

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

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**Sustainable Water Integrated Management** 

(SWIM) Demonstration Project





### **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





### 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.





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.



#### **Field experiments**



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

cultivate over

Average rainfall: 153 mm/year

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

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





#### **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 ETc 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.



Crop evapotranspiration ETc = Kc ETo

Reference evapotranspiration ETo: FAO-56 Penman-Monteith method (Allen et al., 1998)

Irrigation scheduling **>** SWB model

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



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15 16		11 4 12 4	,8 3. .5 30.	2 20 5 19.5	18	4,755	2,064	43,41 45.81		1,7	0,15	0,078	1,198	0,2	0	0,01	0,99	19,58 0	0,35	0,35	5.751	1	0,419	2,013	6,424 0	5,751 11.22	0,569	2,733	15	5,999 5,999	0 0,609	90 80	0,967	0,564	2,709	0 3,318			- 1
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44	4	40 3	,5 31,	5 14,5	12,5	4,622	1,449	31,36		3,2	0,653	0,339	1,253	0,4	0	0,399 0	,601	40,31	0,35	0,35	0	1	0,439	1,535	25,63	4,387	1,092	3,822	29,99	12	0 2,15	8 0	0,967	1,07	3,747	0 5,904			
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47 48	4	43 3 44 3	,6 2 1 28	8 15 1 15.2	13	3,780	1,498	39,62 39,91		3,7	0,754	0,391	1,249	0,44	0	0,489 0	,511 469	0 39.51	0,35	0,35	13,21	0	0.43	0	26.3	13,21	0,754	2,715	32,99 33.99	13,2	0 2.62	0 13,83 5 0	0,967	0,729	2,625	0 2,625			-
49	4	45 3	,5 28,	1 16,8	14,8	3,802	1,684	44,28		2,9	0,821	0,426	1,222	0,467	0	0,567 0	,433	0	0,35	0,35	3,809	1	0,4	1,402	0	7,814	1,222	4,276	34,99	14	0 6,319	9 0	0,967	1,195	4,181	0 10,5			
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54	-	50 3	,8 2	8 14	12	3,780	1,403	37,11		3,1	0,989	0,513	1,244	0,533	0	0,716 0	,284	0	0,35	0,284	7,9	1	0,256	0,971	Ő	11,32	1,244	4,729	39,99	16	0 14,0	5 0	0,967	1,212	4,605	0 18,66			
55 56		52 3	,4 23, ,8 21,	+ 11,9 8 8,3	6,3	2,878	0,955	42,38		3,6	1,023	0,53	1,244	0,547	0	0,751 0	,249 0,22	53,3	0,35	0,249	11,32	0,308	0,068	0,232	41,05	3,372	1,091	4,756	40,99	16,8	0 3,594	0 18,66 4 0	0,967	1,057	4,623	0 3,594			
57		53	3 19,	7,8	5,8	2,324	0,922	39,69		3,5	1,09	0,565	1,249	0,573	0	0,818 0	,182	0	0,35	0,182	3,372	1	0,16	0,479	0	5,999	1,249	3,748	42,99	17,2	0 8,21	7 0	0,967	1,213	3,64	0 11,86			
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**Measured parameters** 

- Soil salinity
- Crop Yield
- Water supply and productivity

WP (kg/m<sup>3</sup>) = Yield (kg/ha) / irrigation water (m<sup>3</sup>/ha)

Economic evaluation

















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EC Economic evaluation

Treatment	Production costs(\$)	Gross return(\$)	Net income(\$)			
	FI10	)0				
Potato	3634	9411	5777			
Green bean	4292	6510	2217			
Carrot	2987	7309	4322			
Pepper	5604	27625	22020			
	DI7	0				
Potato	3576	7867	4290			
Green bean	4242	6006	1764			
Carrot	2912	6326	3414			
Pepper	5485	24312	18827			
	FM	1				
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.



### Acknowledgments

#### Thank you for your attention

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