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WADIS-MAR

Water harvesting and Agricultural techniques in Dry lands:
an Integrated and Sustainable model in Maghreb Regions

Sustainable Water Integrated Management
(SWIM) Demonstration Project

ASSESSMENT OF ON-FARM VEGETABLE CROP RESPONSE TO DRIP- IRRIGATION SCHEDULING WITH SALINE WATER IN THE SOUTHERN TUNISIA

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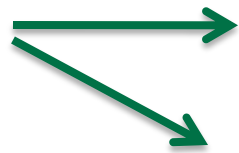
Presentation outlines

- 1.** Introduction
- 2.** Objectives
- 3.** Materials and methods
- 4.** Results
 - Soil salinity
 - Crop yield
 - Water supply and productivity
 - Economic evaluation
- 5.** Conclusions

Introduction

Limited supply of good quality water is a major constraint to crop production in the Mediterranean region of Tunisia  Highly use saline water to intensify agriculture

Most of irrigated lands



were located around shallow wells having $EC_i > 3$ dS/m.

Vegetables have an important place

Farmer's practices

Fixed amount approach used  water losses & water deficits

Vegetable crops



grown during autumn to spring periods

Coincide with the rainy season in the arid regions of Tunisia





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Introduction

The optimal irrigation management strategy is to maximize yield by supplying the irrigation requirement of the crop (CWR).

How to make irrigation more efficient?

- Irrigation methods: micro-irrigation (drip irrigation)
- Irrigation volume based on CWR and soil characteristics (Full irrigation)
- Reduction in the volume (deficit irrigation) based on crop salinity and drought tolerance.



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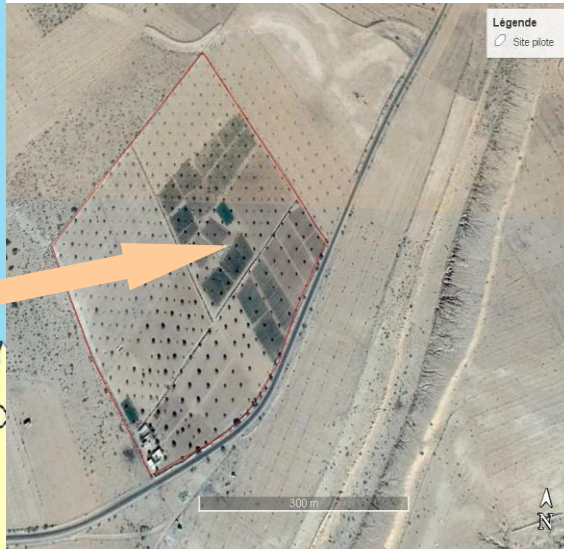
Objectives

- Determine irrigation water requirements of vegetable crops and assess yield response to different irrigation regimes using saline waters
- Identify the best irrigation strategy that allow water saving with reduced effect on soil salinity and crop productivity under the arid Mediterranean conditions of southern Tunisia.

Materials and Methodes

Field experiments

Location of the study site



➤ Two years (2012-2014) in farmer field in Médenine, Southern Tunisia

➤ Vegetable crops cultivate over contrasting seasons

➤ Average rainfall: 153 mm/year

➤ Climate typical of arid areas according to annual rainfall (<200 mm) and ETo (>1400 mm/year)

➤ Water source: Shallow well having an ECi of 6 dS/m

➤ Sandy soil texture (Clay: 6.77%, Loam: 12.68% & Sand: 80.55%) having low organic manure (<0.8%)



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Materials and Methodes

Potato



Pepper



Carrot



Green bean





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Materials and Methodes

Field experiments

- Vegetable crops: potato, carrot, green bean and pepper
- Irrigation system: Drip irrigation method

- Before planation, Organic manure, potassium (K_2O) and phosphate (P_2O_5) were supplied as basal doses.

- Nitrogen was divided and delivered with the irrigation water for all treatments during early vegetative growth

Irrigation scheduling methods

Two irrigation treatments based on the use SWB to estimate irrigation amounts and timing were compared to farmer practice.

- SWB methods consist in replacement of cumulated ET_c when readily available water is depleted with levels of 100% (FI100) and 70% (DI70)
- Farmer method (FM) consists in giving fixed amounts of irrigation water with fixed intervals from planting till harvest.

Materials and Methodes

Crop evapotranspiration $ET_c = K_c ETo$

- Reference evapotranspiration ETo : FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method (Allen et al., 1998)
- Crop coefficient K_c : Dual K_c approach $\longrightarrow K_c = K_{cb}K_s + K_e$

Irrigation scheduling \blacktriangleright SWB model

- Daily basis
- Water balance components
- Information on irrigation when RAW (% of TAW) has been depleted

Classeur1 - Microsoft Excel utilisation non commerciale

Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage

Calibri 11 A A

Standard

Mise en forme conditionnelle Mettre sous forme de tableau Styles de cellules Insérer Supprimer Format

∑ Somme automatique R Remplissage E Effacer

Trier et Rechercher et sélectionner

AW4

		Calcul d'évaporation															Piloteage d'irrigation														
Jour	ET ₀	Tmax	Tmin	des(Tm eo(Tma eo(Tm Rhmin	Semis	Vent (m Kcb	Hauteur de la plants/Kemax	Z (m)	P-RO	fc	1-fc	Net Irrig/fw fw	Few	De.i start (m Kr	Ke	E mm/j	Percolation profon/Da.i Dpe (m end m Kc	ETc (m TAW	RAW	Irrigatio Dr.i init	I (mm)	Ks	Kc	(KaKcb-ETc (m DP	Dr (mm)	Dr (mm)					
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17	5,5	35	20	18	5,623	2,064	36,71																								
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52	3,8	21,8	8,3	6,3	2,612	0,955	36,55																								
53	5	19,9	7,8	5,8	2,324	0,922	39,69																								

Prêt Feuil1 Feuil2 Feuil3

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Measured parameters

- Soil salinity
- Crop Yield
- Water supply and productivity

$$WP \text{ (kg/m}^3\text{)} = \text{Yield (kg/ha)} / \text{irrigation water (m}^3\text{/ha)}$$

- Economic evaluation

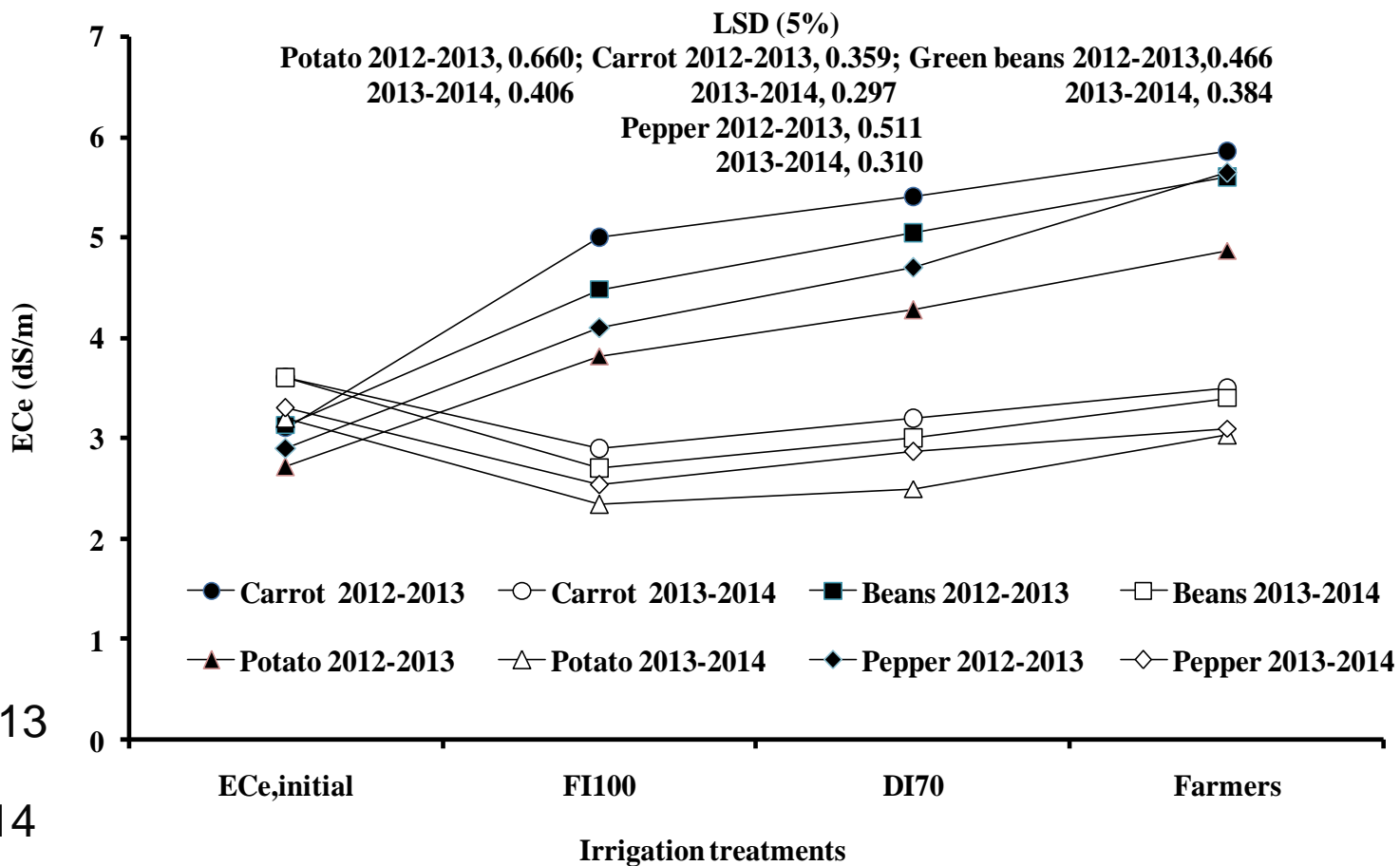


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Soil salinity

Results



35-107 mm received during growing periods ➔ leaching of salts



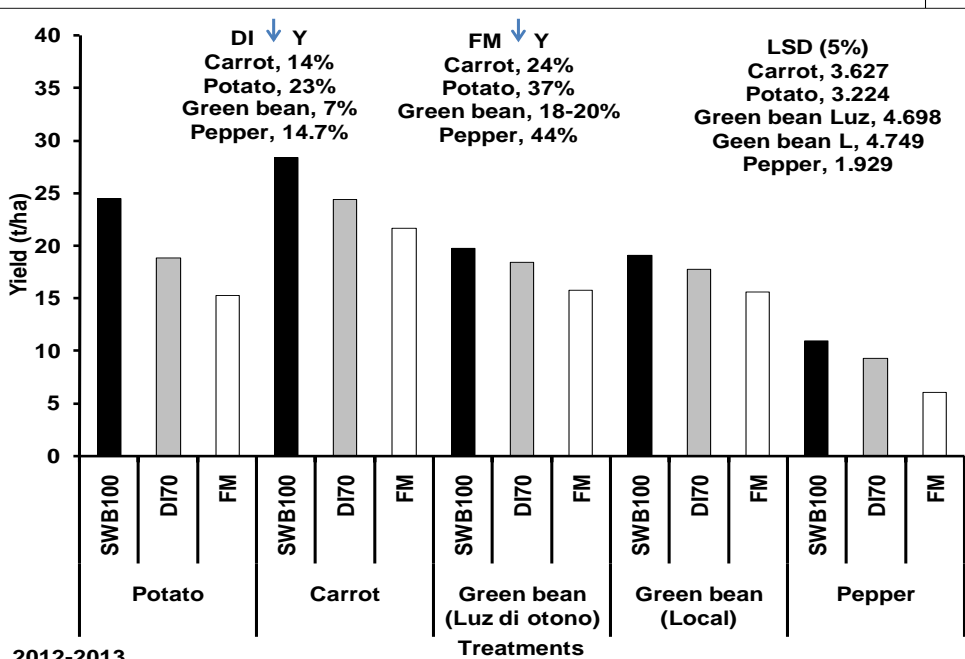
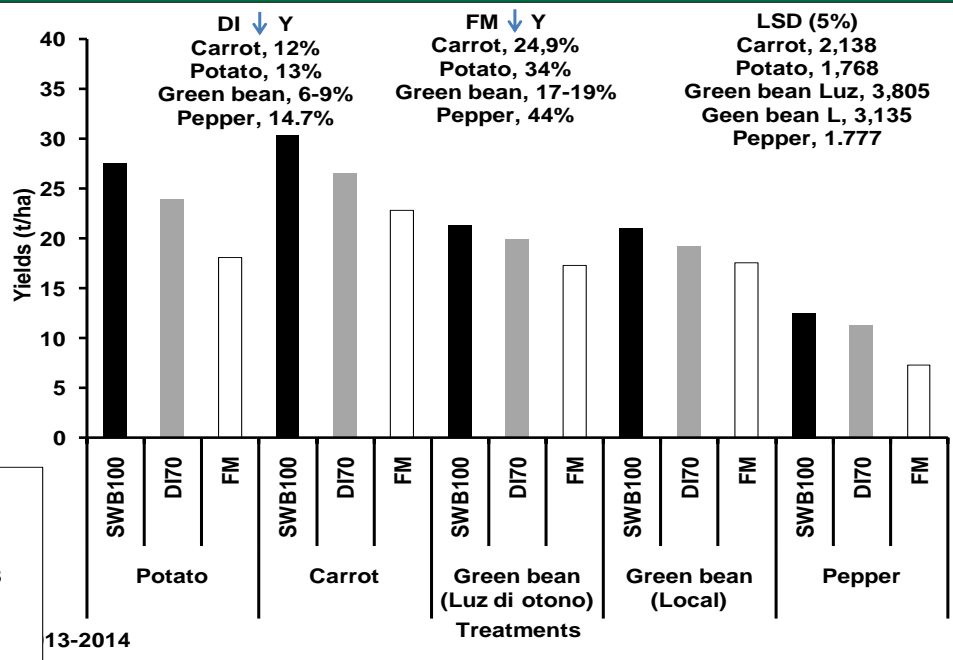
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Results

Crop yield

The highest yield registered in the second season ➡ to low soil salinity and the higher rainfall amounts



The higher soil salinity levels associated with farmer's method induced substantial yield reduction of crops

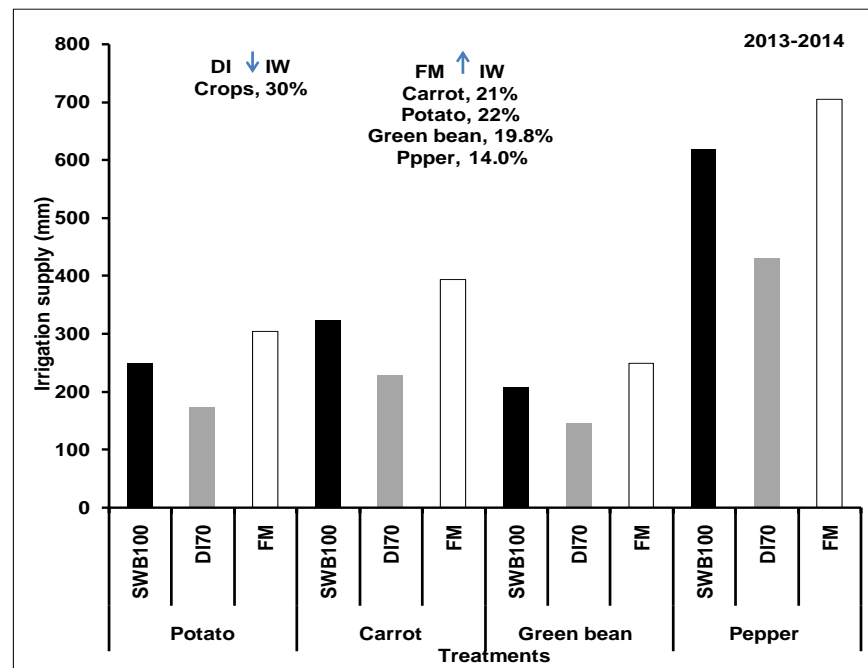
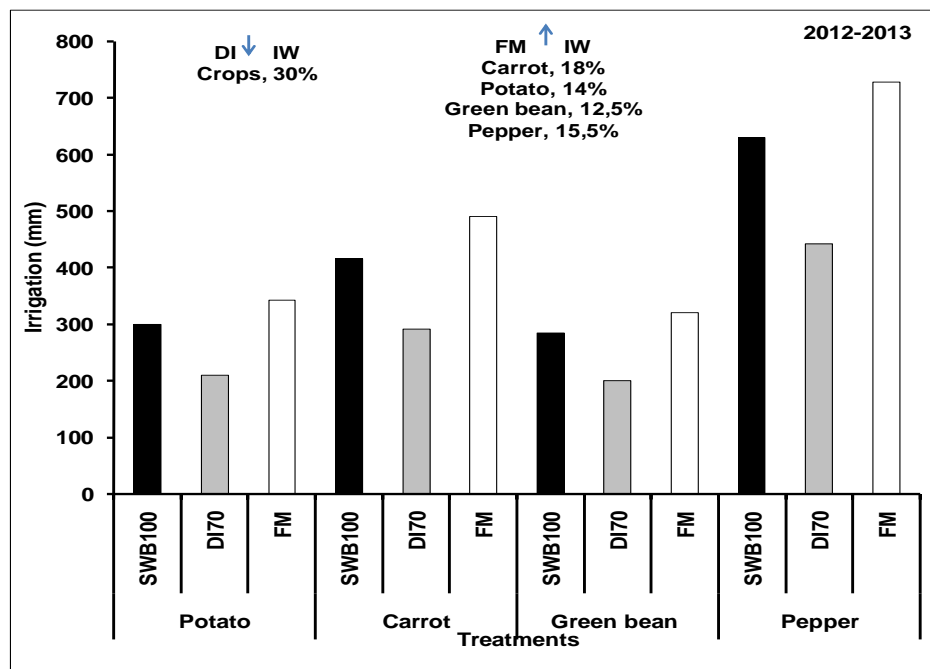


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Results

Water supply





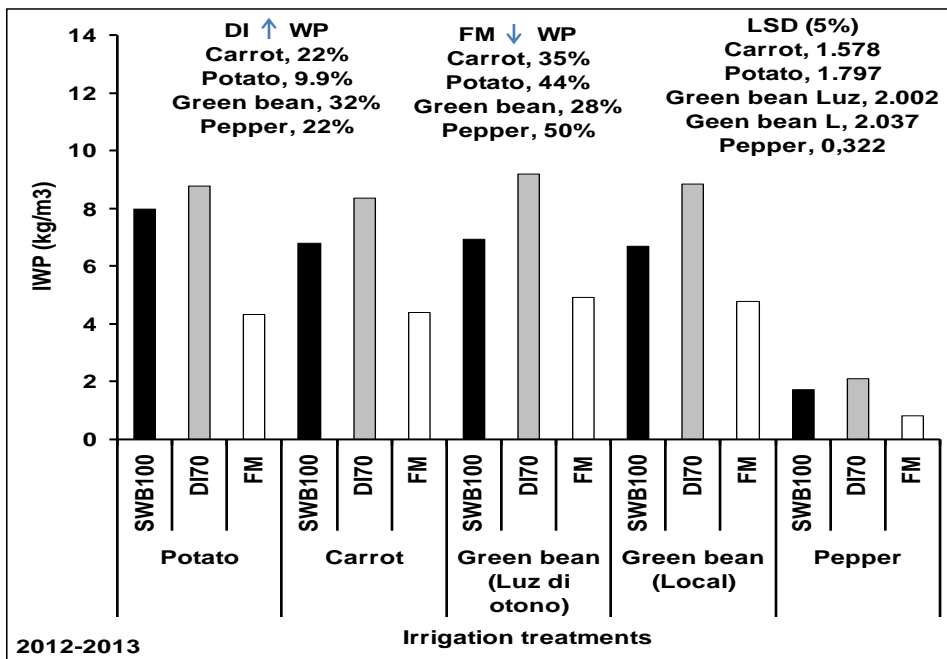
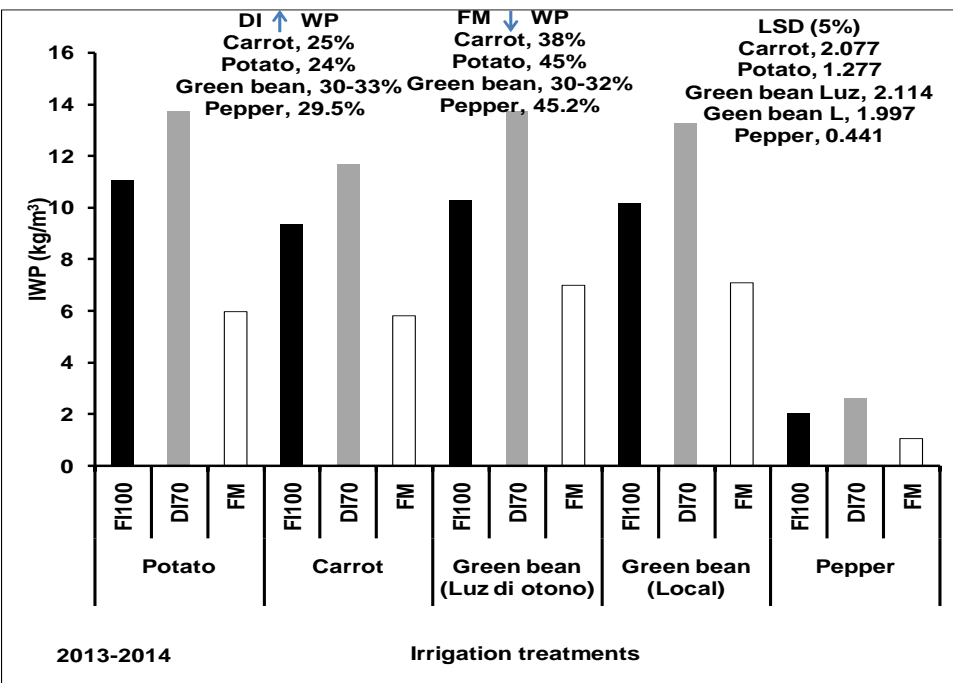
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Irrigation Water Productivity (IWP)

Results

Highest IWP are obtained in 2013-2014



Lowest IWP values were obtained with FM

Yield reduction and higher irrigation water use.



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Results

Economic evaluation

Treatment	Production costs(\$)	Gross return(\$)	Net income(\$)
FI100			
Potato	3634	9411	5777
Green bean	4292	6510	2217
Carrot	2987	7309	4322
Pepper	5604	27625	22020
DI70			
Potato	3576	7867	4290
Green bean	4242	6006	1764
Carrot	2912	6326	3414
Pepper	5485	24312	18827
FM			
Potato	3667	6062	2394
Green bean	4337	5366	1028
Carrot	3036	5555	2519
Pepper	5665	15676	10010

Conclusions

- ❑ SWB scheduling technique (FI100) provides the highest yield and net income with more water saving compared to FM.
 - ❑ Deficit irrigation (DI70) reduced vegetable yields that caused net profit decrease. However, this strategy allowed to improve IWP with 30% water saving and small impact on soil salinization compared to full irrigation strategy.
 - ❑ FM caused yield reduction as results of soil salinity increase
 - ❑ FI scheduling technique based on SWB recommended for irrigation of vegetable crops
-  Implementation of demonstration pilot on farm field assisted farmers to evaluate their local irrigation practices and selected the most useful irrigation strategy through their continuous interaction during the experimental period.



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Acknowledgments

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