



SURVEY RESULTS REPORT

Irrigation Sustainability Study

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Mission of the study

Crafting an Irrigation sustainability framework for Nebraska's Watersheds



The purpose of the study is to identify the role that policies and tradeoffs play in managing irrigation to meet production needs in a way that is socially acceptable, economically feasible and environmentally responsible.

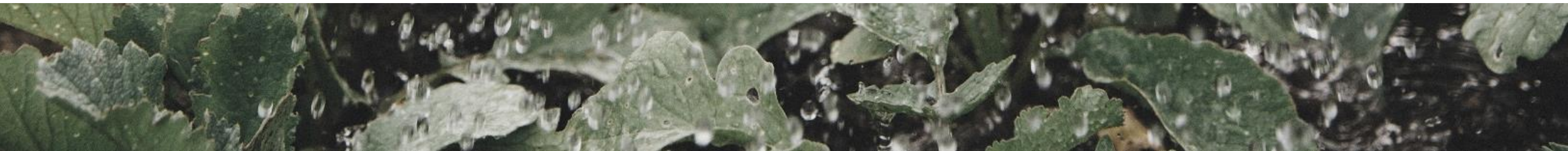


Participants to the survey

People invited to respond to the survey



A class of 28 students of 19 age or older has been asked to respond to the Irrigation Sustainability survey. The questionnaire required approximately 25 minutes and the contribution was anonymous with no personal information collected.



Survey results analysis

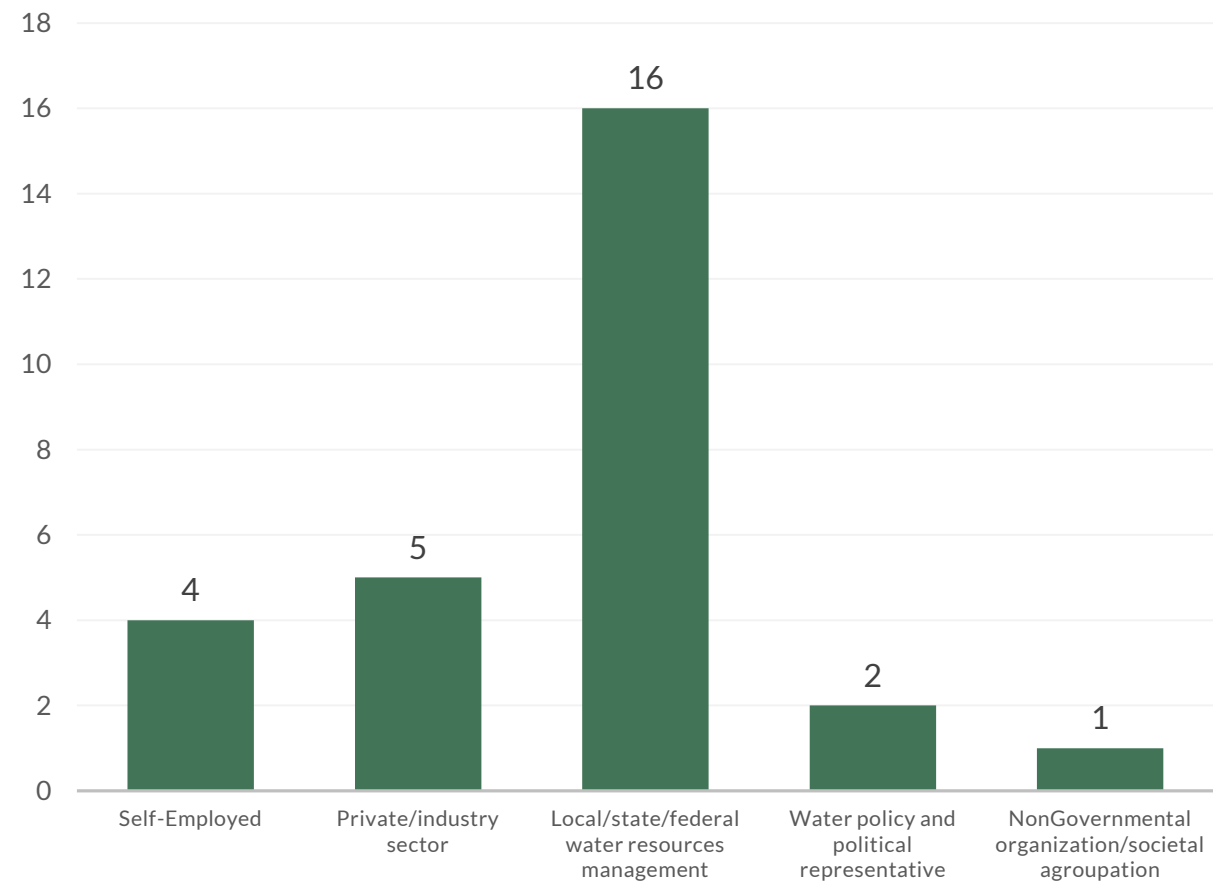
Analysis of the answers to each question



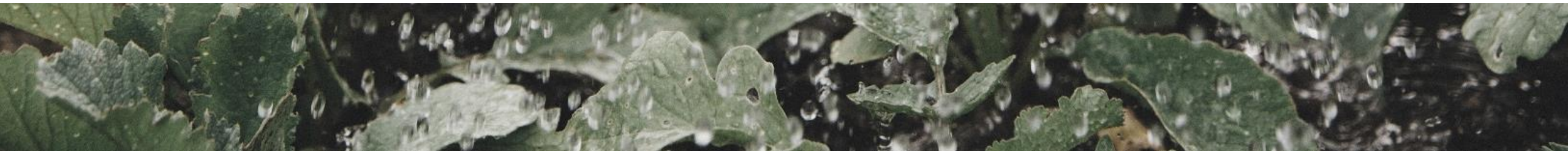
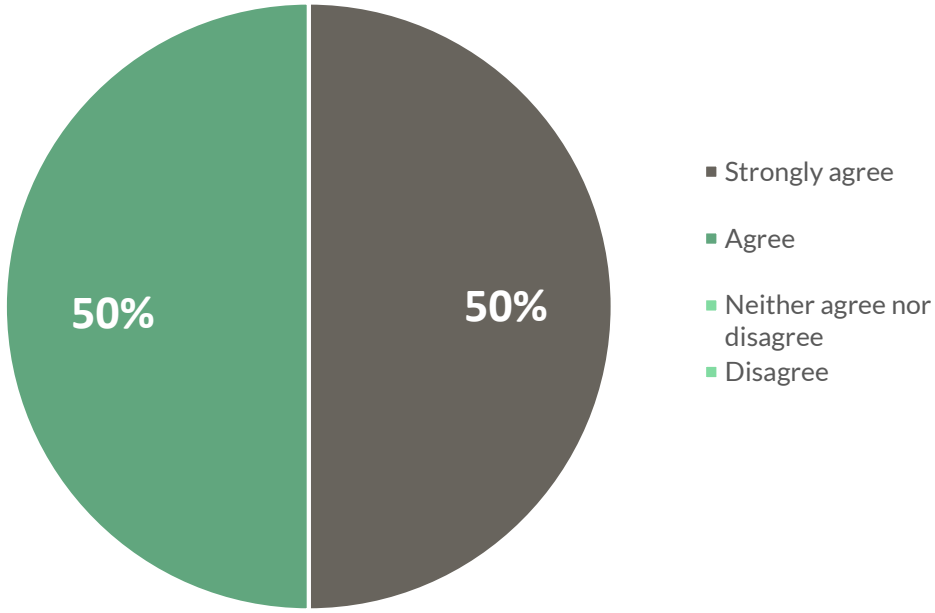
The survey has been developed to identify the current state of irrigated watersheds and the effects of such efforts to sustain multiple and changing water demands of the future. The questionnaire is comprehensive of 19 questions with multiple choices .



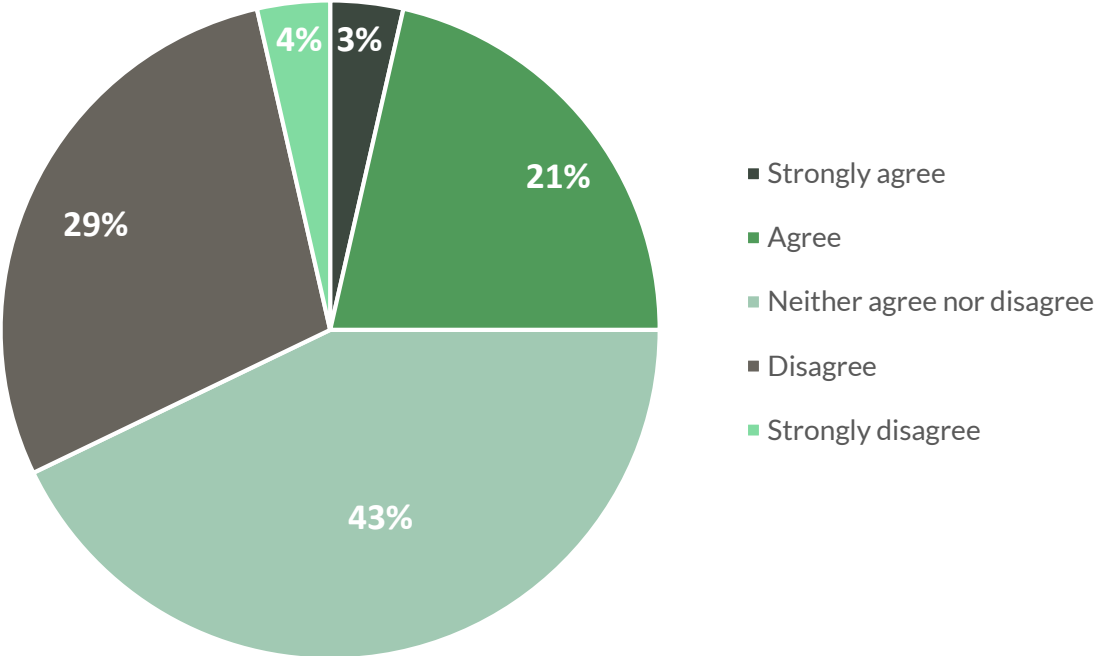
1. Which of these categories best describes your employer?



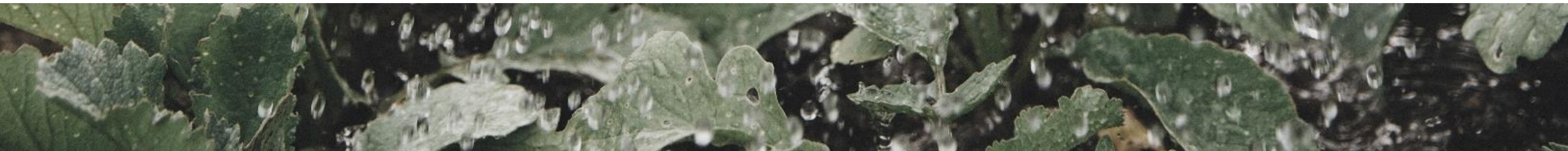
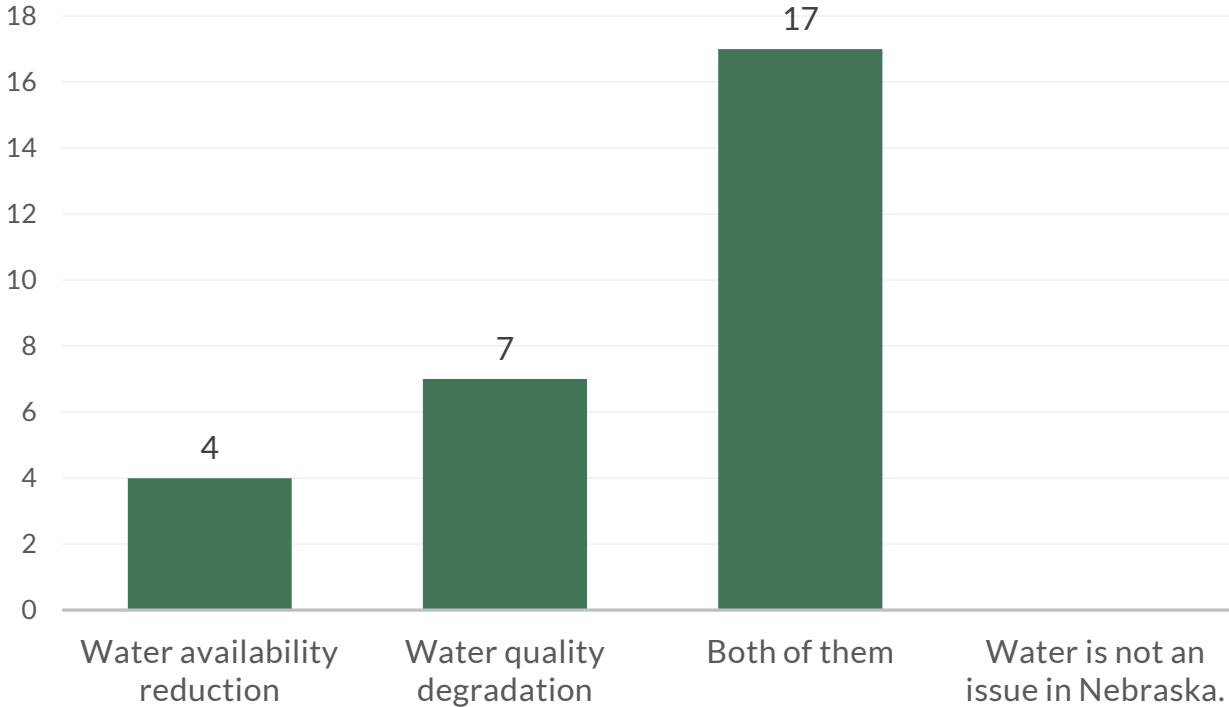
2. I am aware of efforts toward improving agricultural irrigation sustainability.



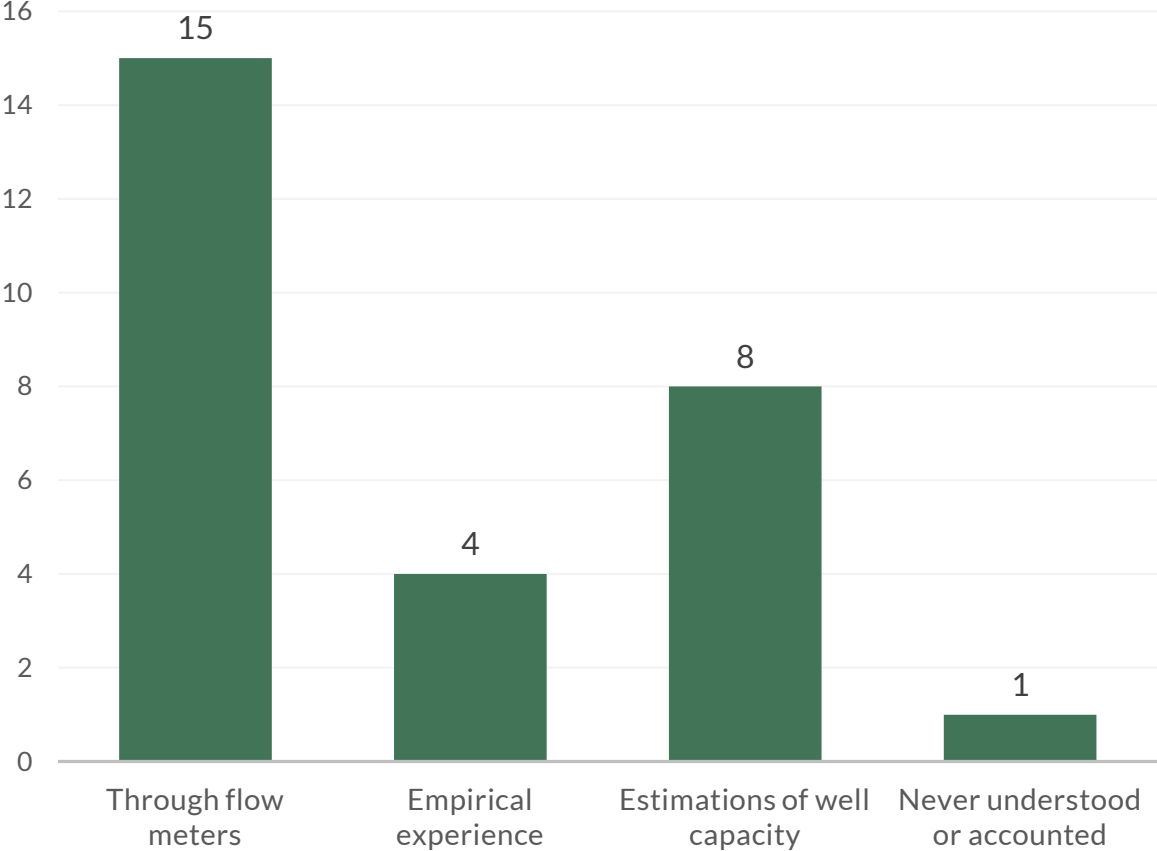
3. Watershed management entities thoroughly and accurately communicate the challenges and shortfalls of irrigation sustainability to the public.



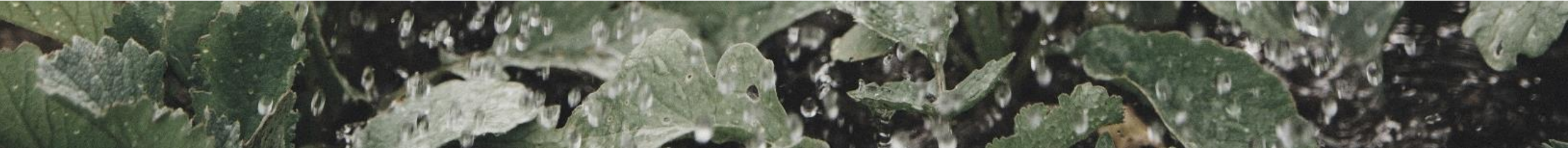
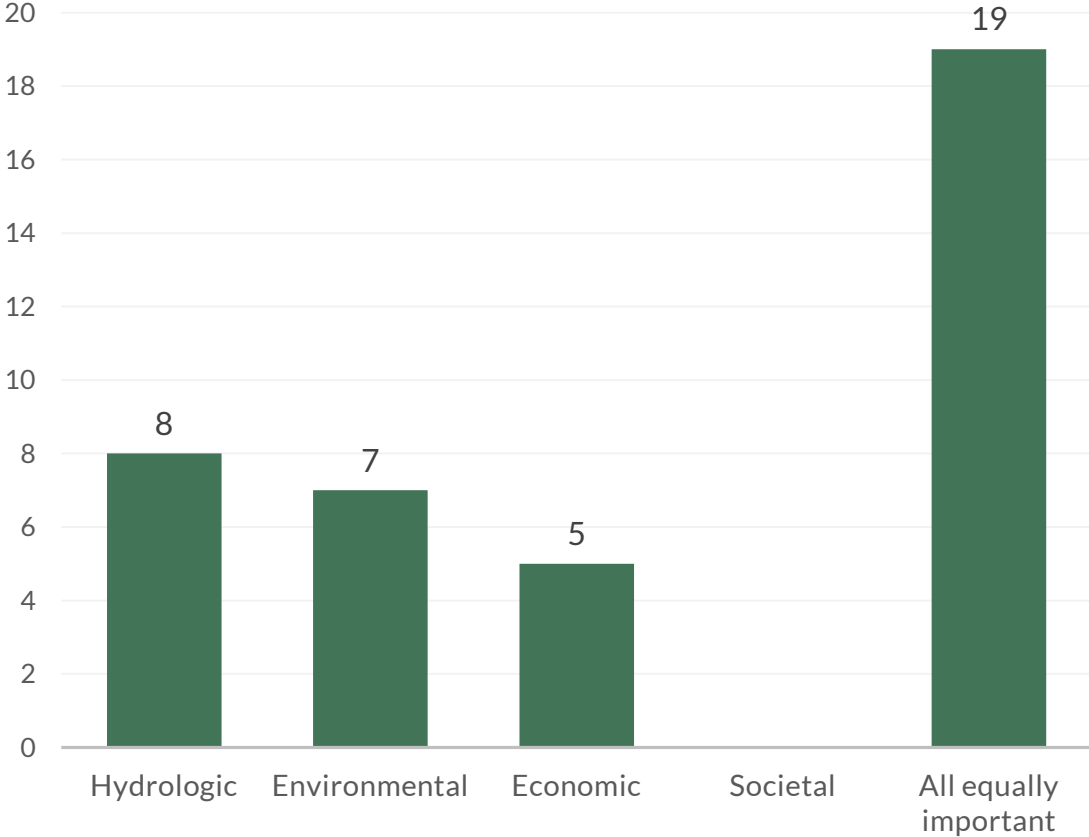
4. Which of the following choices is an urgent issue in the High Plains.



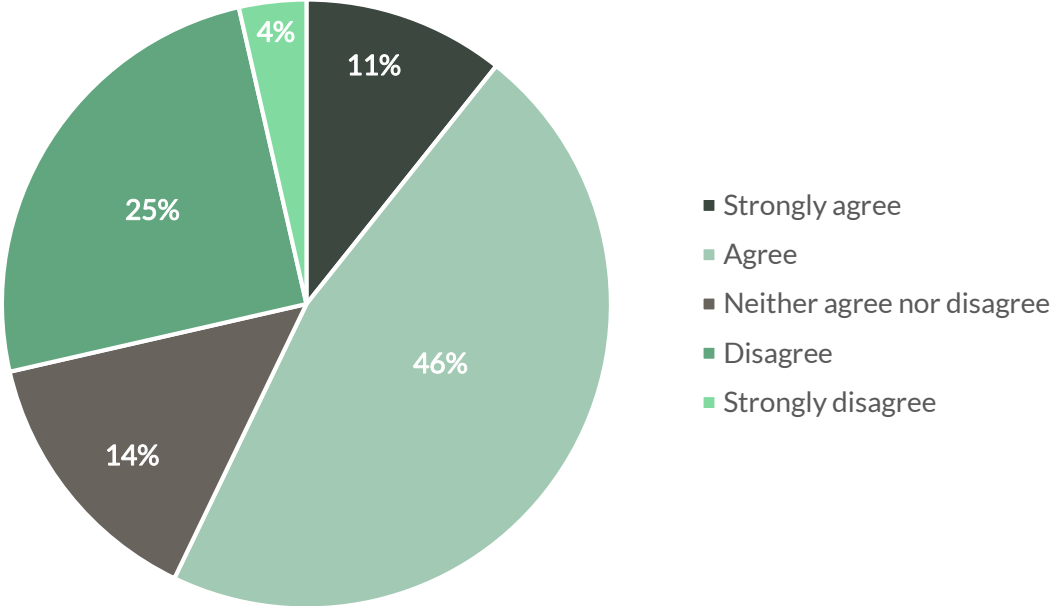
5. How do the irrigators account their water consumption?



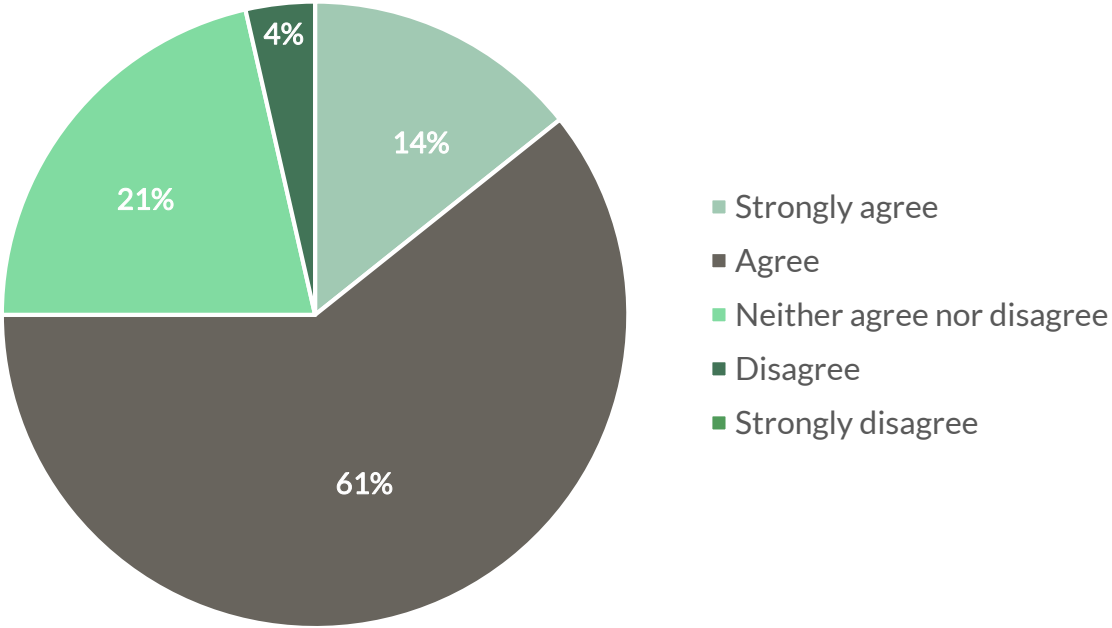
6. Which factor(s) is (are) more important in assessing agricultural irrigation sustainability?



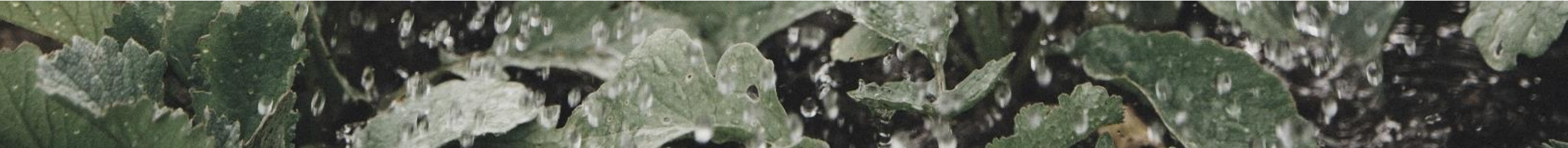
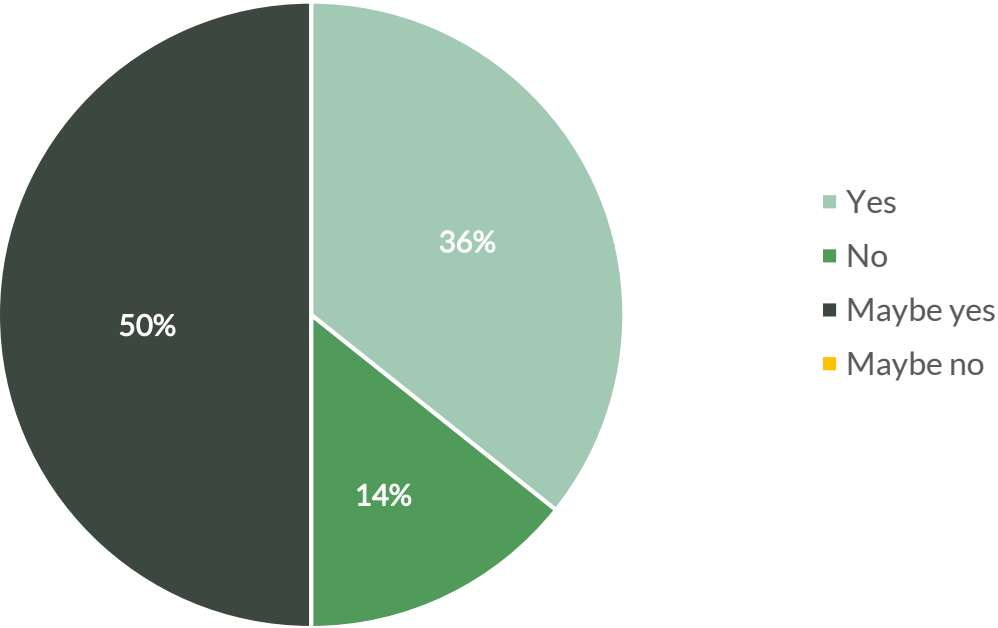
7. Based on the following statement “The High Plains will increasingly experience water shortage or pollution in the next 10 years” you...



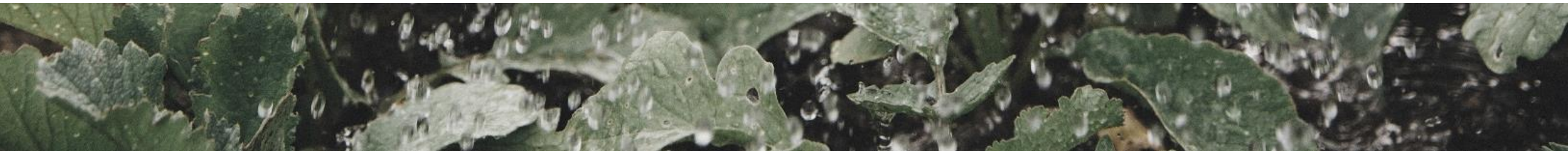
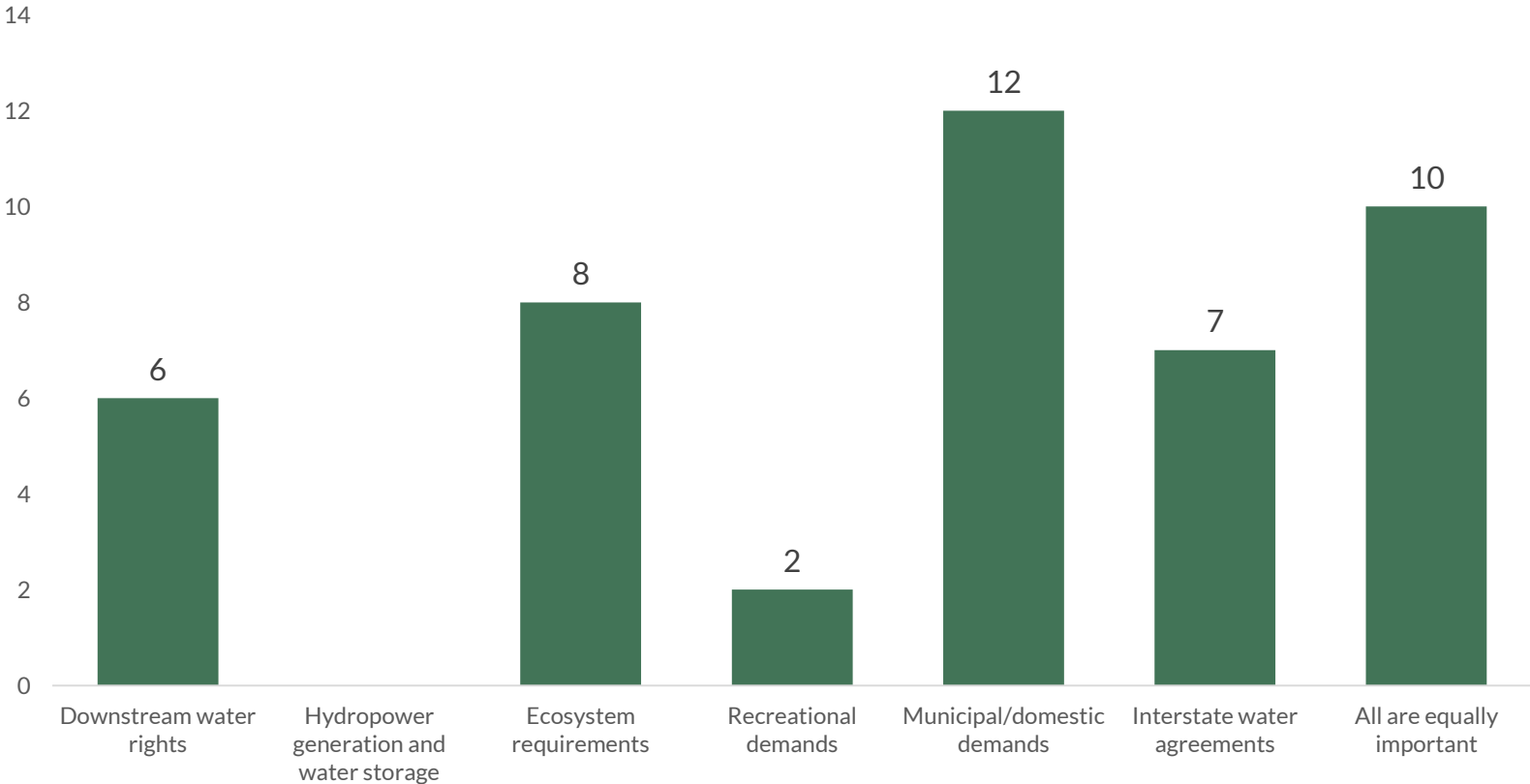
8. I have confidence in the agencies to responsibly manage water resources in the High Plains



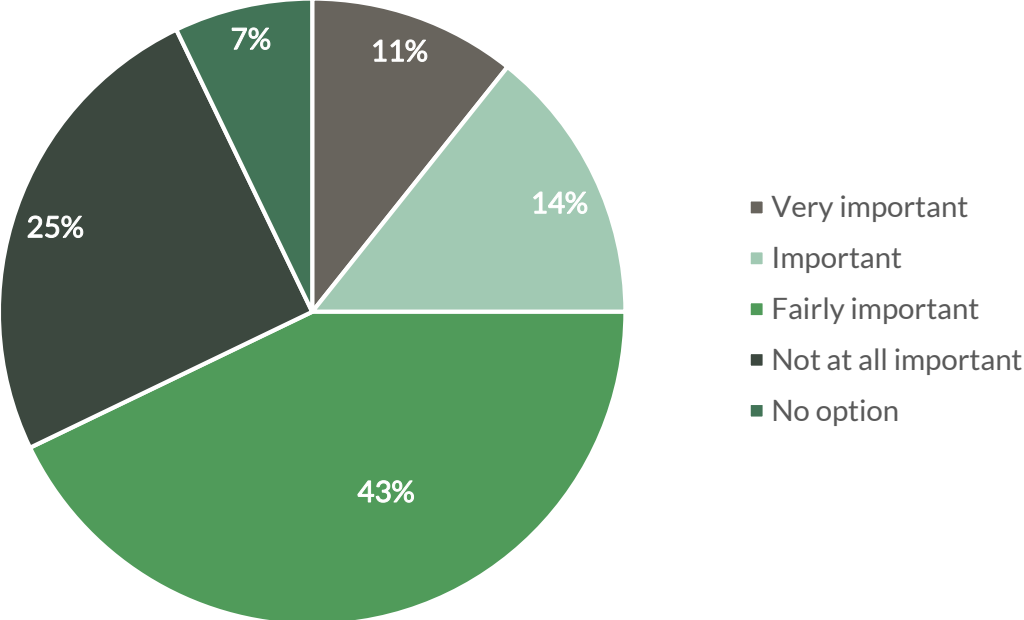
9. Will less water for irrigation be used if is metered?



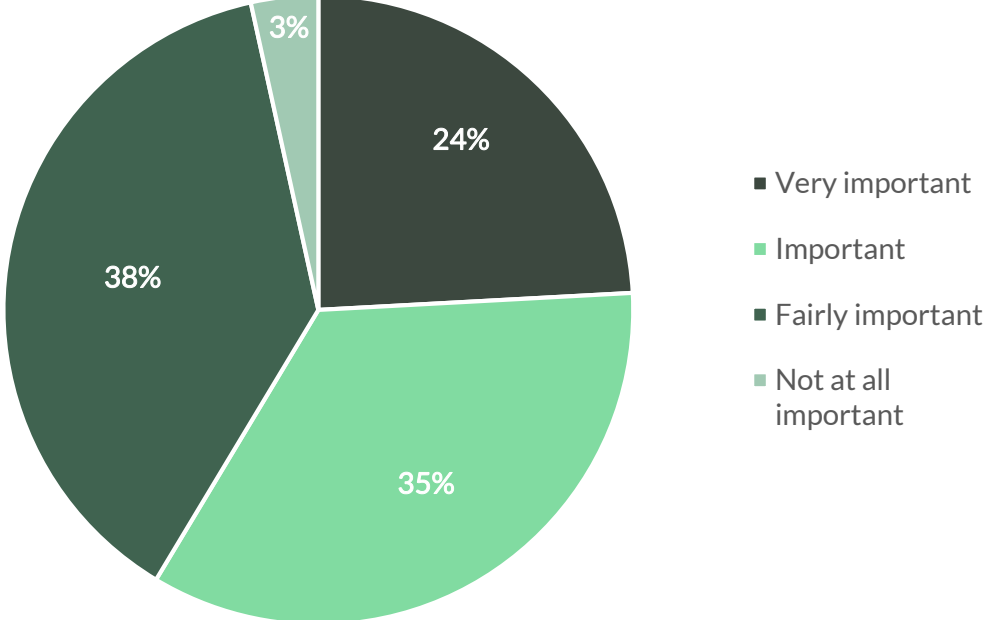
10. What is the most important action in maintaining stream flows?



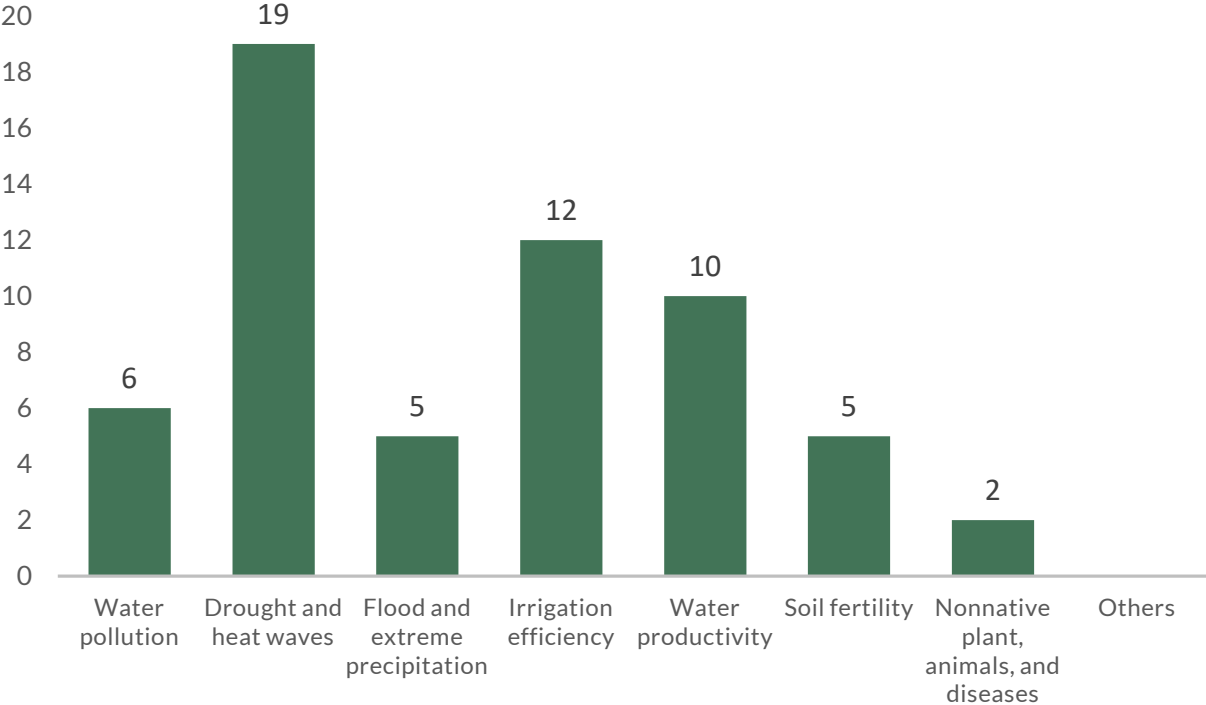
11. How important is maintaining or returning stream flow to pre-development levels?



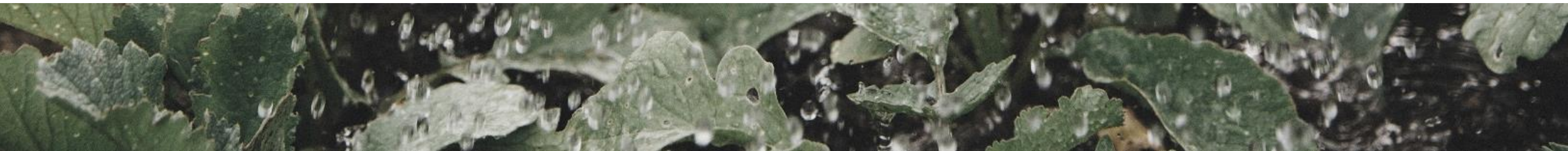
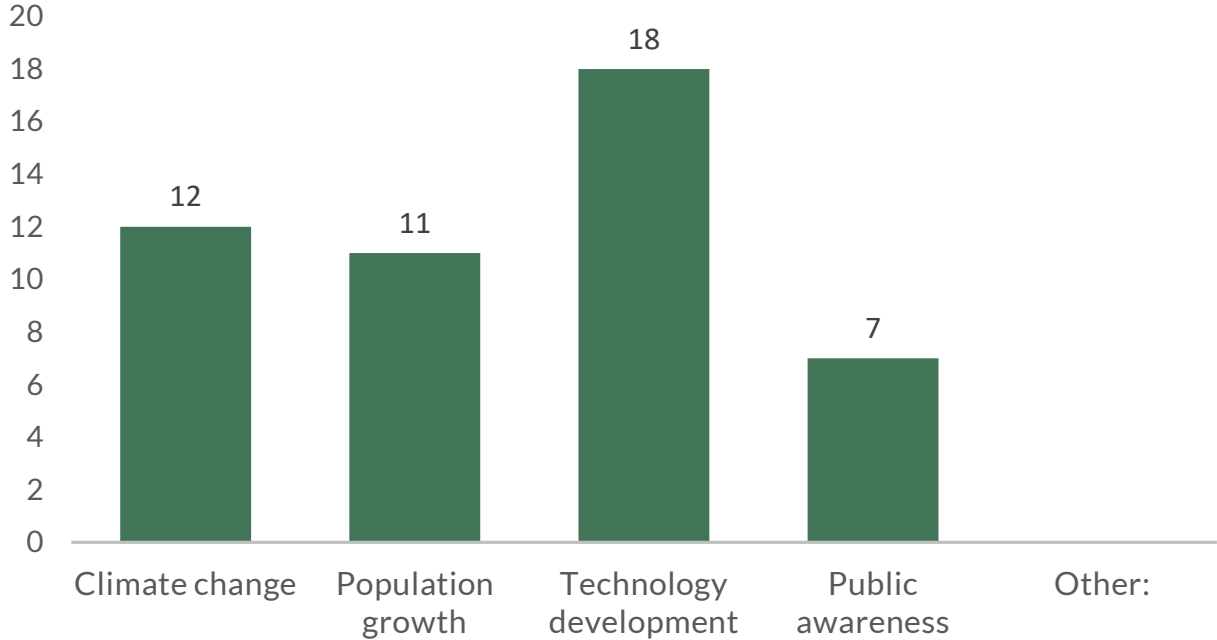
12. How important is preserving or enhancing wildlife habitat?



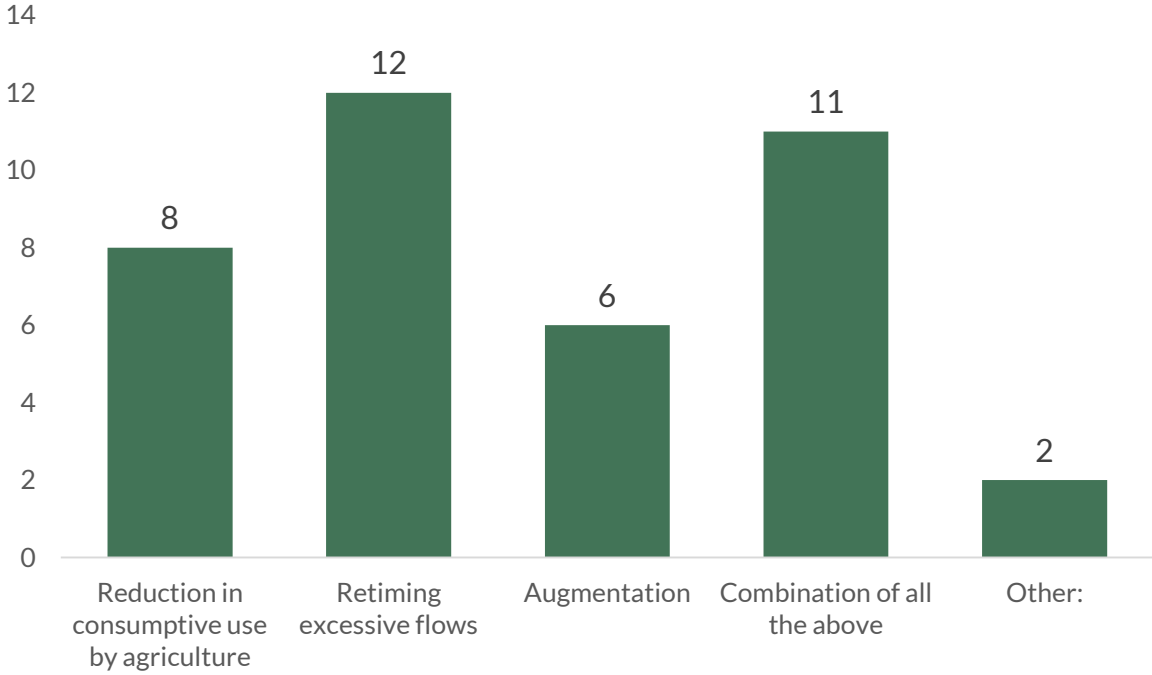
13. Which of the environmental conditions below affects the most the sustainability of irrigation in the High Plains?



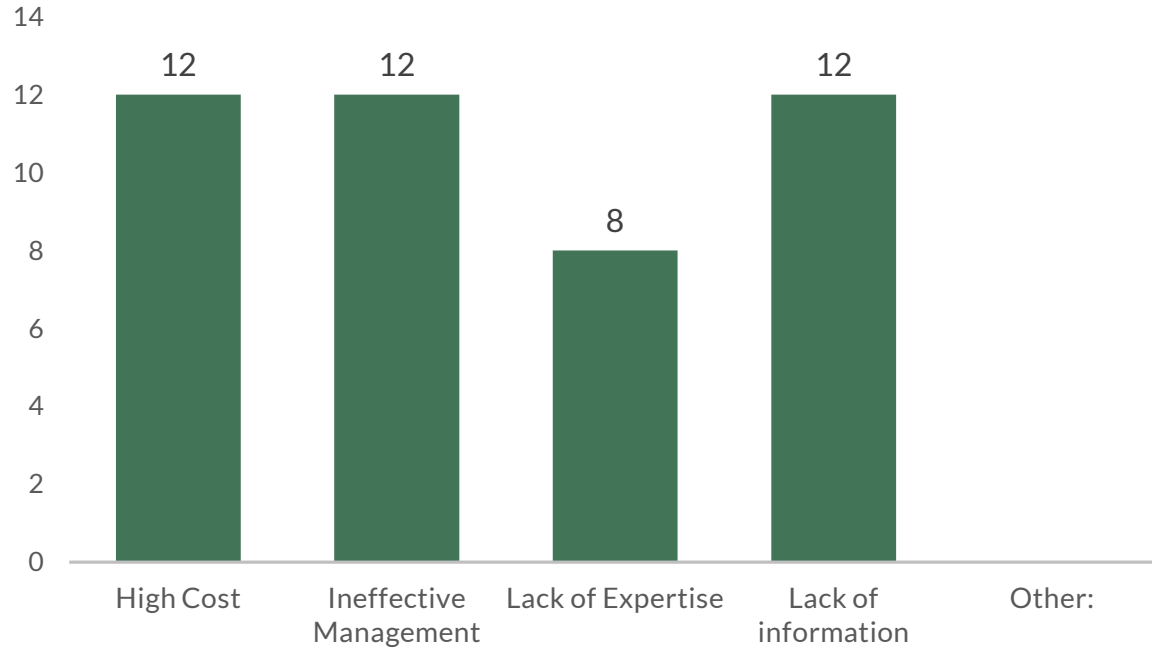
14. What environmental change will affect the most future irrigated agriculture?



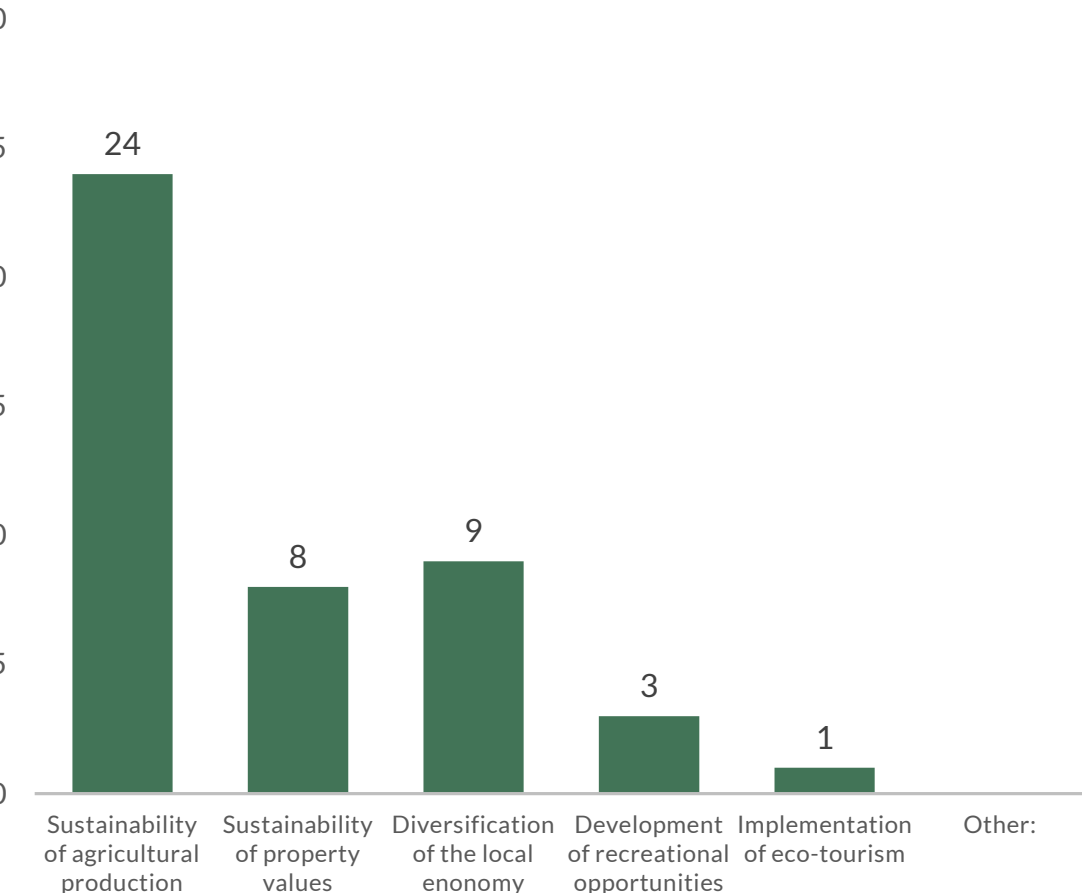
15. In over appropriated watersheds, what is your preferred method of enhancing water access?



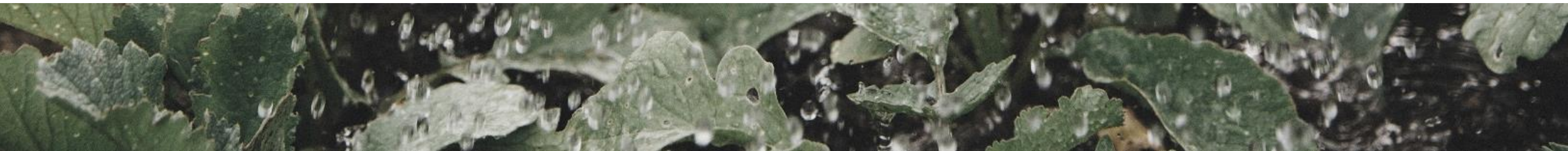
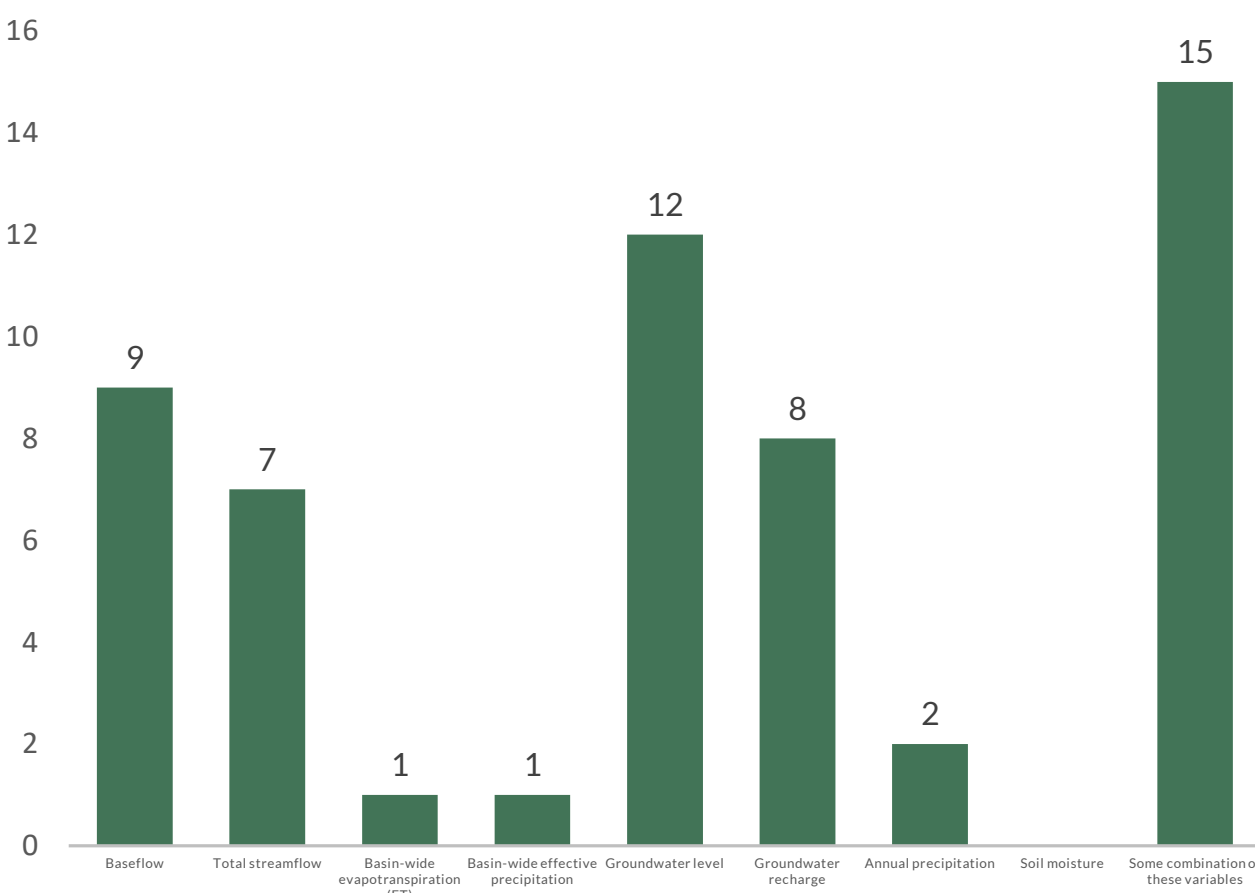
16. What do you think is the biggest obstacle for irrigation sustainability?



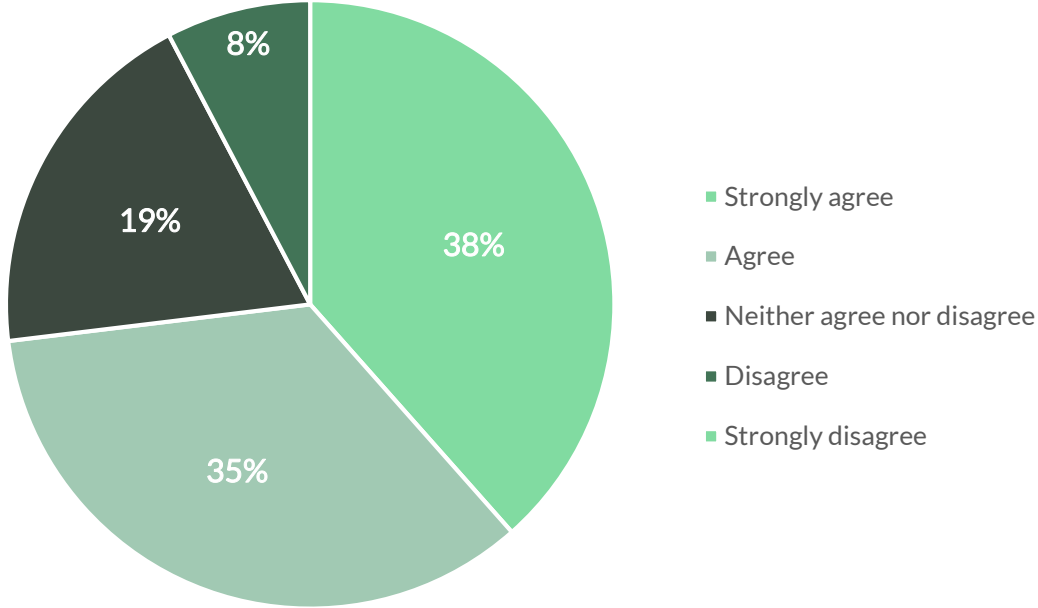
17. What is the most important economic impact of sustainable irrigated watersheds?



18. Which one is the most reliable water budget parameter for assessing sustainability in an irrigated watershed.

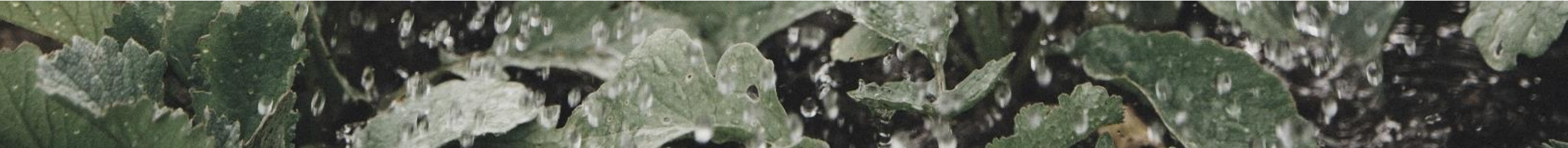


19. Should Nebraska develop a water sustainability framework?



Other comments:

- For measuring irrigation all techniques are used, varies from producer to producer, some use meters some estimate etc..
- Demographics to identify what area (even what State). What would happen at the legislature level? What would happen at the local level?



Conclusions

- 🏆 All the 28 respondents completed the survey.
- 🏆 All respondents are aware of the efforts towards improving agricultural irrigation sustainability
- 🏆 17 out of 28 agree that both water availability reduction and water quality degradation are urgent issues in the High Plains
- 🏆 57% agree that the High Plains will increasingly experience water shortage or pollution in the next 10 years
- 🏆 75% have confidence in the agency to responsibly manage water resources in the High Plains



Conclusions

- 🏆 57% consider important or very important maintaining or returning stream flow to pre-development levels
- 🏆 59% consider important or very important preserving or enhancing wildlife habitat
- 🏆 19 out of 28 consider that Drought and Heat Waves are the environmental conditions that will affect the most the sustainability of irrigation in the High Plains
- 🏆 24 out of 28 consider sustainability of agricultural production the most important economic impact of sustainable irrigate watersheds
- 🏆 73% agree that Nebraska should develop a water sustainability framework

