

# Scientific Research in Water Sector: Future Perspectives



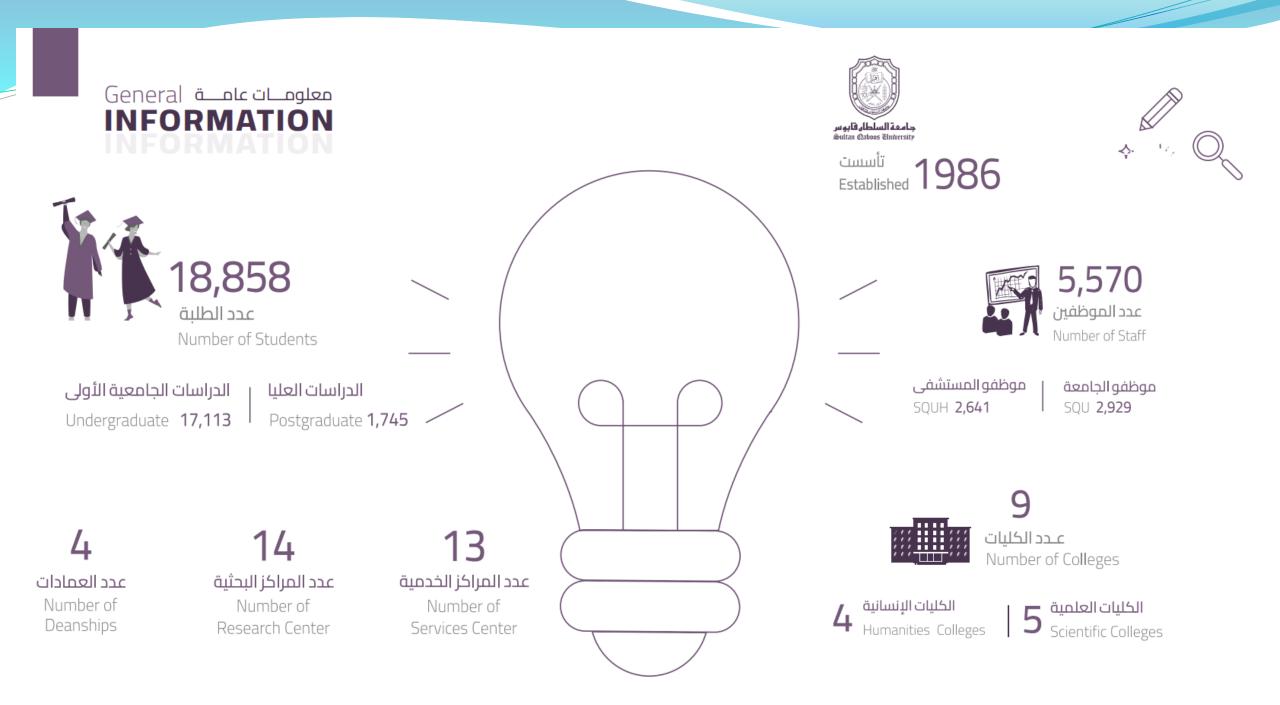
#### Water Research Center Sultan Qaboos University

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### **SQU Research & Innovation at a Glance**



Theoretical & applied research



Social & economic problems Preparing scholars, researchers, and experts



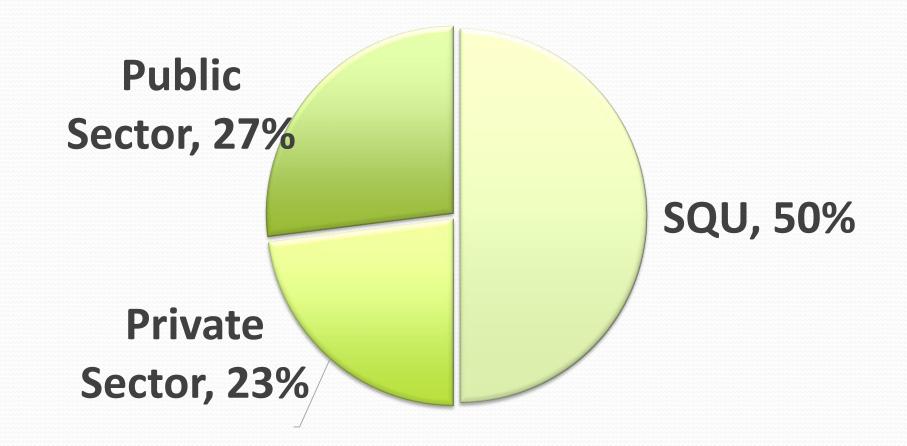
future skills in research & innovation & build local capacity



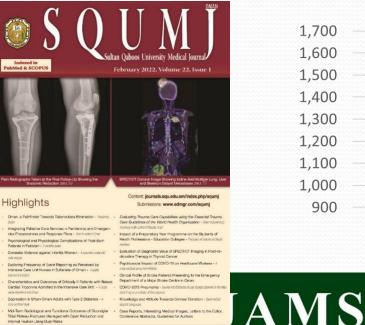


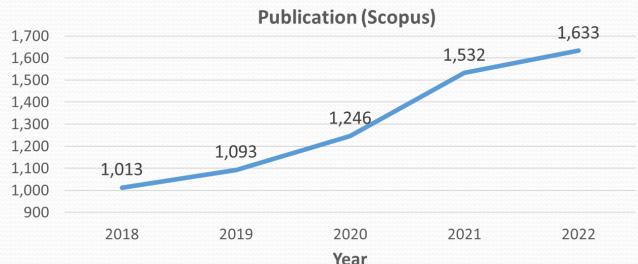
knowledge dissemination

#### **Sources of Research Fund**



#### **Research Outputs at SQU and Journals at SQU**

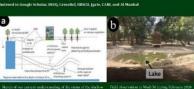






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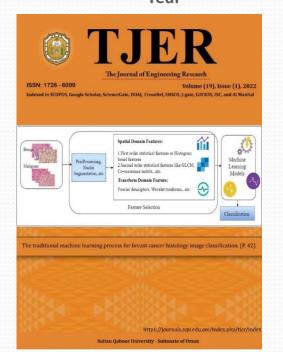






- Shallow Water Table in Arid Urban Zone: Preliminary Study at Sultan Qaboos University Campus, Oman
- Species in an Aquaponic System Relationship between induction of Novel Somaclonal Variants and Types of Organogenesis i
- Muskmelon (Cucumis melo I
- Risks in the Sri Lankan Banana Supply Chain: Analysis through an Interpretive Structural Modelin

Sultan Qaboos University - Sultanate of Oman





Al Ahmar in Bidhid, Northern Oman. - A compiled Synoptic Table of the Standard Microfiscies Zone System of Plagel (2010): A practical tool



- تطوير التعليم الإلكتروني في التعليم الدرسي بسلطنة عُمان في ضوء رؤية عُمان ٢٠٤٠ والتنمية. المستدامة من وجهة نظر مديري الدارس (دراسة حالة على محافظة مسقط).
- مستوى الوعي السياحي المستدام لدى طالبات الصف التاسع الأساسي بمدرسة الرميس للتعليم
- الوظائف والأبحاث والأدوار المتظرة للباحثين في مجالات العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية في خطط التنمية للستدامة: (دراسة وصفية تحليلية لرؤية مصر ٢٠٣٠م).
- التراتُ الثقاقُ العُمَانيَ والتنمية المُسْتَدَامَة: دورُ المؤسسات البحثية وجهود منظمات المجتمع الدَّنِيّ التُخَصُّصِيّة».
- دور تقنيات الثورة الصناعية الرابعة في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة في مؤسسات التعليم العالي يسلطنة عُمان.
  - دور إدارة المواهب في تحقيق الإبداع التنظيمي في الجامعات الحكومية بسلطنة عُمان

جامعة السلطان قابوس - سلطنة عمان

# Water Research needs and Achievements (past to present)

- SQU research outputs (Scopus and WoS) in the water sector and related topics:
  - 3586 articles
  - 217 review articles
  - 194 chapters
- International collaboration in water related research:



# Challenges and needs of water changes over year

Water Supply management Destination Nonrevenue water Legislation Wastewater treatment Water harvesting systems Basic groundwater and surface water hydrology Rainfall analysis

Past

Efficient use of water **Conservation of water Climate change** Modern irrigation water **Flood hazard Impact of climate change** Water governance Assessment of recharge dam efficiency **Desalination and treatment** technologies **Optimization of water use Finance of water** 

Use of emerging smart technologies AI, ML, IoT, etc in water management, predictions, and planning

Future

Mitigation and increase of resilience to the impact of climate change

## The Challenge is: Too Much Water and Too Little Water

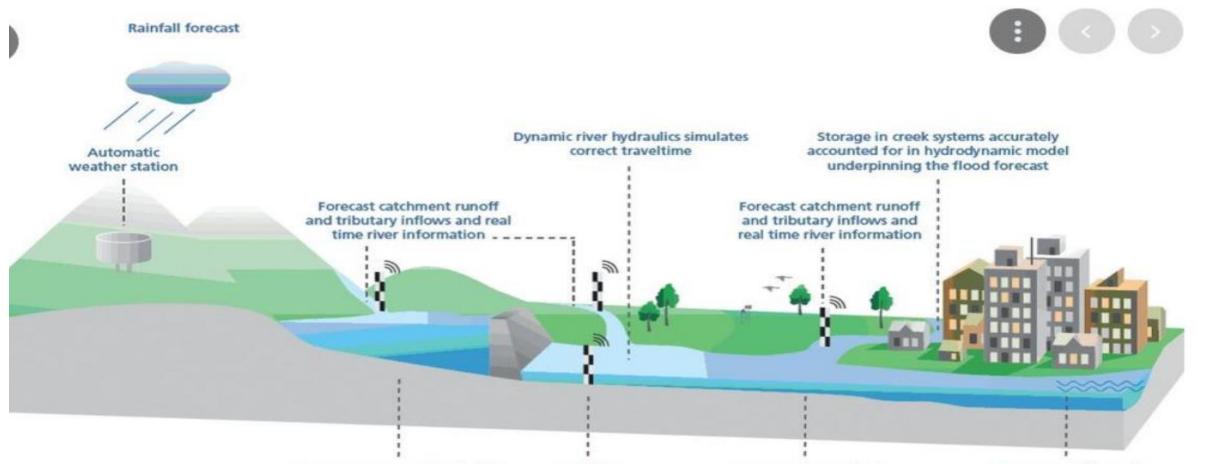
- Flash Flood Hazards, Extreme Events
- Destruction Of Cities And Infrastructure
- Casualties

- Water Scarcity
- Water Supply
- Water Demand
- Non Revenue Water
- Low Water Efficiency

There is no escape from the fact that the need and demand for finite and vulnerable water will continue to expand and so will competition for it. More uncertainty in water availability, higher frequency of extreme weather events, and more rapid return flows of water to the atmosphere are expected in the future. Given the changes in the hydrologic cycle as a result of land use and climate changes and the closed character of many basins, allocations to, and patterns of future water use, will deviate from past trends

Agriculture and irrigation consumes 70-80% of water resources, in the same time we push for green initiatives, that will definitely requires water which is already scarce!!!! (proper analysis of short and long term impact on sustainability of resources is needed)

#### AI, ML, Technology Guided Water Resources Management



Dam operator presented with recommended optimised dam release scenarios Real time river information

Hydrodynamic model recalibrates to real Forecasted water level and discharge information available at any point along the river Forecasted tide and storm surge incorporated into the hydrodynamic model underpinning the flood forecast

## Areas of Water Research: identified by Various Water Entities and experts in Oman

- Dams safety evaluation in Oman and GCC region considering climate change and recent dam failure events (physical and numerical models). Geotechnical engineering of local dams.
- Addressing the water quality delivered to homes to curb down the use of bottled water: Micro-pollutants, and PFAS
- Integrated management of desalinated water-treated wastewater and aquifers
- Adaptation and mitigation of climate change with scarce water resources: Impact of overtree plantation on water resources sustainability
- What are the actual crop water needs that meet food security while ensuring water security?
- How can sensors, IoT, AI, and ML be utilized to achieve sustainable water management in GCC agro-ecoregions? Capacity buildings is a must!
- Maximizing the utilization of alternative water sources (i.e. rain harvesting, saline water, grey & black waters, etc.) for agriculture

## Areas of Water Research: identified by Various Water Entities and experts in Oman

- How we can integrate AI with data management to predict future water demands. This will support the planning of the water utility and reduce capital investment in water supply networks (OWWSC).
- Develop/innovate technology that will help to predict the (Harmful Algal Blooms)HABs before affecting the desalination plants. In addition, developing and integrating treatment technologies that can filtrate and treat HABs before RO Stages.
- More ASR/MAR studies.
- Surface water hydrology and flashflood hazards:
  - [insufficient research], mitigation solutions to increasing the resilience of the urban and rural areas to flashflood hazards to be given a priority.
  - [UAE] announced the first correct step restoration of original Wadi pathways
  - Urban planning must be based on drainage patterns and density within each catchment

# **Great Thanks**

Water is the driving force of all nature