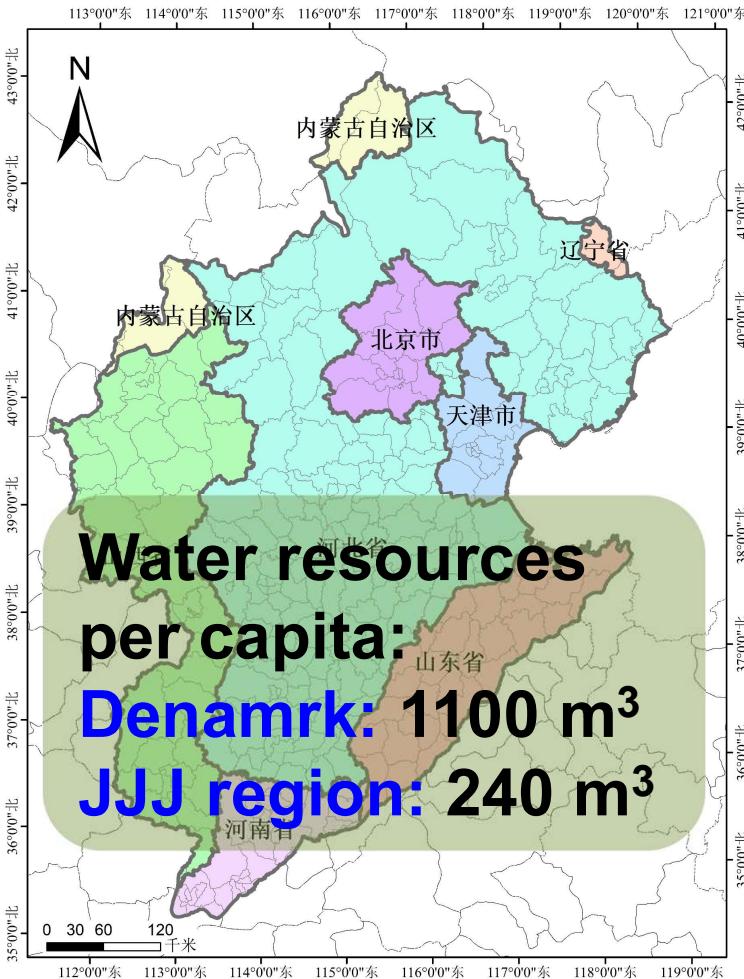
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China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research

World Water Day, 22 March 2021



Water crisis in the JJJ region



- GDP 8500 bil. CNY (8.5%)
- Total area 217,000 km² (2.3%)
- Cultivated area 52,000 km² (8.2%)
- Population 85 mil. (7.8%)
- WR availability 20.4 bil. m³ (0.7%)



Outline

- 1. Decrease of water resources availability**
- 2. Groundwater overdraft and control**
- 3. Water security ensurance**
- 4. Concluding remarks**

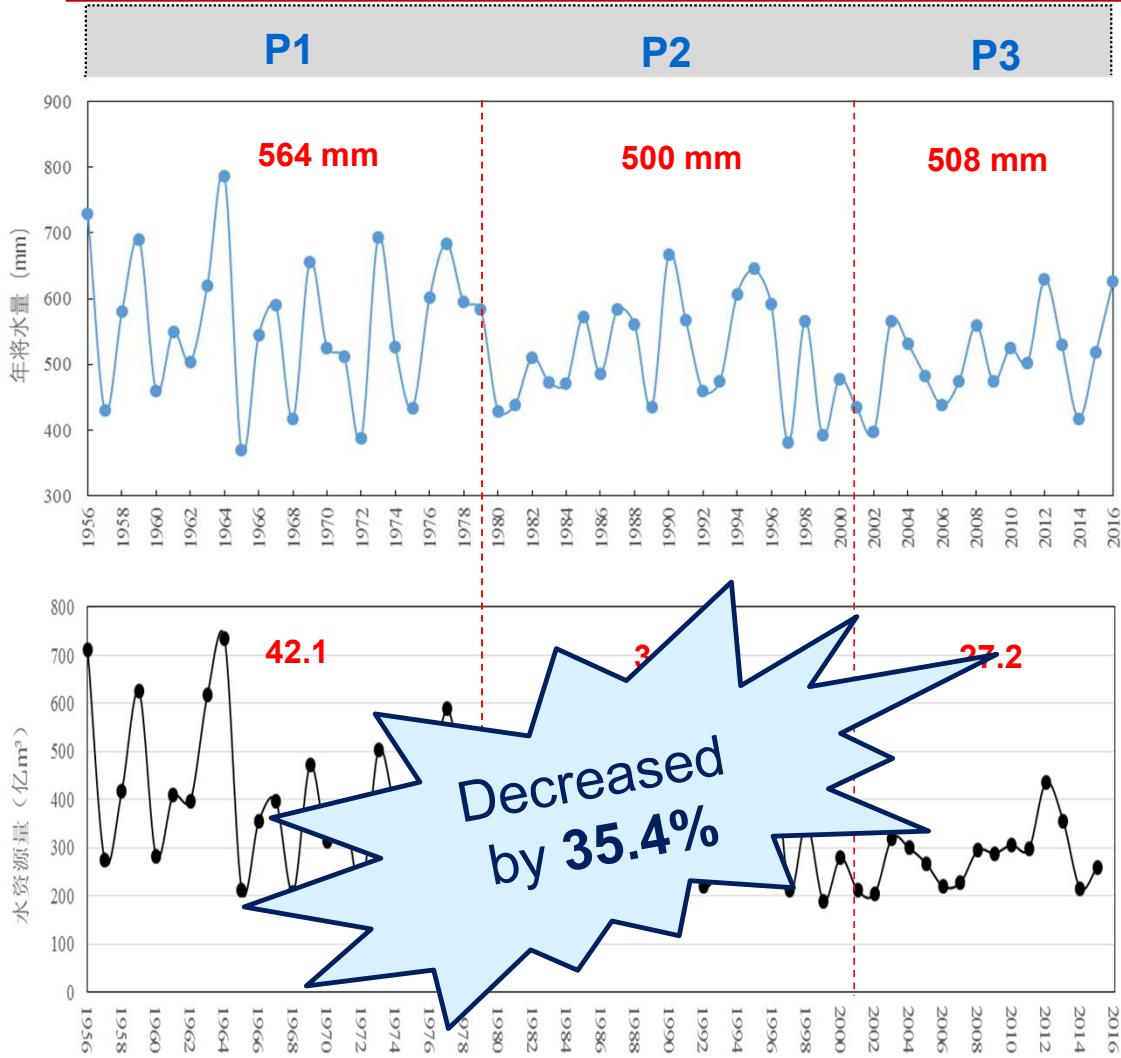
A large, stylized blue number '1' is positioned on the left side of the slide. It has a thick, solid blue base and a white outline. The number is oriented vertically, with its top edge aligned with the top edge of the slide area.

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Decrease of water resources availability



National water resources assessment programs



First period (P1) : 1956 - 1979

Second period (P2) : 1980 - 2000

Third period (P3) : 2001 - 2016

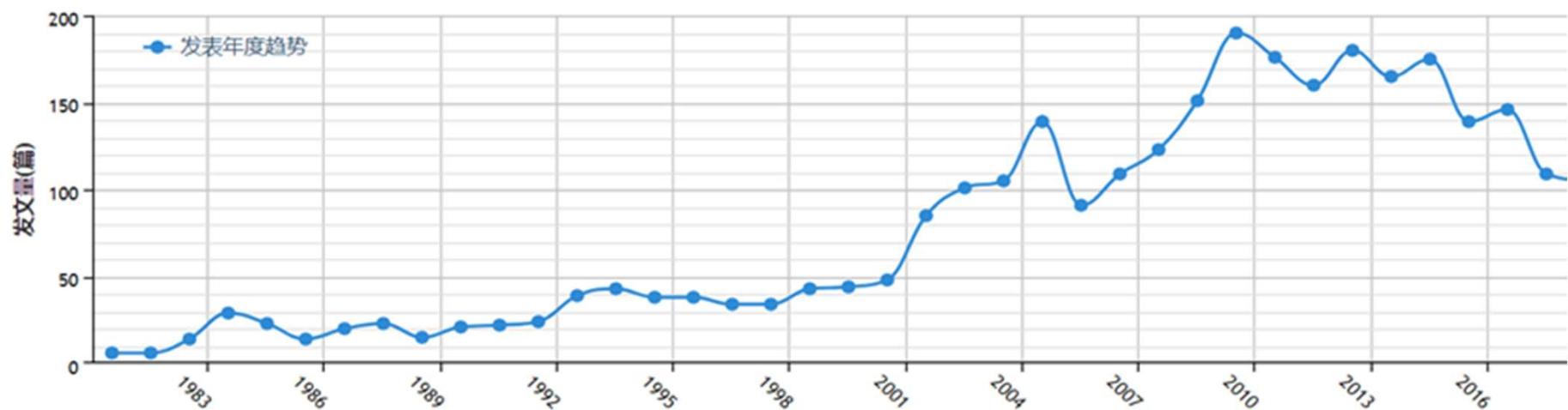
Time	Total	SW	GW
P1	42.1	28.8	26.5
P2	31.7	17.1	21.4
P3	27.2	12.1	22.4
P2 - P1	10.4	11.7	5.1
P3 - P1	14.9	16.7	4.1

Unit: bil. m³ per year



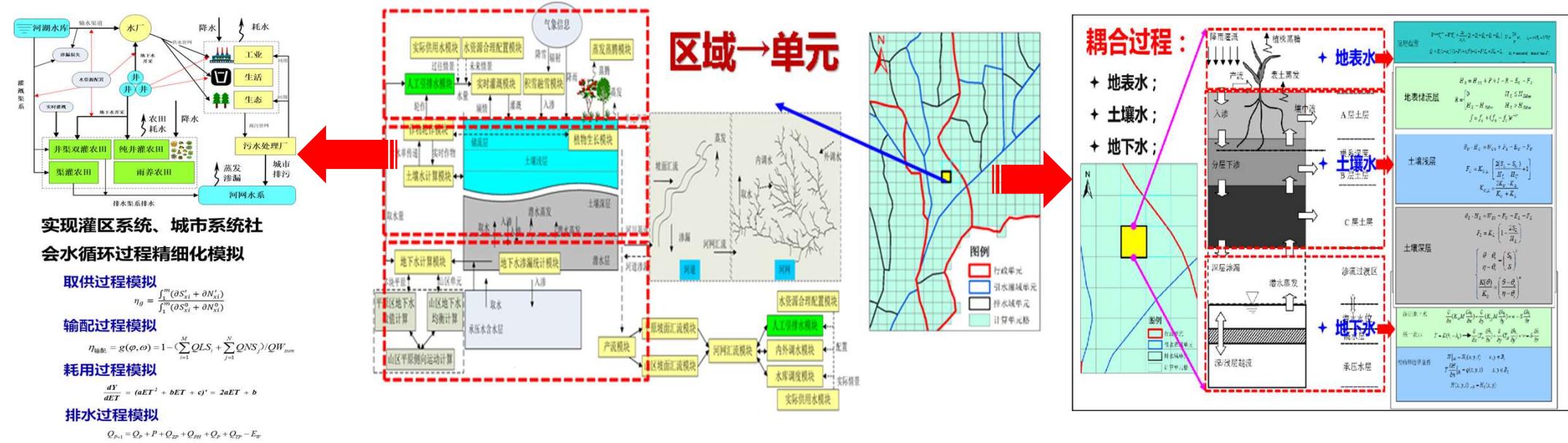
Key questions to answer

- Why this happened? Where did the water go?
- How is it going to change in the future?



WACM: Water Allocation and Circulation Model

- In-house developed program for coupled Societal – Natural water cycle simulation
- **Societal water cycle:** water supply, water diversion, water use, wastewater discharge
- **Natural water cycle:** surface water, soil water, groundwater



➤ 社会水: 引用耗排过程

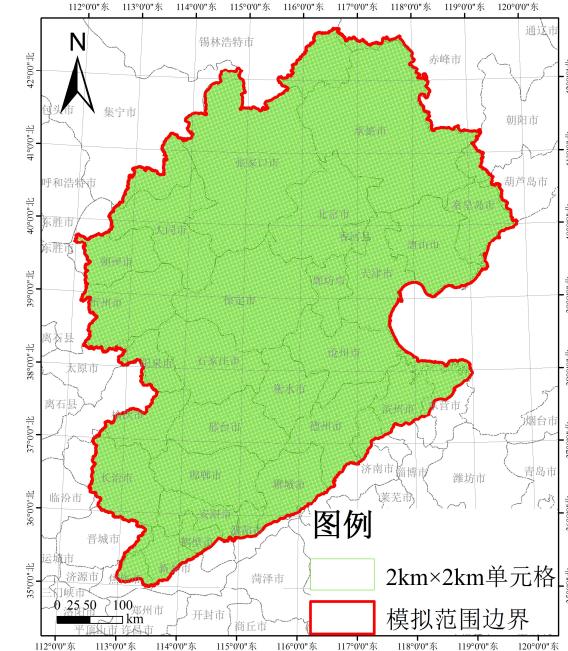
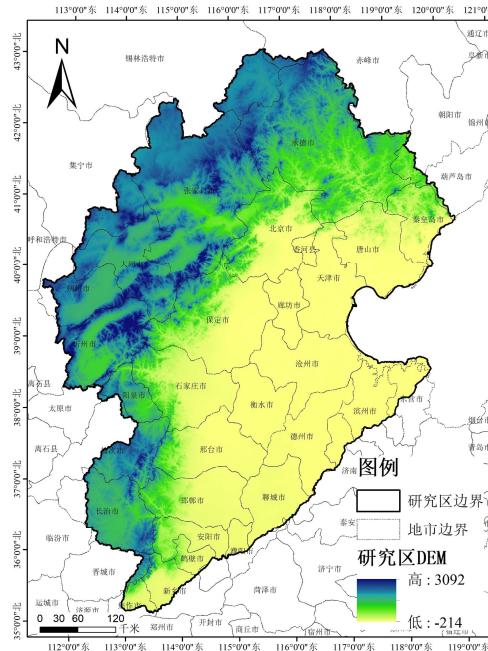
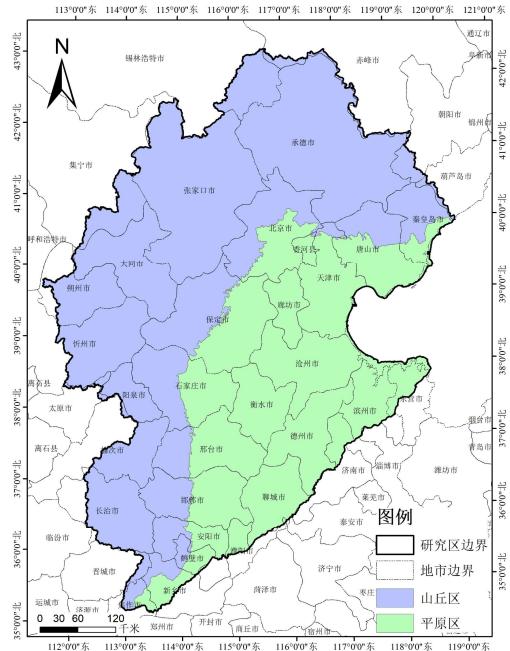
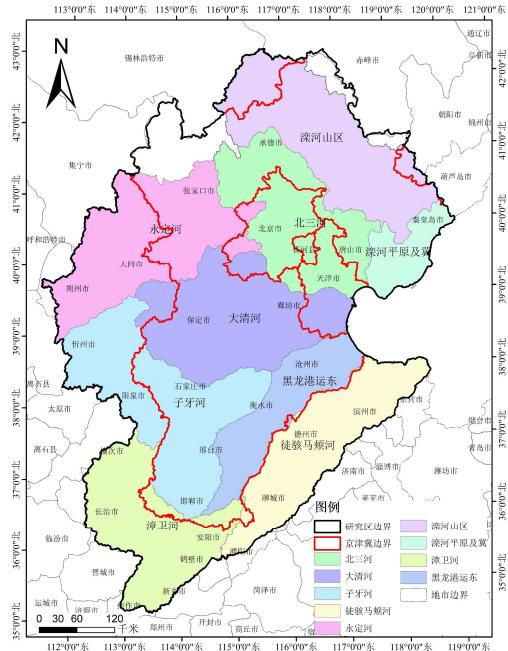
➤ 结构离散: 区域-单元、耗散-汇合结构

➤ 自然水: 地表-土壤-地下垂向一体耦合

Model development (I)

Basic setup

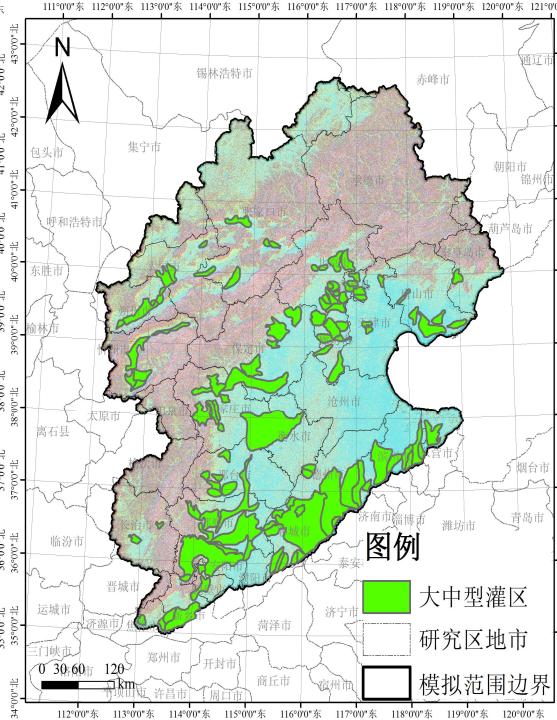
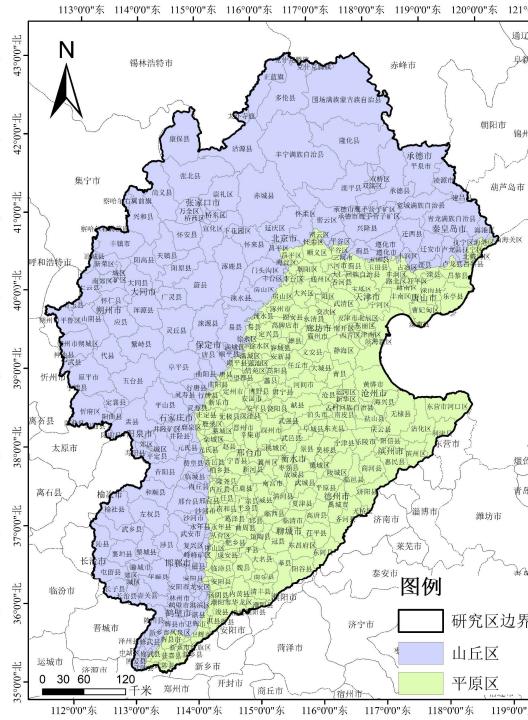
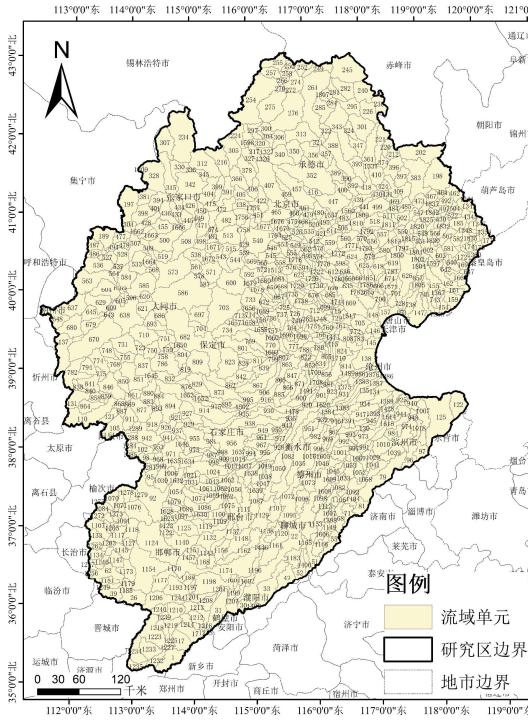
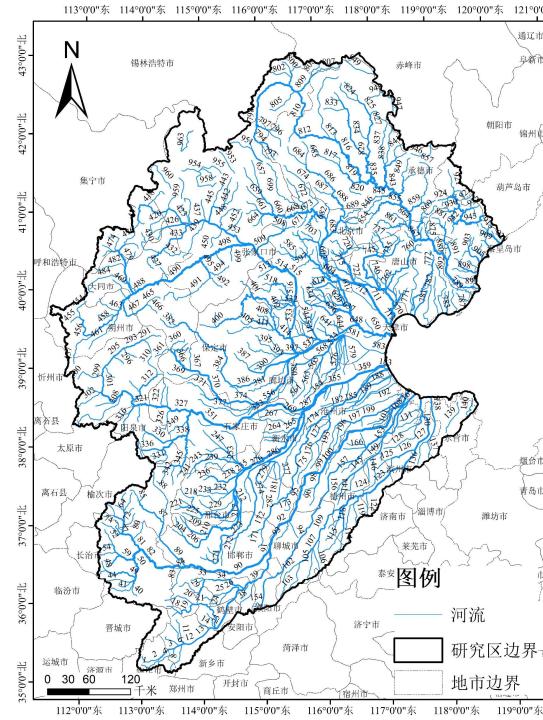
- ★ Model domain: Haihe river basin, including the JJJ region
- ★ Area: 335,600 km², mountain 204,700 km², Plain 130,900 km²
- ★ Resolution: 2 × 2 km, 83923 grids in total, daily time scale



Model development (II)

Basic setup

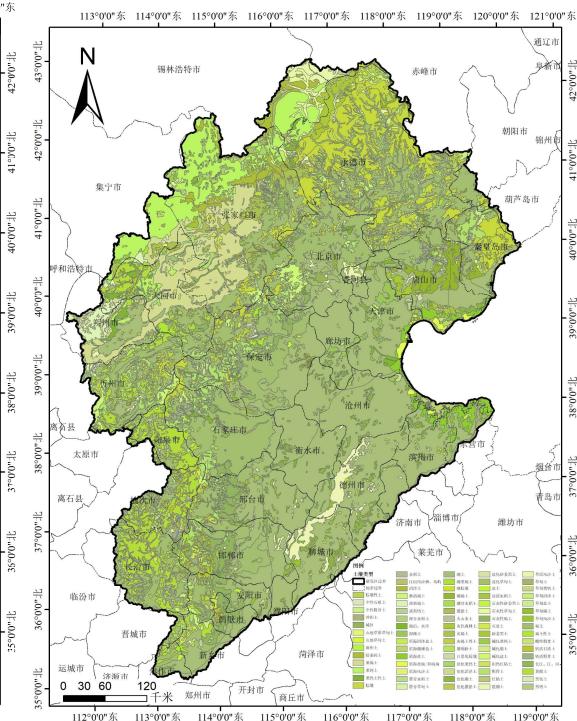
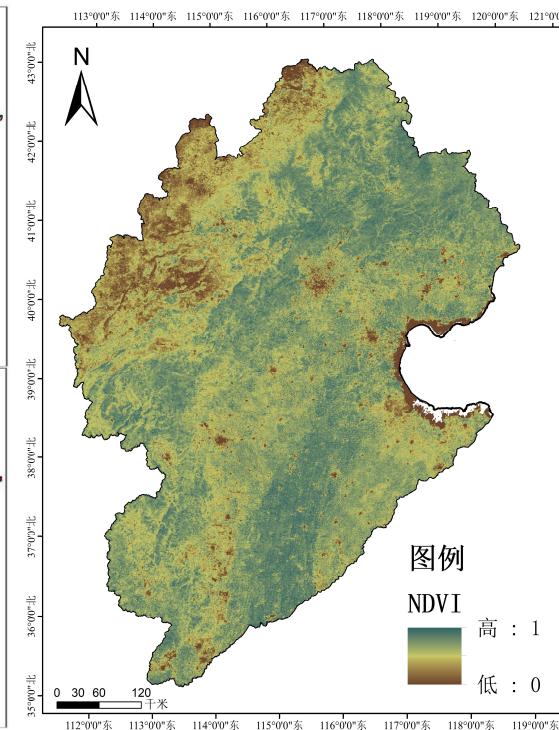
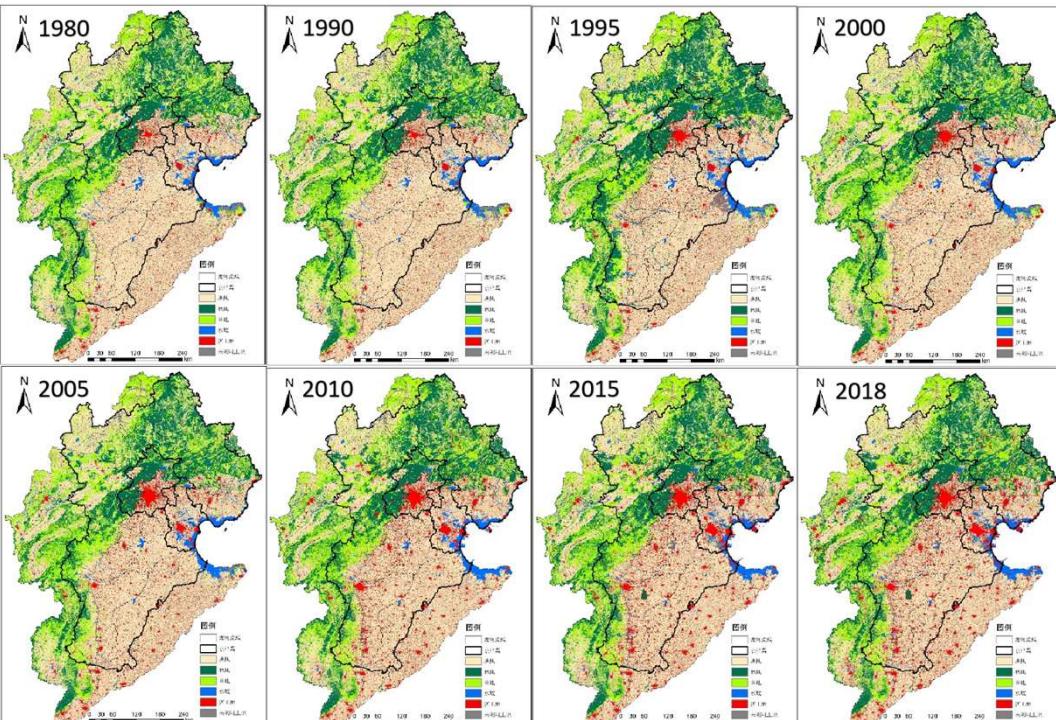
- ★ Rivers and subbasins: 963 rivers in 5 levels, 963 subbasins
- ★ Administrative divisions: 36 cities, 326 counties
- ★ Irrigation districts: 101 in total



Model development (III)

Land use and soil

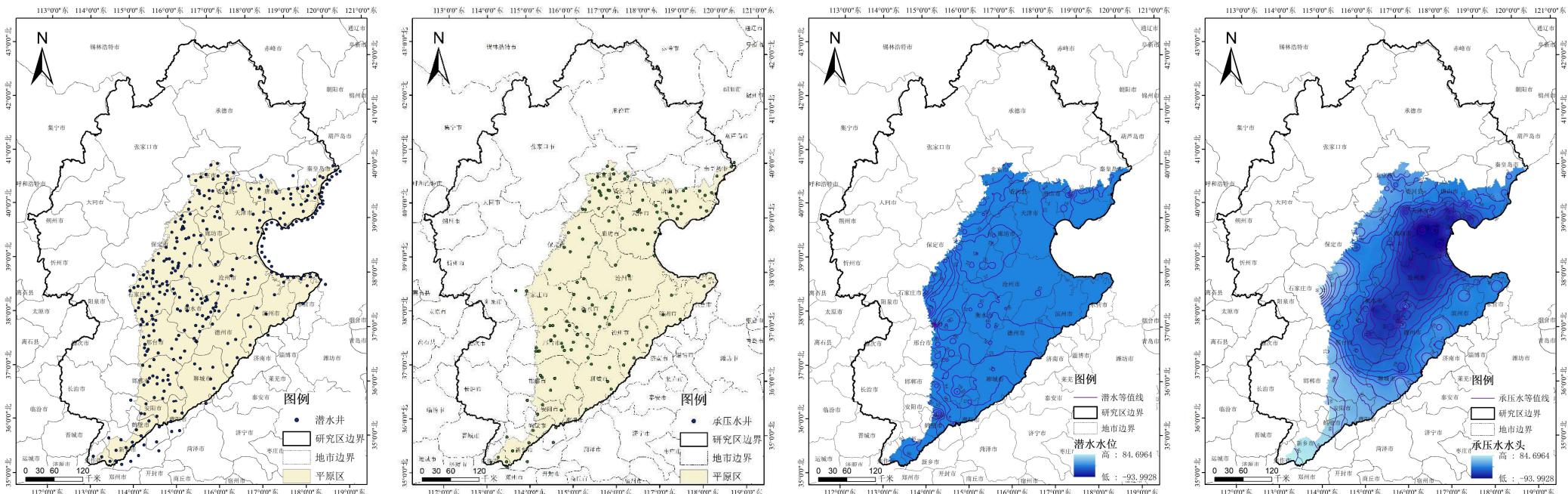
- ◆ Land use: 1980 – 2018 satellite derived, every 3-5 years
- ◆ Vegetation: NDVI
- ◆ Soil types: fluvo-aquic soil (28.1%) , brown clay (21.3%) , brown loam (6.9%)



Model development (IV)

Meteo and geo data

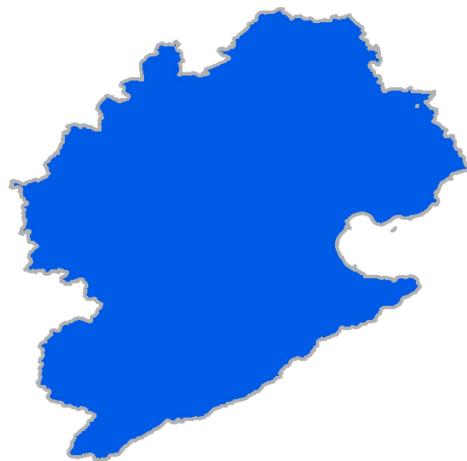
- ❖ Meteo. data: 289 stations, Thiessen polygon for spatial interpolation
- ❖ Groundwater obs. wells: 333 shallow wells, 149 deep wells
- ❖ Geological units: 29 in shallow aquifer, 6 in deep aquifer



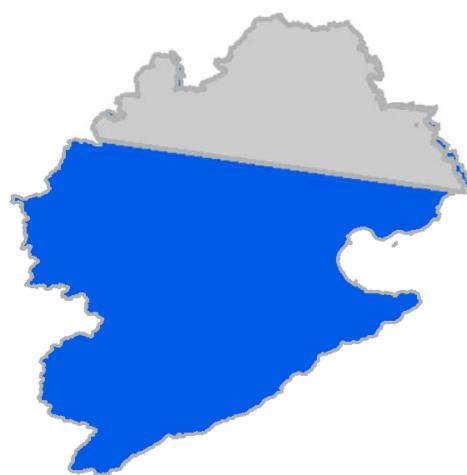


Attribution analysis

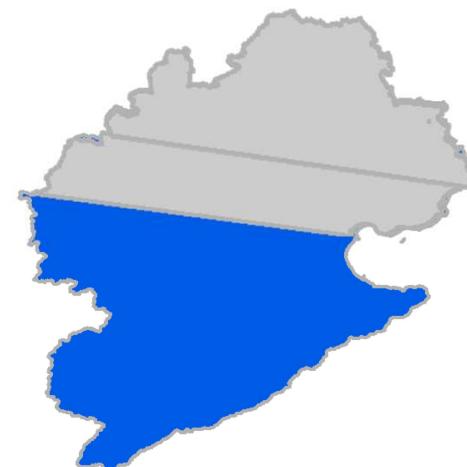
P1



P2



P3



P2 - P1

- Decrease of precip. 60%
- Mt. Vegetation 18%
- GW pumping 16%
- Change of crops 10%

P3 - P2

- Mt. vegetation 54%
- Decrease of precip. 25%
- GW pumping 12%
- Change of crops 10%



Future predictions (I)

Scenario analysis

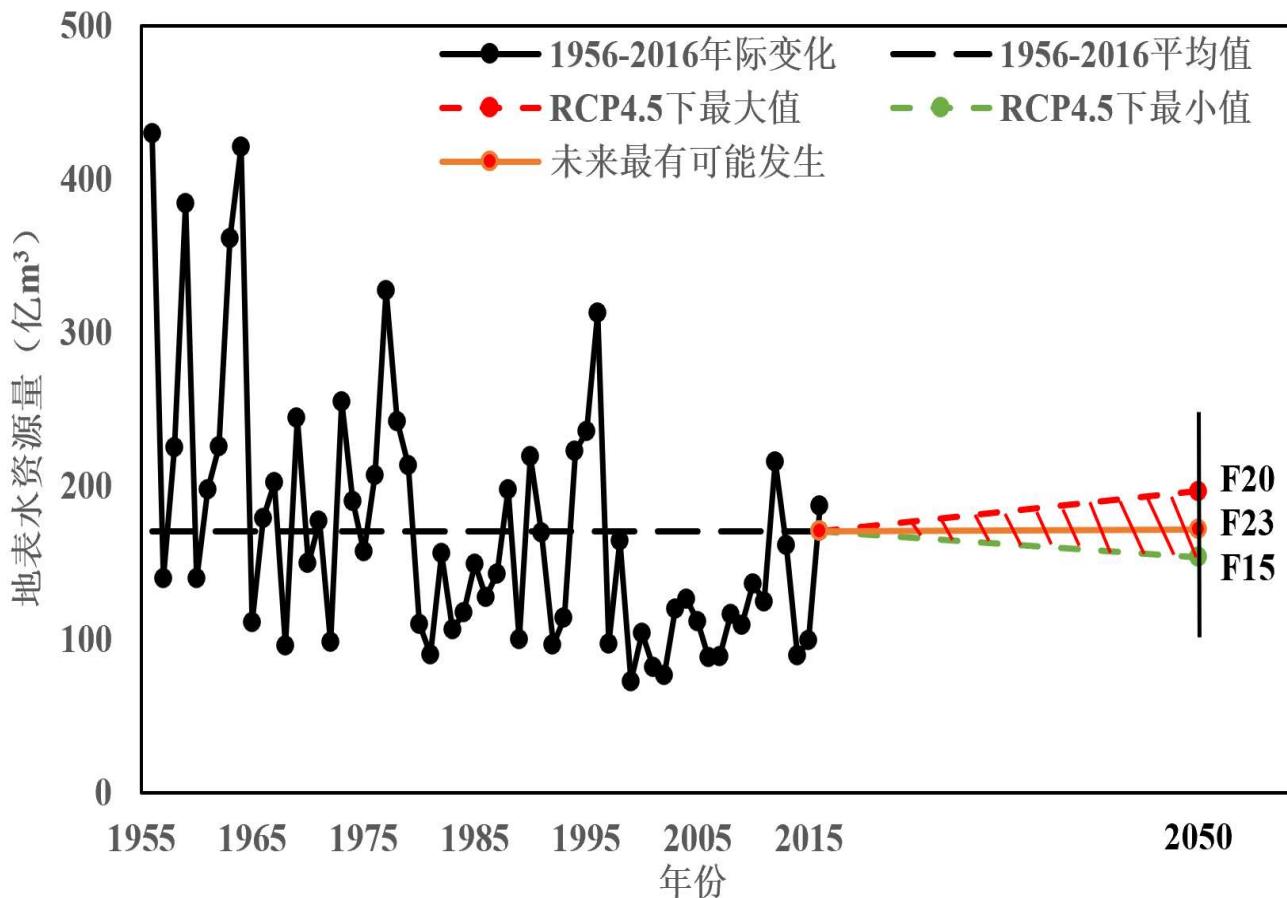
- Climate condition: present, RCP 4.5, RCP 8.5
- Land use: urbanization
- Vegetation: Present NDVI, NDVI increased by 10%

方案	气象			土地利用		植被质量		地下水埋深			方案	气象			土地利用		植被质量		地下水埋深			
	现状	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	现状	低城镇	高城镇	现状	高质量	现状	6.5m	3.6m	现状	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	现状	低城镇	高城镇	现状	高质量	现状	6.5m	3.6m
F0	√						√		√												√	
F1	√				√		√		√												√	
F2	√					√	√		√												√	
F3	√				√			√	√												√	
F4	√					√		√	√												√	
F5	√				√		√			√											√	
F6	√				√		√				√										√	
F7	√					√	√			√											√	
F8	√					√	√				√										√	
F9	√				√			√		√											√	
F10	√				√			√			√										√	
F11	√					√		√		√											√	
F12	√					√		√			√										√	
F13		√			√		√		√												√	
F14		√				√	√		√												√	
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F31												√		√		√		√			√	
F32												√		√		√		√			√	
F33												√		√		√		√			√	
F34												√		√		√		√			√	
F35												√				√		√			√	
F36												√				√		√			√	



Future predictions (II)

Climate under RCP 4.5



Drastic recovery: gw depth 3.6 m (1960)

Moderate recovery: gw depth 6.5 m (1984)

Business as usual: gw depth 14.8 m

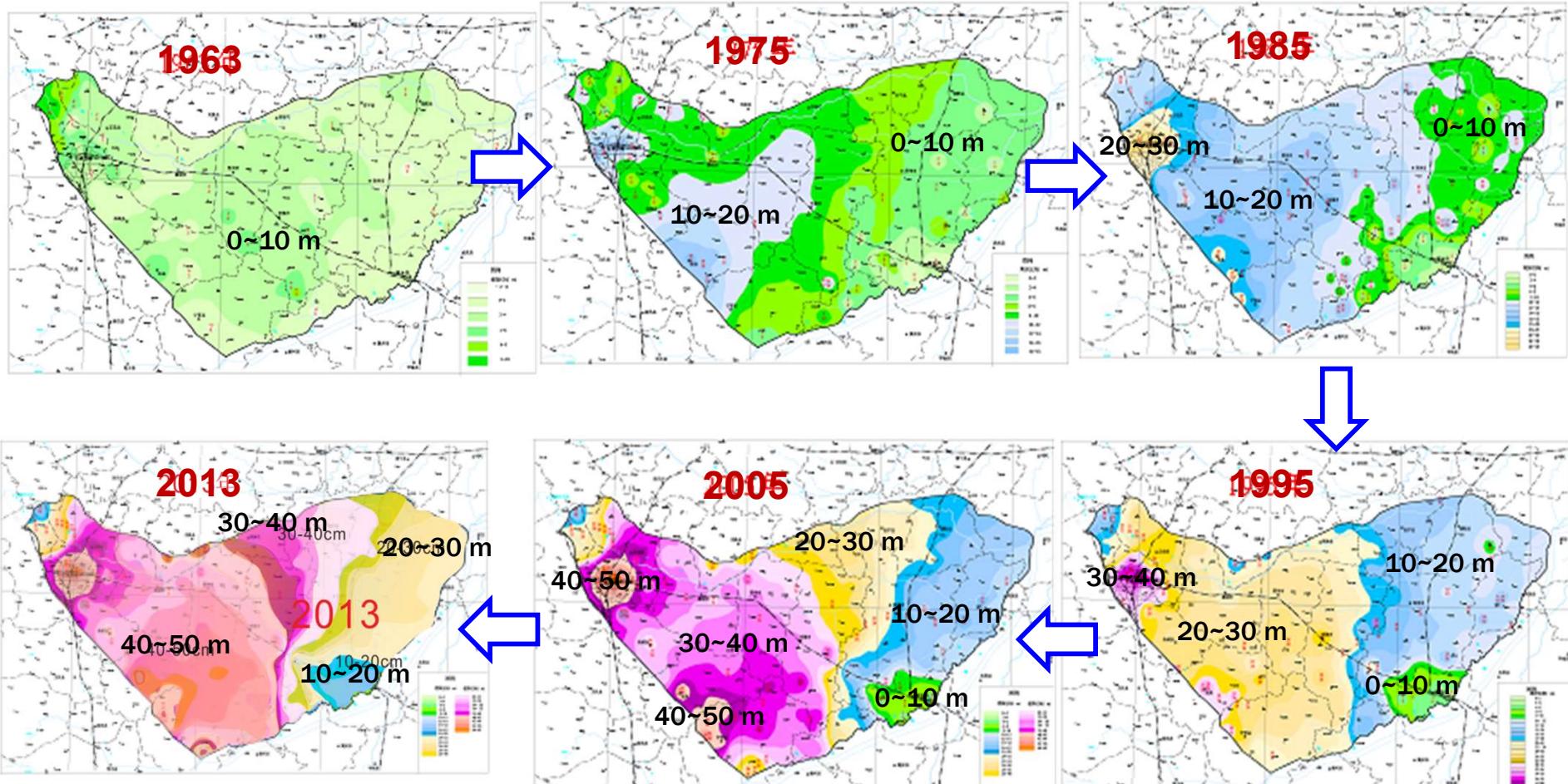
A large, stylized white number '2' is set against a solid blue background. The blue shape has a sharp diagonal edge on the left and a smaller triangular cutout at the top right corner.

Groundwater overdraft and control



Historical change of groundwater table (I)

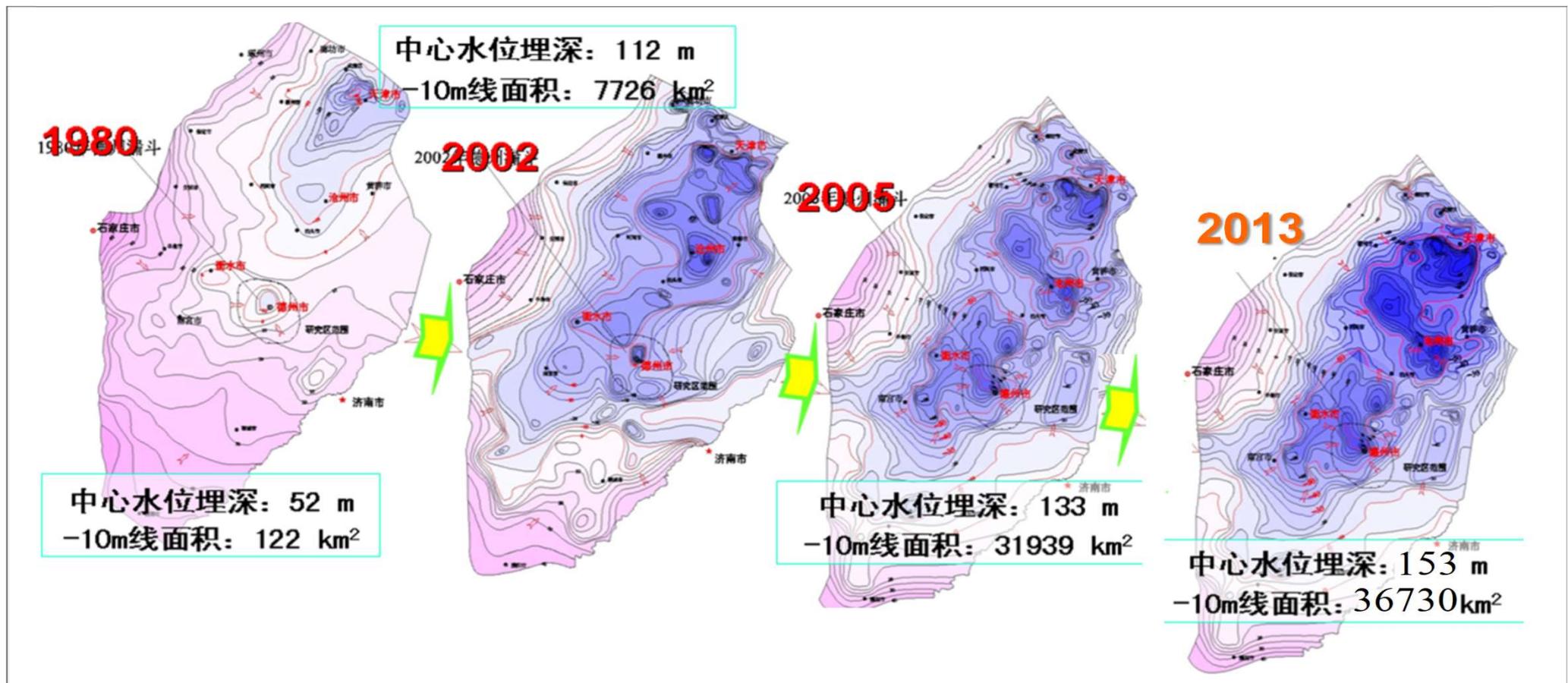
➤ Shallow aquifer in the piedmont area near Shijiazhuang





Historical change of groundwater table (II)

➤ Deep confined aquifer in the central to coastal area

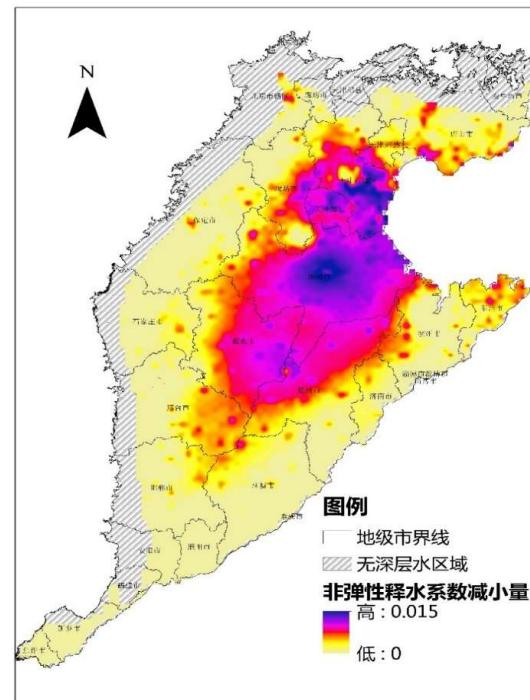
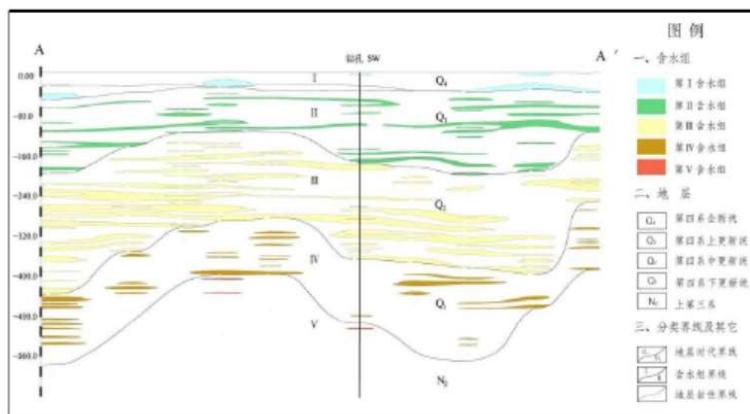




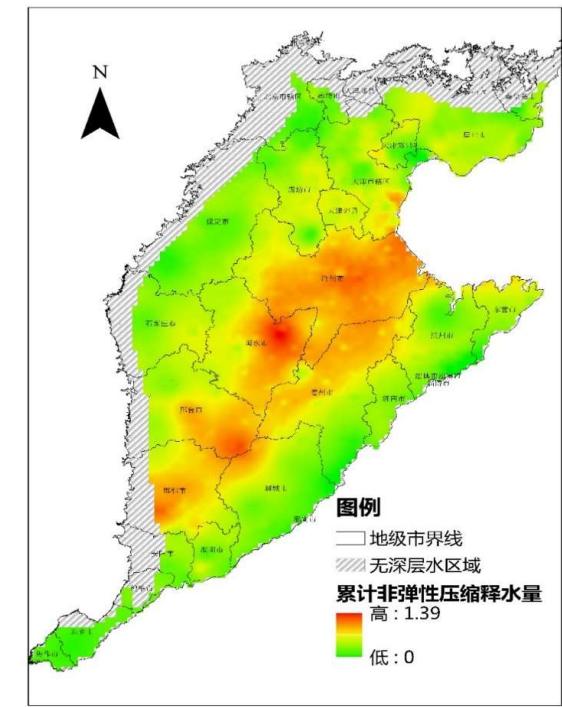
Overdraft and its impact (I)

- Significant **environmental** consequences: land subsidence, dried up rivers and lake
- From **water security's perspective**, we lost 45.8 bil. m³ storage space due to compression

Q_e	Q_v	Q_y
$\sigma' = \sigma - \mu$ $\Delta\sigma' = \gamma_w \Delta h$		
$Q_e = S_{ke} * \Delta h$	$Q_v = S_{kv} * \Delta h$	$Q_l = K \Delta t \frac{H_u - H_c}{m}$
$S_{ke} = S_{ske} * b$	$S_{kv} = S_{skv} * m$	
$S_{ske} = \frac{0.434 C_r r_w}{\sigma'(1+e_1)}$	$S_{skv} = \frac{0.434 C_c r_w}{\sigma'(1+e_2)}$	
$\Delta b = \frac{S_{ske} \times b_0}{r_w} \Delta \sigma'$	$\Delta m = \frac{S_{skv} \times m_0}{r_w} \Delta \sigma'$	
$\Delta e_1 = (1 + e_{10}) \times \frac{\Delta b}{b_0}$	$\Delta e_2 = (1 + e_{20}) \times \frac{\Delta m}{m_0}$	



1980-2016年海河平原非弹性
释水系数减小量分布



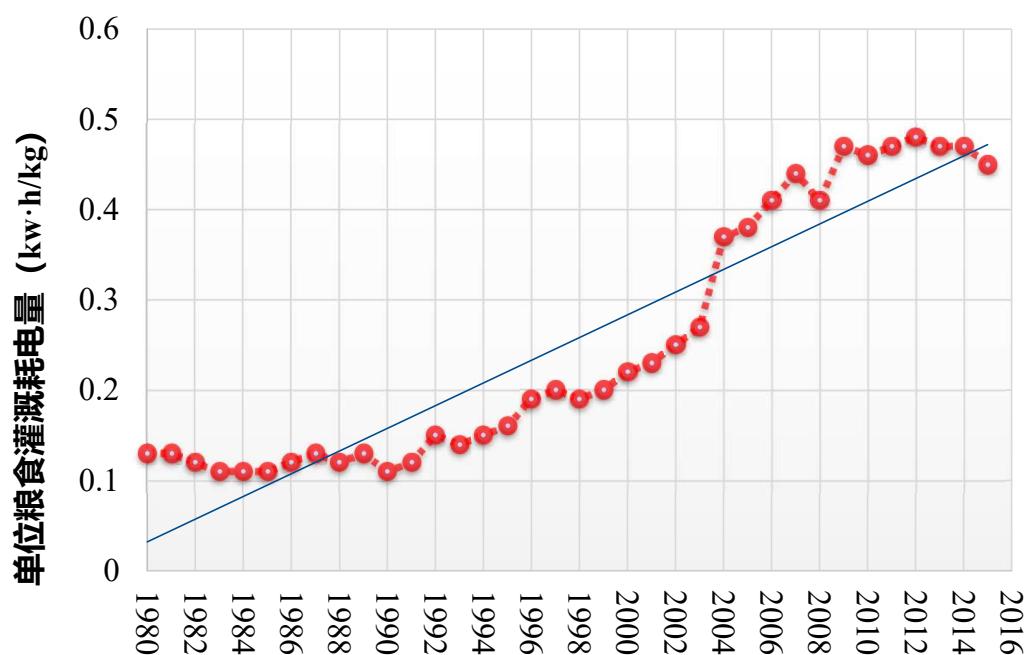
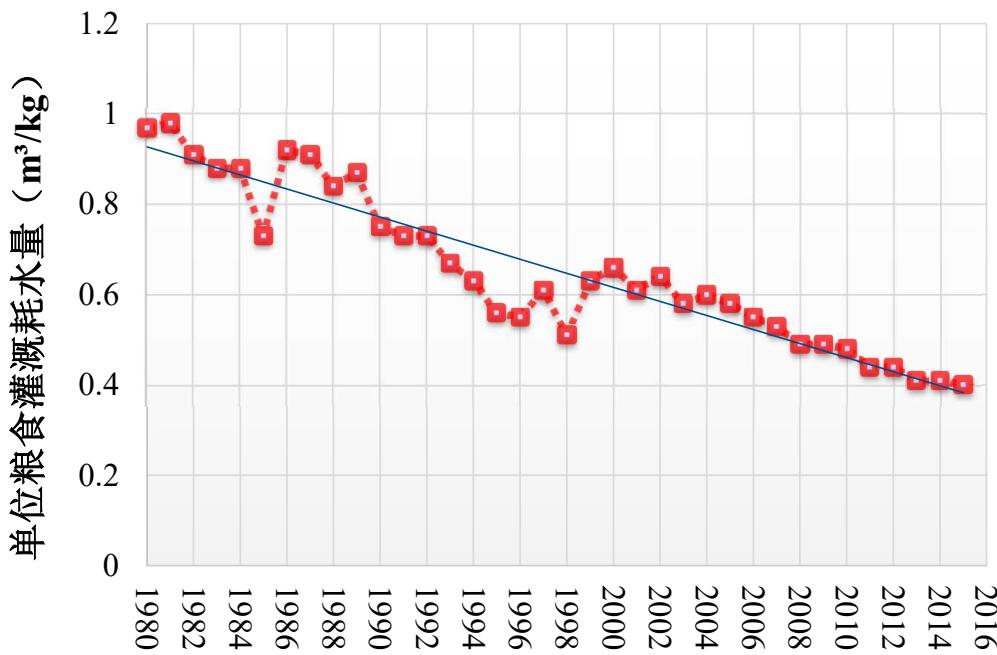
1980-2016年海河平原单位面
积上累计非弹性压缩释水量分布



Overdraft and its impact (II)

To produce 1 kg of grain crop:

- irrigation has reduced by 60% (from 1 m³ to 0.4 m³)
- energy consumption has increased over 3 times (0.12 kwh to 0.45 kwh)





Comprehensive groundwater management (I)

National survey baseline year: 2010

省级行政区	超采区面积 (万 km ²)	一般超采区 (万 km ²)	严重超采区 (万 km ²)
北京	0.65	0.31	0.34
天津	0.94	0.16	0.78
河北	7.07	4.20	3.78
山西	0.63	0.13	0.50
内蒙古	0.72	0.22	0.50
辽宁	0.89	0.84	0.07
吉林	0.08	0.03	0.05
黑龙江	0.04	0.04	0
山东	4.98	0.84	4.55
河南	3.82	3.70	0.12
陕西	0.14	0.13	0.02
甘肃	1.64	1.44	0.20
新疆	4.30	—	4.30

21 provinces with overdraft problem

◆ Whole country

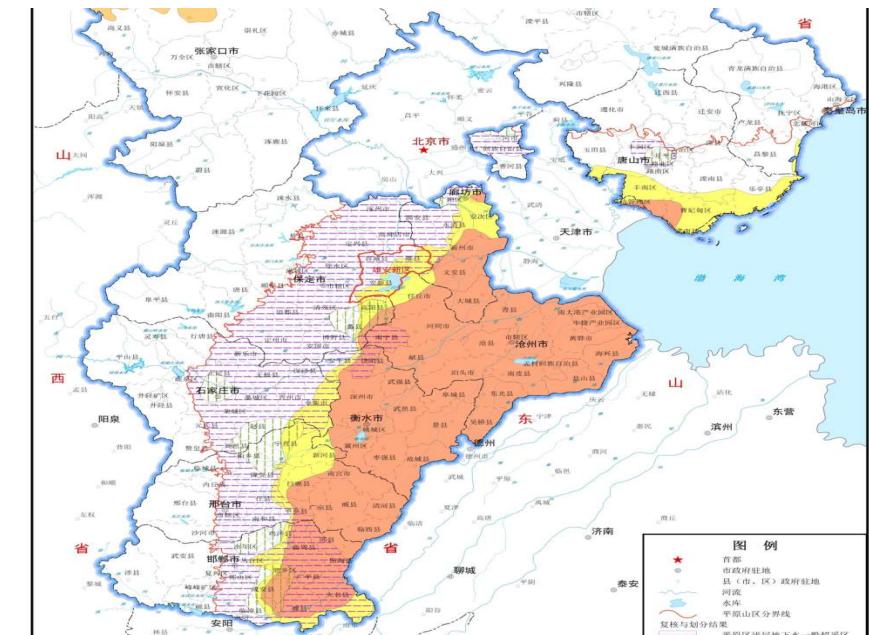
Overdraft area: 298,000 km²

Overdraft amount: 17 bil. m³

◆ Hebei province

Overdraft area: 70,000 km²

Overdraft amount: 6 bil. m³



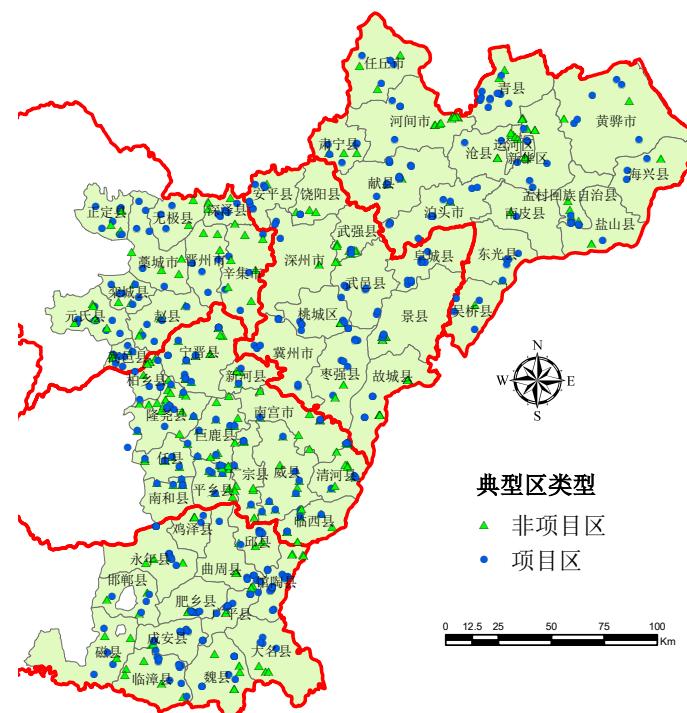


Comprehensive groundwater management (II)

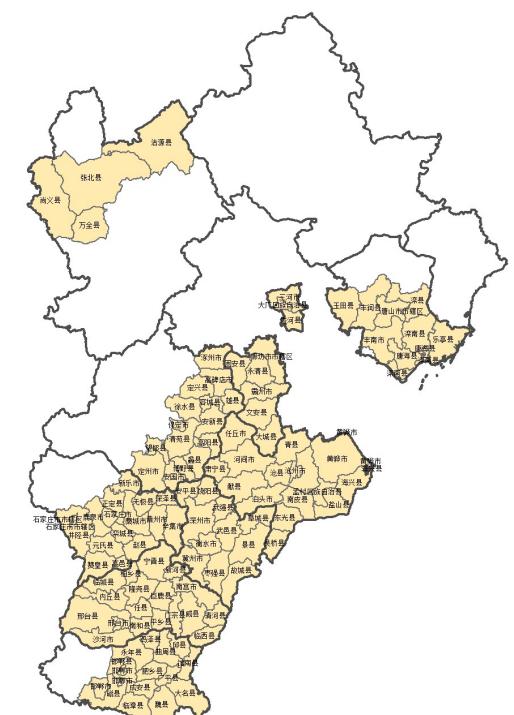
Starting from 2014, the Groundwater Overdraft Management and Control Program was launched first in Hebei Province.



2014: 49 counties



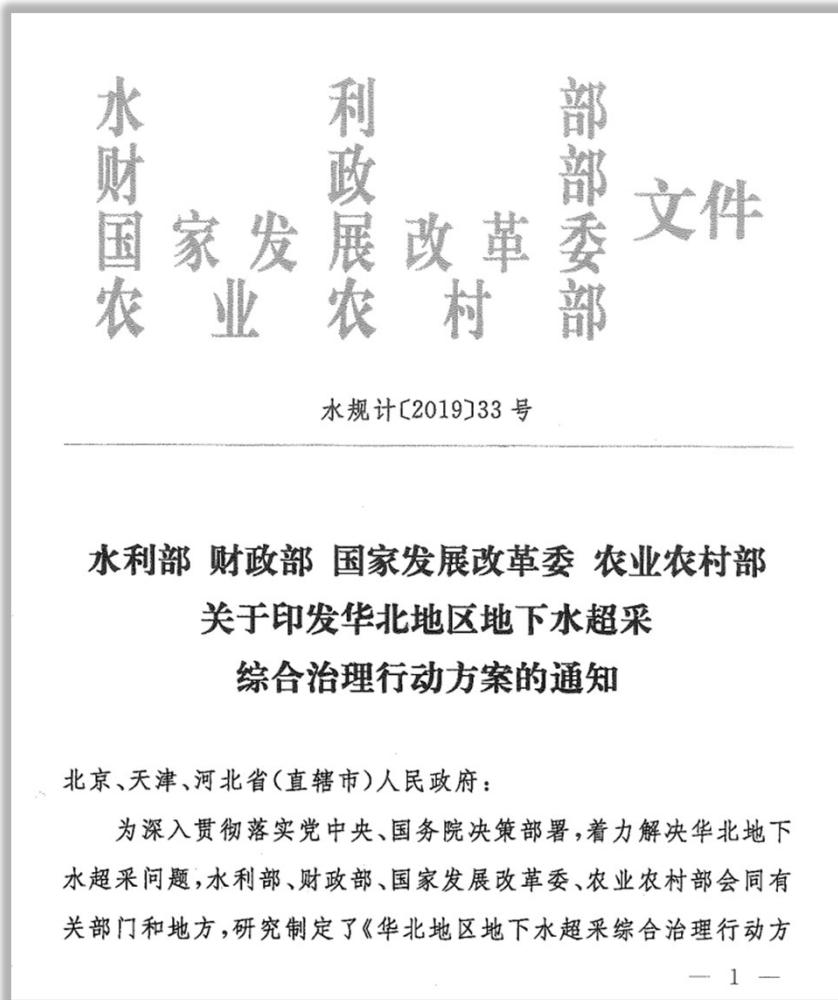
2015: 63 counties



2016: 115 counties



Comprehensive groundwater management (III)



- Action Plan for Comprehensive Control of Groundwater Overdraft in the North China Plain
 - Came into force **in 2019**, was by far the most powerful legislation regarding the NCP's regional groundwater crisis.
 - Initiated by the **Ministry of Water Resources** and brought together a joint force with Ministry of Finance, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.
 - The goal is to reduce the overdraft amount by **70%** in **2022** and achieve **zero groundwater deficit** by **2035**.



Comprehensive groundwater management (IV)

2014 to 2016, 24.4 bil. CNY was spent on dealing with overdraft problem in Hebei province

农业项目



Reduce areas
for growing
winter wheat



Subsidize
drought
resistant crops

林业项目



"Grain for Green" projects

水利项目



Use more
diverted water
from the south

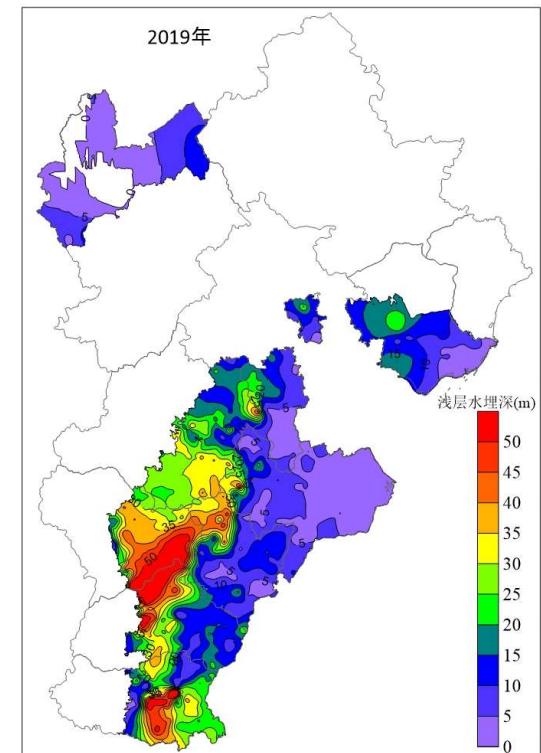
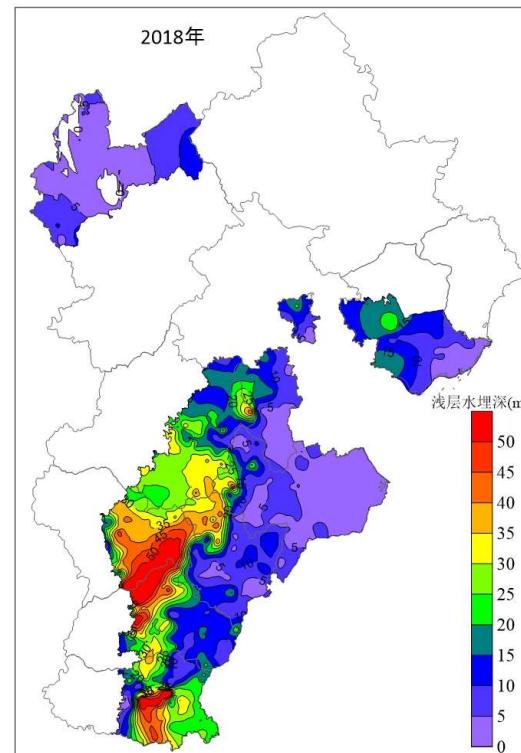
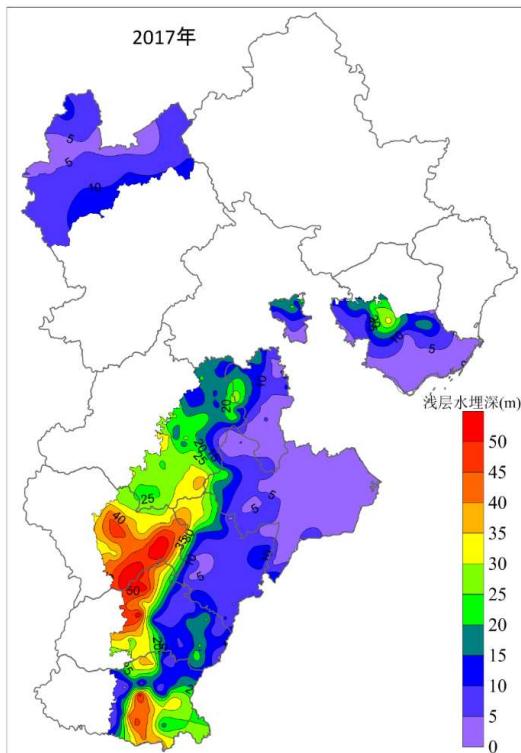


Promote water
saving irrigation
technologies



Results

From 2017 to 2019, there was still groundwater table decline in and around the largest depression cone, but the declining rate has notably slowed down compared to previous years.



3

Ensuring water security in the JJJ region



Goals for healthy water balance

- To ensure healthy balance in both the natural and societal water cycle:
 - natural hydrological flows need to be protected and
 - increasing water demand for economic growth has to be satisfied

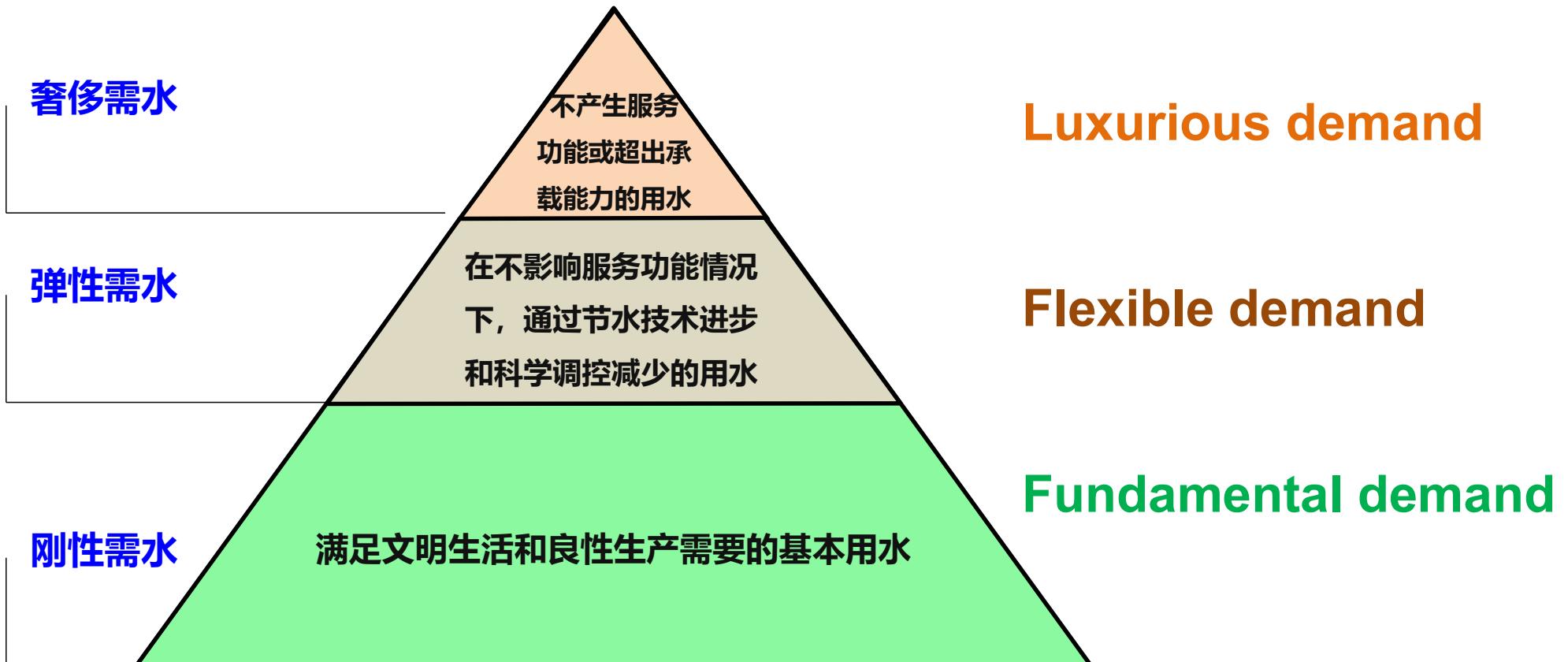
Criteria for evaluating healthy
water balance



1. Reasonable water demand
2. Sufficient ecological flow
3. Differentiated groundwater regulations



1. Reasonable water demand





2. Sufficient ecological flow



京津冀41条主要河道生态需水量



京津冀63块主要湿地生态需水量



京津冀11处入海口生态需水量



河道、湿地、入海水量交换关系

类别	水面面积 (km ²)	最小生态需水 (亿m ³)	适宜生态需水 (亿m ³)	理想生态需水 (亿m ³)
河道	599	35.8	68.8	87.4
湿地	1066	9.3	37.9	101.0
湿地重复	332	0.0	18.3	28.5
入海口	342	20.4	39.2	49.8
总计	1333	43.5	55.2	66.3

Minimal ecological flow



开发利用

利用率

60%

50%

40%

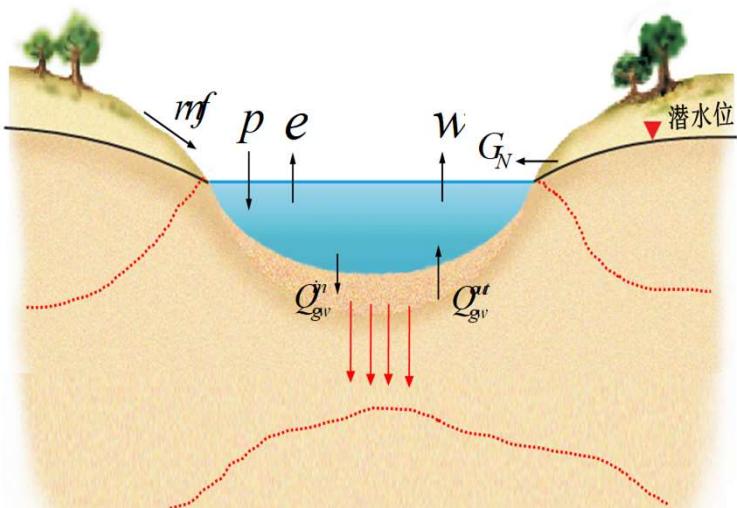
Suitable ecological flow

Optimal ecological flow



3. Differentiated groundwater management

Regulations have to be made based on the geological, hydrological and ecological conditions of the individual region.



Piedmont region: continuous baseflow

Central region: constant gw recharge

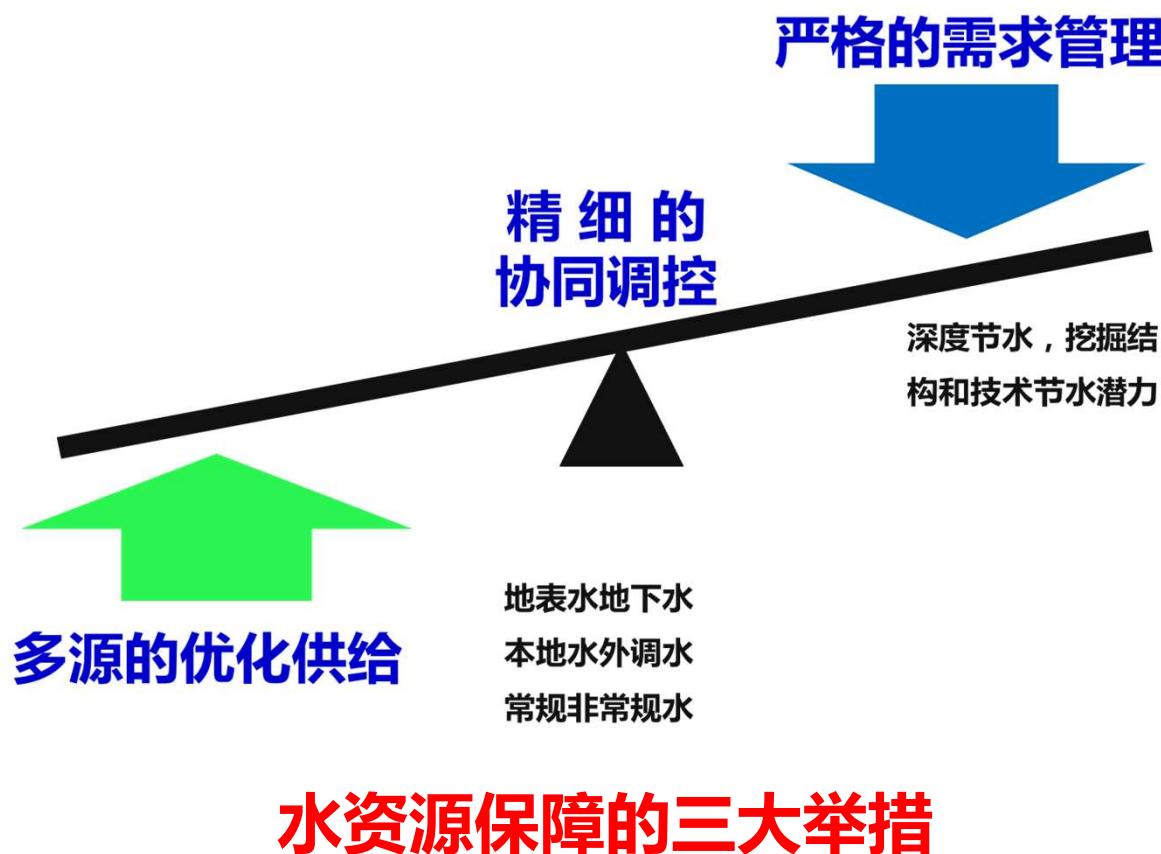
Coastal region: reducing land
subsidence and sea water intrusion

在山前平原，导致山区地下水难以出漏，河道基流萎缩甚至消失，河道渗漏严重
在中部平原，导致降水难以补给地下水，地表水地下水几乎割裂，河湖渗漏严重



What to do?

节水优先，空间均衡，系统治理，两手发力



- Control demand
(Water saving technologies)
- Balance supply
and demand
(Coordinated water allocation)
- Multi-source water
supply (diverted water
and reclaimed water)



Concluding remarks

- **JJJ region is facing severe water security problems.**
- **There has been significant decrease of water resources availability in the region, which was mainly caused by change in climate and vegetation (afforestation and farm crops).**
- **Groundwater abstraction in the past was unsustainable, which has resulted in various environmental consequences. New local and national regulations will help alleviate the problem.**
- **Goals and evaluation criteria for healthy water balance in the region has been setup. Road map for achieving such goals are clear. However, new technologies and social awareness are still needed.**



*Thank you for
your attention!*

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