# Water

Our businesses work to reduce water consumption, maximise reuse, and return treated water safely to the environment.



Our businesses aim to reduce the amount of water they abstract for their operations, reuse water as much as possible, and return treated waste water to nature after ensuring it meets or exceeds local and national water regulations and standards. In line with our devolved business model, our businesses set and manage appropriate plans and commitments to achieve these aims.

In 2025, businesses across the Group collectively abstracted 808 million $m^3$ of water for use in their own operations, an 8% decrease compared with last year, due to lower production volumes in Sugar as well as water efficiency efforts across several businesses. Our African sugar businesses accounted for 97% of this total, with the majority of the water used for sugar cane irrigation. Those businesses are actively working to reduce their water footprint, with innovative irrigation pilot projects underway.

Water is used carefully and extensively throughout the sugar manufacturing operation, from the processing stage where the sugar is extracted and refined, to generating steam in the boilers, through to cleaning of equipment. A significant portion of the water abstracted across our businesses is used for crop irrigation by the sugar cane sites in our African operations. Those businesses are working to reduce their water footprint, with innovative irrigation pilot projects underway.

Of the water used by our businesses, 97% comes from surface water, such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. The remaining water comes from ground water and third party sources.

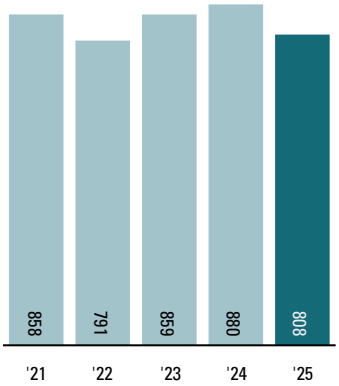
In 2025, across the Group, 25% of the water abstracted was reused before being returned to the environment, up from 24% in the previous year. This is both a more cost and resource efficient way of managing water. Our sites reuse the water for irrigation, land spreading, cleaning vehicles and machinery, and horticultural purposes. The businesses, in particular AB Mauri and ABF Sugar, are assessing new ways of reusing water within their manufacturing sites, aiming to reduce the amount of water abstracted and enhance operational efficiency.

To identify and manage potential risks to our operations in areas facing water scarcity, we carried out a high-level water risk assessment in 2024 for our Group operations using internationally recognised methodologies to identify sites operating in water-stressed areas. We provide a more detailed picture of water-stress risk in our CDP submission.

Solar irrigation project, Azucarera, Spain

**Total water abstracted in own operations***

(million $m^3$)




* Numbers prior to 2025 have been restated to reflect the disposal of AB Sugar China, disposed of in 2024. The adjustment ensures comparability and accuracy in reporting the Group's continuing operations.

# Water treatment

Our businesses' sites return as much water as possible to the environment by treating the waste water on-site or by using external treatment plants.

Water treatment is a key topic for AB Mauri. Since 2010, the business has invested $150m in wastewater treatment. Many of its production facilities have complex on-site effluent treatment plants that include biological processes, evaporators and reverse osmosis membrane systems that can produce reusable water and useful co-products. The selection of technologies addresses the local aquatic sensitivities and water quality objectives. At a minimum, sites design their treatment systems to comply with any applicable permits and to not disrupt any downstream municipal processes.

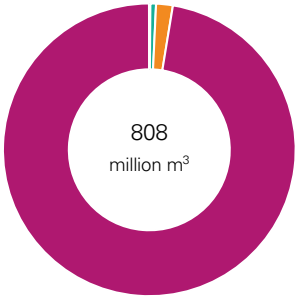
# Water in our businesses' supply chains

Water is an essential input for clothing and food production. It is used throughout the value chains across our businesses, in our operations, by independent farmers and in suppliers' facilities. Ensuring efficient water use in agriculture has become increasingly crucial, especially under changing climate conditions.

Some of the farm management standards supported by our businesses incorporate water management strategies which aim to address this challenge. For instance, Westmill aims to promote the standards of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) Standard, the Primark Cotton Project trains farmers to reduce water use, and ABF Sugar, through the use of the SAI Platform FSA 3.0 tool, works closely with its growers to enhance water efficiency.

Primark's approach to water stewardship aims to enhance water management practices, reduce product water footprints, and mitigate adverse effects on hydrological systems, ecosystems and human health. The approach includes mapping basin-level risks and evaluating operational water dependencies to identify suppliers and basins most vulnerable to water-related challenges.

**Total water abstracted in own operations by segment – 2025**
(million $m^3$, % of Group total)




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Retail | 1 | 0.1 % |
| Grocery | 5 | 0.6 % |
| Ingredients | 15 | 1.9 % |
| Sugar | 787 | 97.4 % |
| Agriculture | 0.2 | 0.0 % |



Wastewater treatment at AB Mauri Maya's yeast plant in Bandrima, Türkiye

# Water – Retail

Water is a critical natural resource within the fashion industry, from the irrigation of cotton fields to the dyeing and finishing of fabrics and materials.



A water efficiency project at a supplier factory in Bangladesh, supported by Primark

Primark joined the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) as a funding member in 2021, supporting its approach to improve the use of water resources and its commitment to adopt and promote a universal water stewardship framework: the AWS Standard. The AWS sets out five key outcomes associated with good water stewardship: sustainable water balance, good water quality status, healthy status of freshwater ecosystems, improved water governance, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all.

Primark's approach to water stewardship aims to enhance water management practices, reduce product water footprints, and mitigate adverse effects on hydrological systems, ecosystems and human health. The approach includes mapping basin-level risks and evaluating operational water dependencies to identify suppliers and basins most vulnerable to water-related challenges. Primark recognises that climate change, increasing global demand for freshwater, and the rising levels of global pollution are putting additional pressure on already scarce water resources. Water quality and quantity risks are a key focus, and Primark aims to minimise these risks by prioritising basins with the greatest opportunities for impact.

The approach includes three focus areas for water management: product-based, site-based and basin level.

## Product-based

For its product-based approach, Primark aims to reduce the water footprint of products sold in the UK by 30% by 2030, in line with its commitment to WRAP's (Waste and Resources Action Programme) UK Textiles Pact. Primark takes into account its entire value chain from cotton cultivation to consumer use.

In the calendar year 2024, Primark's water footprint per tonne of products sold in the UK[1] decreased by 22% against its 2019 baseline. This intensity reduction is driven by a combination of more sustainable materials use and supplier engagement on production practices.

## Site-based

For its site-based approach, Primark works with suppliers to reduce their water footprint, improve water quality and reuse wastewater.

Primark conducts an annual water footprint assessment of its value chain. The assessment has identified wet processing factories and cotton cultivation stages as the most dependent on freshwater. It also provides insights into the water footprint of the materials used in its products.This information is being used to develop internal measures aimed at increasing the adoption of more sustainable materials.

By 2025, Primark had over 100 factories engaged in resource efficiency programmes across key sourcing regions including Bangladesh, India and China. Some of these programmes focus specifically on water while others take a holistic approach to energy, water and chemicals management as a part of the Primark Resource Efficiency Programme. Through these programmes, Primark has identified a total of approximately 880,000$m^3$ of water savings through improvement actions which are being implemented by the supported factories.

In 2025, Primark also began to incorporate supply chain water management practices into its supplier evaluation scorecard using the three criteria below to assess efforts to reduce water footprint. As of July 2025, of the wet processing factories engaged in resource efficiency programmes:

- 66% of factories had set a baseline;
- 55% of factories had set a 2030 target; and
- 65% of factories had developed and formally signed off an improvement plan to meet the set targets.

Primark is also piloting collaborative projects that apply innovative water management practices in key sourcing regions. One such initiative focuses on Bangladesh's textile industry, where the business has trialled advanced wastewater recycling and pollution control measures. Please read more in the case study below.

## Basin level

Primark identifies water-stressed basins using tools such as WWF's Water Risk Filter and WRI Aqueduct's screening tool, which assess water availability, quality and access. In these water-stressed areas, Primark collaborates with suppliers, other brands and governing bodies to address shared water challenges.

Beyond reducing its water footprint, Primark is involved in broader water stewardship initiatives to address shared challenges. A key part of this approach is identifying priority basins where climate-related water risks intersect with its suppliers' operational dependency on freshwater. Ten priority basins have been identified and Primark is committed to supporting catchment-scale projects in these regions.

The membership of AWS is integral to this approach, incorporating community engagement, biodiversity and governance considerations to address water challenges holistically. Primark has engaged with 20 suppliers in AWS programmes across three priority basins in China, India and Bangladesh.

To ensure the business is contributing towards basin-level resilience, Primark has aligned its priority basins within its supply chains with those identified by the UN's Water Resilience Coalition, which has identified the world's 100 priority basins for collective action, enabling the business to collaborate and scale impact with other water dependent stakeholders. In 2024 Primark joined the CEO Water Mandate, which is a commitment to take action within the priority basins that also intersect with Primark's water footprint.

1. Reporting against WRAP's UK Textiles Pact.

# Chemicals

Chemistry is crucial to the creation of many components used in Primark's products. It presents opportunities to enhance product performance, safety and our environmental footprint, while being essential in the material processing phase. In textiles and leather, the majority of chemicals are applied during the wet processing stage, which includes dyeing, printing, bleaching, tanning and washing.

Primark's Restricted Substance List (RSL) was updated in 2024 to align with the AFIRM Group's[1] 2024 RSL and continues to include, at a minimum, the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Manufacturing Restricted Substances List.

Primark is a board member of the ZDHC Foundation, reinforcing its commitment to chemical management. In 2025, Primark also joined the ZDHC Leaders of the Advisory Groups, which were established to foster dialogue across the value chain and includes representatives from brands, wet processors, chemical suppliers and service providers.

Primark continues to carry out an annual assessment of its chemical management programme, evaluated by KPMG. In recognition of its ongoing progress and leadership in sustainable chemistry, Primark was again rated at the second-highest level, Accelerator, in the ZDHC Supplier to Zero programme.

In calendar year 2024, Primark made continued progress in ZDHC Performance:

- 487 wet processors were actively included in the chemistry programme, of which 485 (>99%) registered to the ZDHC Gateway.
- Of the 337 wet processors in scope of the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines, 236 (70%) generated ZDHC ClearStream Reports, with 90% of directly discharging facilities achieving at least the Foundational level compliance for conventional parameters.
- 201 wet processors completed Supplier to Zero (StZ) certification, supported by Primark using Brand Implementation Support Vouchers.

To further enhance data visibility, Primark deployed the CleanChain Compass Dashboard to improve monitoring and analytics of ZDHC data. Primark has also piloted chemical inventory software at non-wet processing tier one factories, broadening data collection beyond ZDHC scope processes. Additionally, new chemistry criteria were introduced into Primark's Technical Audit pilot, and chemistry KPIs for InCheck and ClearStream reporting have been rolled out through the Vendor Scorecard to evaluate suppliers.

Primark remains committed to building supplier capability and advancing safe chemical usage across its supply chain:

- regional environmental teams are based in key sourcing regions to provide training and support;
- Primark funded ZDHC Chemical Management System Technical Industry Guide training and certification for 70 facilities across China, India, Bangladesh and Türkiye. Of these, 30 facilities were selected for on-site assessments and improvement planning, which will be supported by Bureau Veritas into the next financial year;
- Primark funded InCheck Verification at 10 facilities in Bangladesh to improve the accuracy and completeness of chemical inventories;
- through Primark's Wastewater Due Diligence Testing Programme, 22 facilities were targeted for risk-based testing and remediation support to help drive further improvements in wastewater management; and
- 20 facilities completed the ZDHC Effluent Treatment Plant Operator Training and gained certification, with support from Primark.

Recognising their interconnectedness, Primark's chemistry and water programmes have developed a joint strategy to prioritise and align activities through the new Cleaner Water Programme.

Primark is actively working with ZDHC and industry partners to develop collaborative approaches for implementing more sustainable chemistry in wastewater, with a focus on delivering co-benefits such as increased energy and water efficiency alongside improved chemical performance.

Primark also piloted the Apparel Impact Institute's Clean by Design Chemistry and Wastewater Programme at three facilities in Bangladesh, which concluded with measurable improvements across chemicals usage, energy consumption and water withdrawal.

1. The Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management (AFIRM) Group.



# Advancing Primark's Cleaner Water Programme

Addressing water pollution in supply chains requires a holistic and regionally informed approach. In many of the locations where Primark sources products, untreated or poorly managed waste water can have serious consequences for people, biodiversity and local ecosystems. Water quality challenges vary by region. For example, high salinity and dissolved solids in parts of India, or elevated levels of biological and chemical oxygen demand in surface water in Bangladesh. These localised risks make it critical to prioritise interventions that are both appropriate and impactful.

At the same time, Primark must respond to increasing regulatory expectations, including alignment with ZDHC guidelines. The Cleaner Water Programme was established to address these needs by focusing on water quality from multiple angles: the quality of water inputs, chemical management, wastewater treatment and monitoring.

In 2024, Primark advanced its Cleaner Water Programme by addressing four key focus areas. Firstly, the business began using WWF's Water Risk Filter to assess the quality of water inputs and identify high-risk locations. This tool allows Primark to evaluate river basins based on water quality indicators, enabling targeted and data-driven action.

Secondly, the programme worked closely with the chemical management team to restrict harmful substances and prevent pollutants from entering water systems in the first place. This complements efforts already underway through Primark's alignment with ZDHC and wider chemical compliance initiatives.

Primark has also initiated the development of a supplier toolkit to support improved effluent treatment. The aim of this work is to help suppliers with a high dependency on water to better understand different treatment technologies and processes, and connect them with relevant solutions and technology providers based on their local context.

Water reuse and recycling are encouraged where appropriate, but the focus is on matching treatment approaches to the specific risks each site presents.

The business also continued its long-term collaboration with Oxford Molecular Biosensors (OMB) to develop new methods for water quality monitoring. This included the completion of a new phase of Integrated Catchment Modelling, focused on the Meghna basin in Dhaka, Bangladesh. By mapping Primark's supplier factories and analysing discharge data, the model enables Primark to better understand the aggregate impact of its operations in the basin, identify priority interventions and forecast outcomes. The business plans to involve broader stakeholders in the next phase of this work, with the goal of enabling collective, industry-wide action in key basins.

In parallel, a second stream of work with OMB focused on the development of a proprietary biosensor that aggregates water quality indicators into a single ecotoxicity indicator, allowing for a more efficient way to identify water quality risks. This year's results confirmed the sensor's potential to offer a more holistic and efficient method for monitoring water quality. Plans are now underway to explore opportunities to pilot the technology in supply chain settings.

In addition, Primark continued its membership of the Microfibre Consortium and the ZDHC Foundation, contributing to broader industry efforts to reduce microplastic pollution and hazardous chemical discharge in waste water.

OMB scientist testing wastewater samples, sent from Primark supplier factories, Bangladesh.

## Case study – Retail



# A collaborative approach to reducing water use in Bangladesh's textile industry

Textiles are the cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy, but the industry places pressure on the country's limited water resources. For the past two years, Primark has collaborated on a project aiming to demonstrate the commercial, technical and environmental viability of water reuse and advanced pollution control in the textile industry in Bangladesh. The project is supported by the UK Government as part of its Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) programme, as well as by H&M Group, international non-profit organisation WaterAid and water industry specialists.

The project has resulted in the largest wastewater recycling facility of its kind within the textile sector in Bangladesh, which will introduce innovative technologies to reduce micro pollutants and enable wastewater recycling. This project takes a holistic approach to the supply chain, examining how wastewater recycling can be integrated within a factory's broader resource management, energy, water and chemicals.

Primark has piloted the scheme with its supplier Fakir Knitwear, a factory in Dhaka that supplies Primark and many other brands. Primark found that by integrating innovative technologies such as ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis, the factory could reuse around 50% of its waste water (400,000$m^3$ a year) and cut its use of chemical softening agents.

This could also lead to GHG emission reductions, as well as reducing the extraction and pollution of fresh water. UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that if similar systems were scaled to 25% of waste water treated across the industry, Bangladesh could conserve over 43 million $m^3$ of groundwater annually and cut GHG emissions by 1.5 to 2.6 million tonnes $CO_2e$.

Primark will work with local stakeholders in both the public and private sectors to share project outcomes and promote improvements in local water governance.

For Primark, collective action also means working through public-private partnerships to influence local policy and access to affordable finance for supplier factories, where related to national water challenges. In 2025, Primark became a member of the National Alliance for Water Reuse and Recycling in Bangladesh. The alliance is formed of government stakeholders, trade associations, brands and finance institutions, and is chaired by the World Bank's 2030 Water Resource Group. The SMEP project marks the first example of driving national progress on water recycling and advanced water pollution control by the newly formed alliance.

Water filtration equipment installed in a supplier factory in Bangladesh as part of Primark's wastewater recycling and micro pollution removal project

# Water – Grocery

Water is a key component in some of our Grocery businesses' manufacturing processes.



In 2025, water abstraction across our Grocery businesses' manufacturing sites was mostly flat compared to the previous year, increasing by 1% overall. Our Grocery businesses reused 5% of the water entering their sites in 2025, an improvement compared with the previous year.

## Grocery Group

As part of the UK Food and Drink Pact, all Grocery Group UK businesses have signed up to the WRAP Water Roadmap, which targets 50% of fresh food being sourced from areas with sustainable water management from a 2015 baseline. They use the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) water risk tool to assess their high volume ingredients and follow WRAP stewardship guidance to reduce water risk in the supply chain. In addition, sustainable spice and rice projects deliver significant water reduction benefits. In the UK, water abstraction across the Grocery Group sites has reduced by 16% since 2015. Although water is a key ingredient for many of its products, ensuring water usage in non-ingredient applications is minimised has helped achieve this reduction.

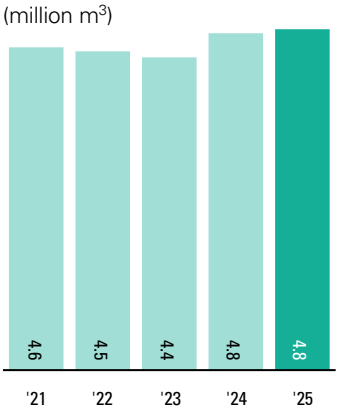
Allied Bakeries, Jordans Dorset Ryvita, Westmill Foods and Speedibake all decreased their water use at their sites in 2025. In addition, Silver Spoon's Bardney site reduced its water use by 15% compared to 2024 through improved efficiency at site. Contributing initiatives included more efficient pump use, wash outs and recycling more water in the cooling tower.

In 2025, AB World Foods joined the WRAP Collective Action Project, which focuses on improving water security in key growing regions. The first phase is centred on Doñana in Spain, a UNESCO World Heritage site and hub of the country's berry industry where illegal irrigation and tourism have put pressure on water resources, threatening the supply of key fruit. The project aims to improve water management and ecosystem health through business and supplier workshops, on-the-ground restoration, stronger assurance standards and advocacy for better water governance.

AB World Foods has also partnered with a key supplier in Thailand to fund drip irrigation systems on chilli farms supplying its Blue Dragon Sweet Chilli Dipping Sauces, helping to reduce water use and improve sustainability in the supply chain. In 2025, drip irrigation was installed at an additional 16 farms, bringing participation to 50% of chilli farmers and covering 87 acres of land. Early results show benefits across the 16 farms as a result of the changes made, with yields improving by around 20%, irrigation water use decreasing by around 40% and farmer workload reducing by up to 75%, easing the time spent working in high temperatures.

Ageing barrels for balsamic vinegar of Modena at Acetum's factory in Cavezzo, Italy

**Total water abstracted in own operations**
(million $m^3$)



# Water – Ingredients

Water is vital to our Ingredients businesses, in particular AB Mauri which relies on water as the medium in which yeast cells grow and reproduce.



Our Ingredients businesses aim to minimise their impact on local water resources, communities and biodiversity by working to use water more efficiently and return it safely to the environment after use.

In 2025, Ingredients businesses abstracted 15.5 million $m^3$, a 1% reduction compared to 2024. Of this, 76% is attributed to AB Mauri which continues to reduce its need for water through targeted water management initiatives.

The amount of waste water generated across the Ingredients businesses decreased in 2025 by 2% compared with 2024. This reduction in water use and effluent generation occurred despite increased production volumes at AB Mauri and ABFI, and reflects the impact of targeted water efficiency initiatives.

## AB Mauri

AB Mauri's total water abstraction in its operations in 2025 was 12 million $m^3$, a reduction of 6% from the previous year. Its water strategy focuses on reducing water use and reusing water where possible, and recycling after treatment where feasible. Each site assesses local water risks to help ensure that any water returned to the environment is managed as safely as possible.

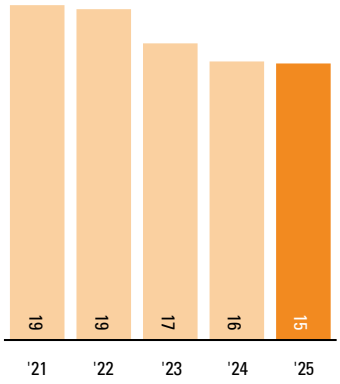
To support this strategy, AB Mauri has developed strong in-house capabilities in water usage and wastewater management, formalised through guidance documents, reporting tools, procedures and standards. A Global Water Champion works with a group of regional water leads to implement this strategy.

Since 2010, AB Mauri has invested $150m in improving its wastewater treatment facilities. Production facilities in several locations have complex on-site effluent treatment plants that include biological processes, evaporators and/or reverse osmosis membrane systems that can produce reusable water and useful co-products. A selection of technologies addresses the local aquatic sensitivities and water quality objectives. At a minimum, sites design their treatment systems to comply with applicable permits and also not disrupt any downstream municipal processes.

The division is also focused on reducing its water intensity ratio (the quantity of water consumed per tonne of product, excluding by-products). In 2025, production volumes increased while water use decreased. Initiatives include large, capital-intensive projects such as the installation of new cooling towers in the Tucuman yeast factory in Argentina completed in March 2025, which reduced its total water abstraction by 31%, and smaller initiatives like reusing wash water at the Bandirma site in Türkiye. Since 2018, AB Mauri has reduced its water use intensity by over 28%.

A wastewater treatment plant at SPI Pharma's manufacturing site in Lewes, Delaware, United States

**Total water abstracted in own operations**
(million $m^3$)



To manage water risks, AB Mauri has developed an internal tool to assess current and future water supply risks and flood risk using data from the WWF Water Risk Filter, and Aqueduct platforms, as well as local site knowledge. The tools evaluate risks such as water stress, regulation, reputation and quality, and the risk information is updated annually at all relevant sites. Results are reviewed by senior leadership teams and inform the division's water reduction strategy to 2030.

### ABFI

ABFI's total water abstraction in its operations in 2025 was 4 million $m^3$.

ABFI businesses continue to identify opportunities for water management improvement and to increase efficiency, such as by recirculating water. For example, at ABITEC's Janesville site in the US, a distributed control system was installed to reduce water used in cooling chemical reactors. As a result of this project, water consumption decreased from 175 litres per kilogram to 67 litres per kilogram of product, saving 1.06 million $m^3$ of water over two years. Additionally, SPI Pharma has optimised its filter washing processes to enhance cleaning efficiency and further reduce water consumption.

Waste water is treated before discharge and ABFI businesses monitor various parameters of waste water across their operations. This regular monitoring is essential to help ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to maintain high operational standards.

# Water – Sugar

ABF Sugar recognises the critical importance of water for its crop growing activity and factory operations, making water management a key focus area.



A highly efficient centre-pivot crop irrigation system at the Ubombo Sugar estate, Eswatini

Water is essential to ABF Sugar's agricultural and manufacturing operations, particularly as it operates in water constrained landscapes. As a major water user, the division continues to prioritise efficient water management. This includes improving the accuracy of water measurement and investing in smarter irrigation systems, aiming to ensure every drop reaches the crop.

Water is of critical importance in both crop production and factory operations, making it a key focus alongside other nature dependencies and risks. Each business within ABF Sugar conducts a water risk assessment and, where water use is identified as a material risk, businesses develop a targeted action plan within their five-year strategy to deliver measurable progress in water stewardship. A few sites from its African sugar businesses have been identified as being located within regions of water stress. You can read more about this in our CDP submission.

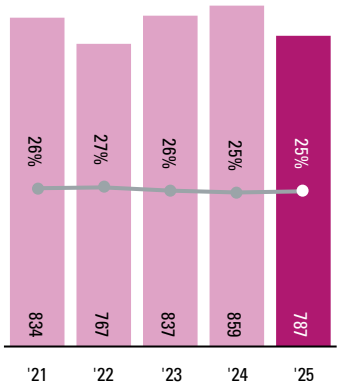
ABF Sugar decreased water abstraction in 2025 by 8% compared with the prior year. It also reduced water abstraction per tonne of product by 1% compared to 2024. Additionally, 25% of the total abstracted water was reused before being returned to the environment.

## Water use within sugar businesses in Africa

ABF Sugar's primary use of water is for growing crops at its sugar businesses in Africa. These businesses have a long-standing focus on optimising water use and investing in improved irrigation systems across their estates. Water management programmes are implemented across their operations in Zambia, Malawi, and Eswatini, which collectively account for 88% of the water abstracted.

Each business has an action plan aimed at improving outcomes in three areas: reducing water loss, increasing water productivity and fostering a culture of expertise in more sustainable water use. To reduce water consumption, businesses focus on reducing bulk water losses, reducing infield water losses and improving irrigation schedules.

**Total water abstracted in own operations and percentage of total water reused***
(million m³)




* Numbers prior to 2025 have been restated to reflect the disposal of AB Sugar China, disposed of in 2024. The adjustment ensures comparability and accuracy in reporting the Group's continuing operations.

To improve water efficiency and deliver more water to the crop, businesses are investing in advanced irrigation systems. For example at Nakambala in Zambia, the business is replacing traditional furrow irrigation with sub-surface drip irrigation and synergistic surface irrigation and drainage, a new system that will improve crop yield and soil health. Additionally, the business is actively considering further investments in these systems at Nanga Farms in Zambia. By utilising precision agriculture technologies, businesses in Zambia can concentrate on areas of the field where the crop experiences weather stress and can adapt field layouts so that every stick of cane receives the exact amount of water it needs.

These projects are driving better yields while improving water use efficiency and providing greater weather resilience. Over the seven-year period of implementation, the investment at these two estates has been approximately $20m.

## Water use across supply chains

ABF Sugar's Spanish business, Azucarera, is leveraging innovative and smart technology with its growers at 80 watering systems. It is collaborating with AIMCRA (the Research Association for Sugar Beet Crop Improvement) to reduce irrigation water usage and promote energy efficiency in sugar beet production. Through this collaboration, it offers irrigation advice to growers to help them cut costs, improve efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

AIMCRA is working on a project to develop an innovative tool for accurate and continuous measurements of evapotranspiration and crop coefficients, helping improve water-use efficiency and crop growth. The tool utilises artificial intelligence, satellite data and humidity probes. AIMCRA is also a participant in the Voltagro operational group, which studies the compatibility of agricultural activities with the installation of solar panels in the field. The objective is to create crop, climate and photovoltaic panel production models that will enable optimal management of the irrivoltaic system, enhance agro-environmental performance and maximise economic benefits.

Water efficiency is also a priority for British Sugar, as most of its growers are based in the beet-growing areas of East Anglia, which face water shortage challenges. The business works closely with growers, external organisations and the National Farmers Union (NFU) Sugar Board to manage on-site operations and minimise water usage and reduce water pollution throughout the supply chain.

## Water treatment

British Sugar treats all of the water it uses on-site before discharging it into the environment, as required by environmental permits.The construction of new water treatment plants at Cantley and Newark were successfully commissioned and have been fully operational throughout the 2025 sugar beet campaign. British Sugar has invested over £20 million since 2022 to further improve the quality of water discharged from its sites. This includes two new water treatment plants, as well as the upgrading of existing facilities at other locations.

British Sugar's sites return more water into the catchment area than they consume, as they use the water contained in the raw sugar beet. The business is currently evaluating the possibility of achieving water self-sufficiency at two of its sites, which would reduce the need to extract water from rivers or boreholes.