

*Research Unit for Agriculture in Dry Environments*

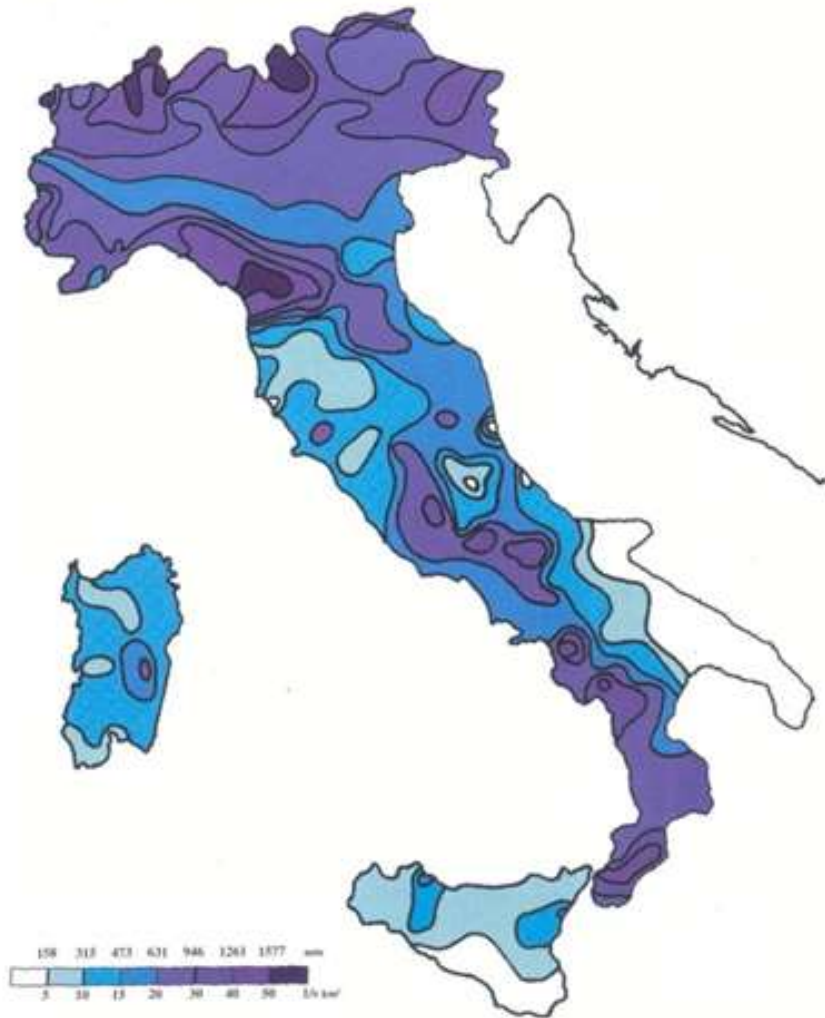
marcello.mastrorilli@crea.gov.it

*The water  
for the Mediterranean agricultural systems  
is a question  
of quantity and quality*

Giornata AIGA di Approfondimento

Lo studio e la tutela delle acque sotterranee  
Aula Magna del Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e  
Geambientali Università di Bari, Via Orabona 4, Bari  
Martedì 25 ottobre, 2016



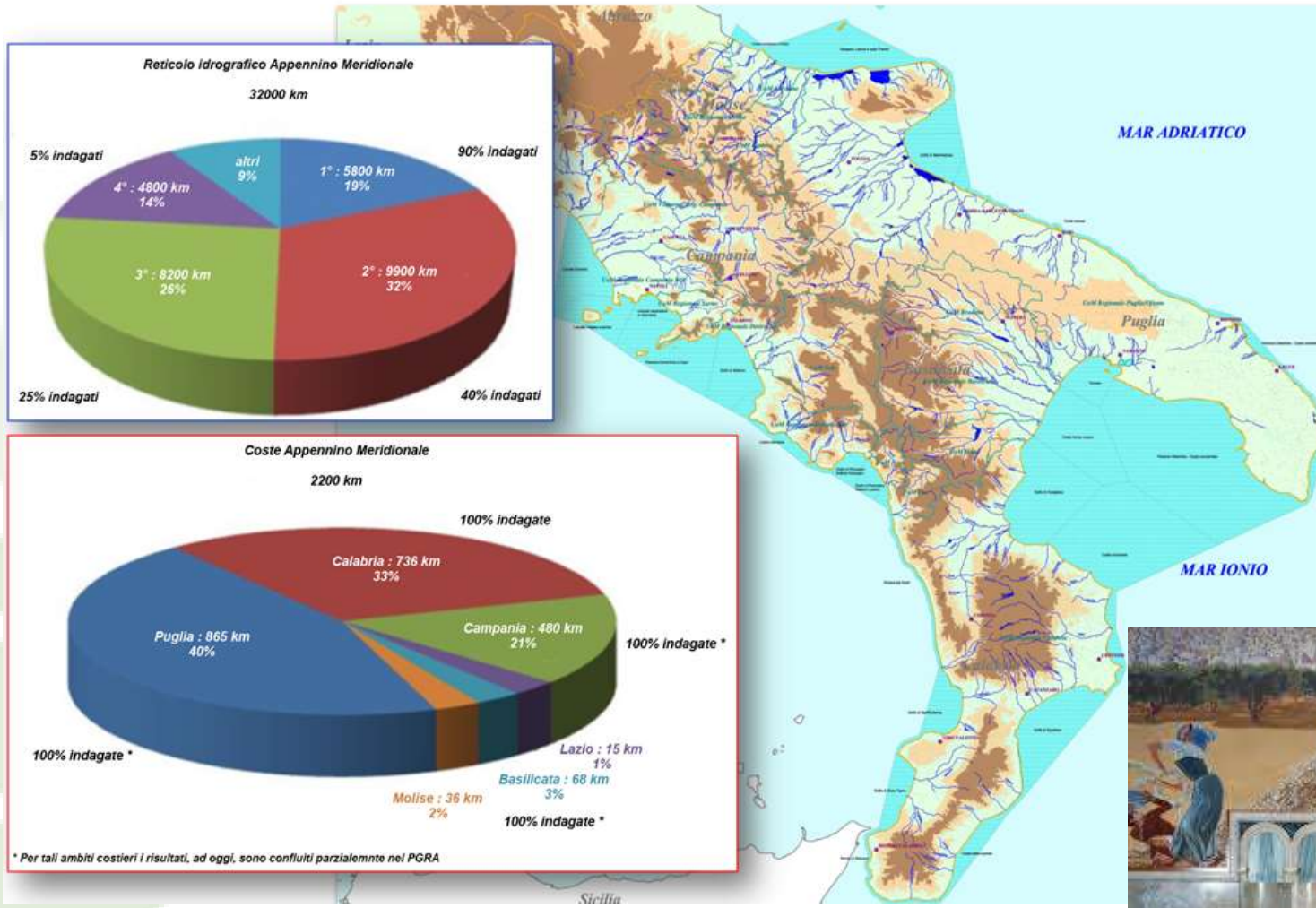


Average annual precipitation in Italy  
(IRSA CNR, 1999)

## hydrographic districts



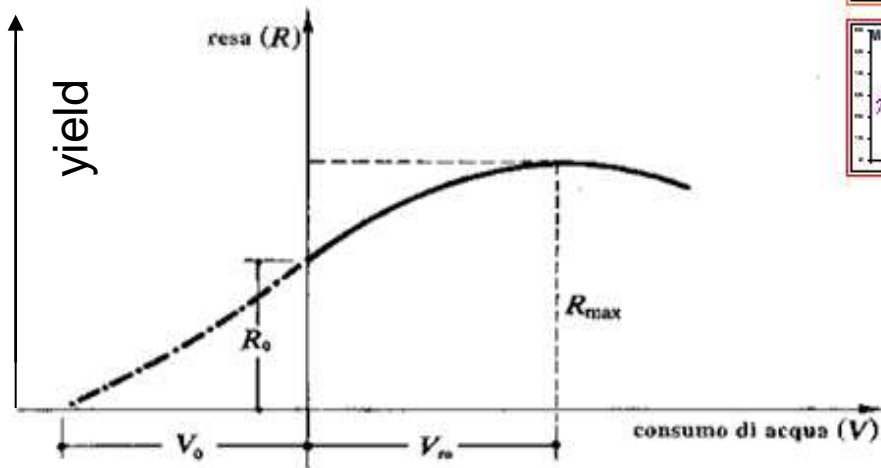
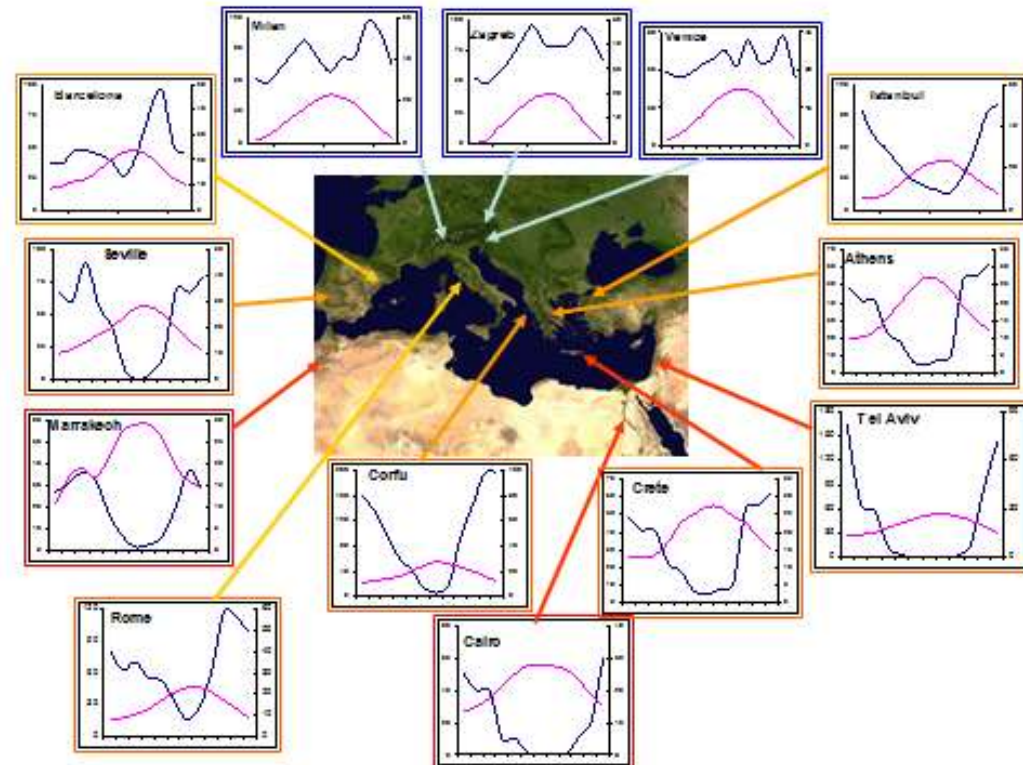
*Distretti idrografici europei e distretti idrografici italiani*



The water for the Mediterranean agricultural systems  
~~is a question of quantity~~ and quality

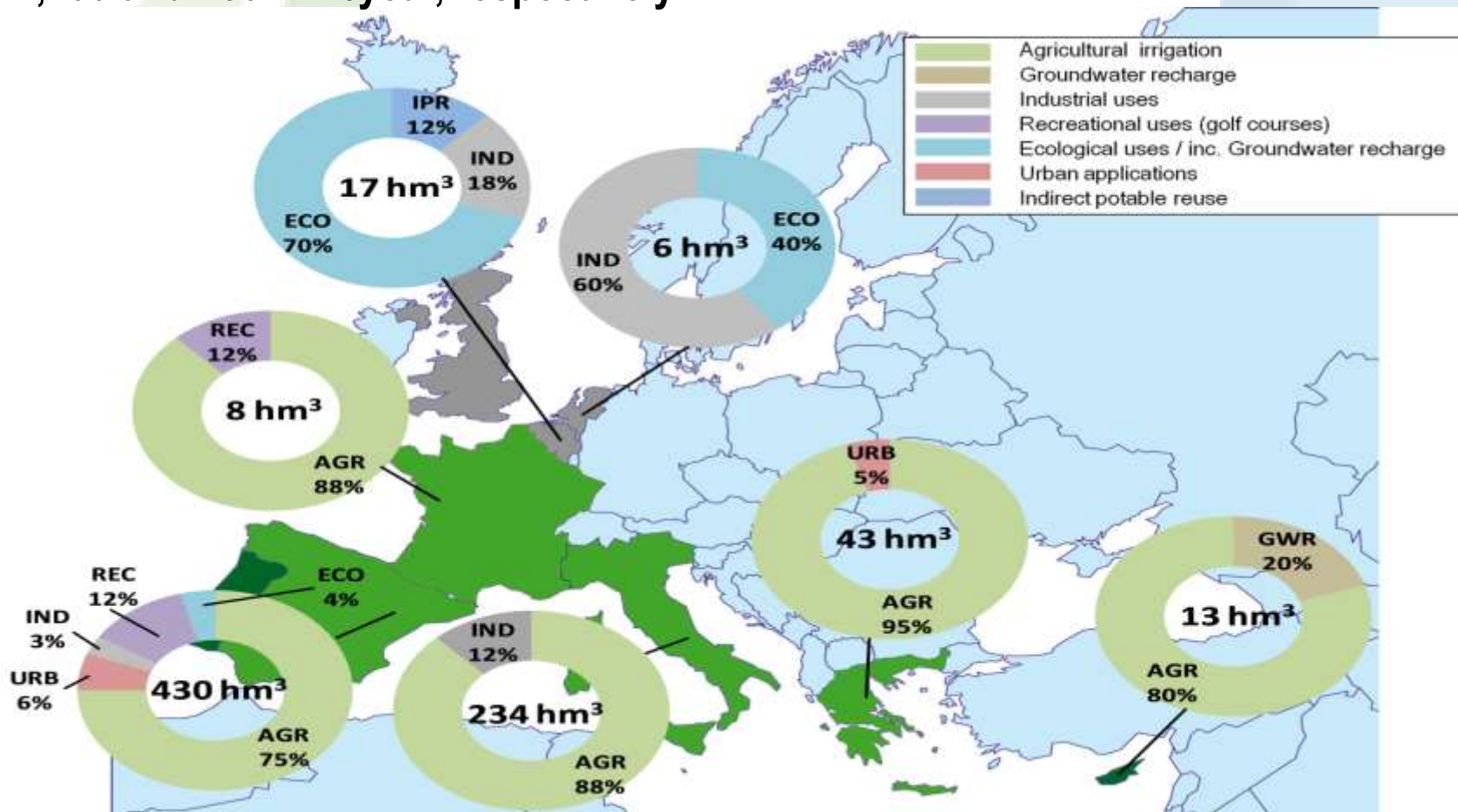


question of water balance



$ET \text{ (mm)} = \text{rain} + \text{irrigation}$

The estimated prediction of water reuse volume will be of **3,222 Hm<sup>3</sup>/year** in Europe by 2025, with **Spain and Italy** showing the greatest reuse potential with **1,200 and 250 Hm<sup>3</sup>/year**, respectively.

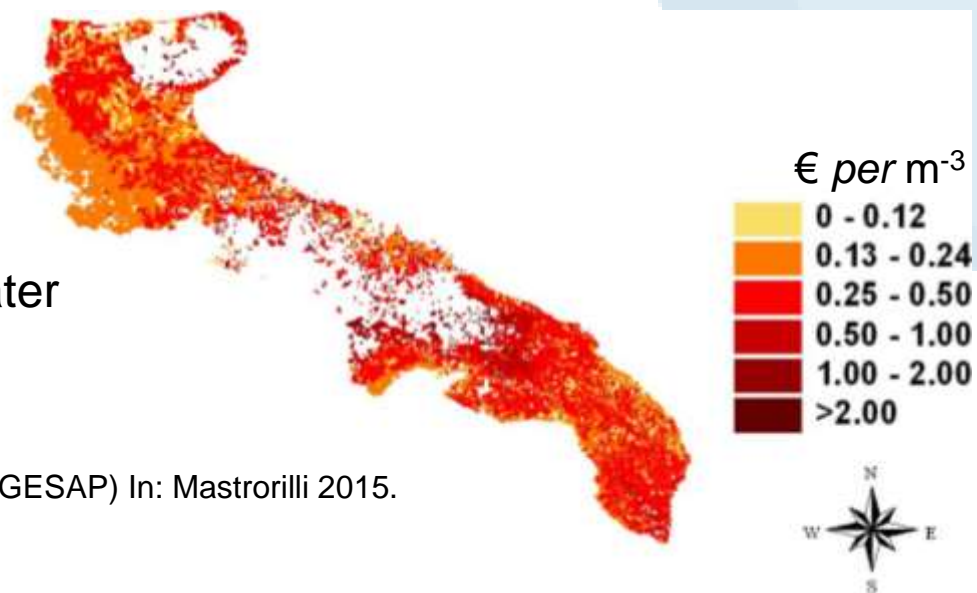


## Water reuse in Europe

Regioni	Acqua superficiale	Acquedotto	Acqua sotterranea	Acque reflue depurate, desalinizzate e salmastre	più di una fonte	Totale
Italia	38,3	18,6	24,0	0,1	19,0	100,0
Nord	48,6	18,8	11,6	0,1	21,0	100,0
Centro	36,2	7,9	41,2	0,1	14,6	100,0
Mezzogiorno	17,1	20,9	46,2	0,1	15,7	100,0
Puglia	6,9	12,1	67,6	0,2	13,2	100,0

is a question of money

## Costs for water supply from groundwater

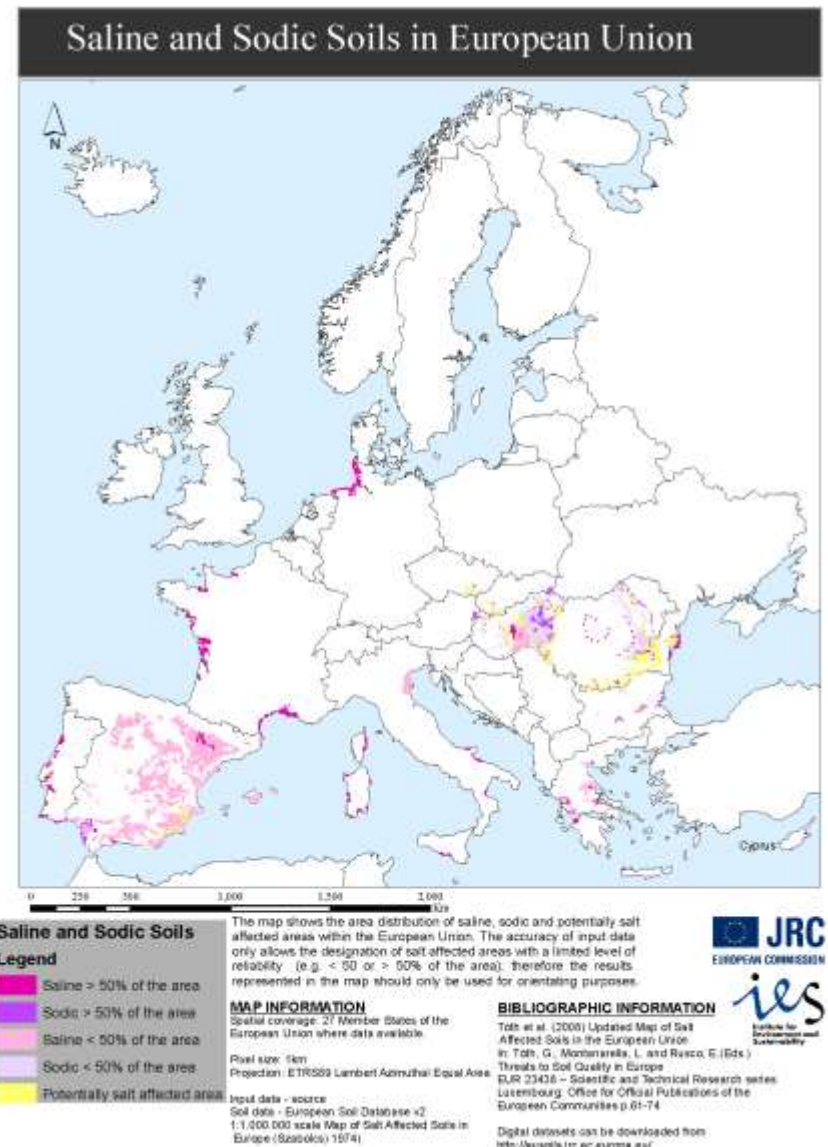


A model of sustainable management of aquifers Puglia (GESAP) In: Mastrorilli 2015.  
L'acqua in Agricoltura, Edagricole, 403 pp

## Soil salinization

- Worldwide: 1128 million Ha
- Europe: 20,7 millions Ha
- Natural and anthropogenic causes
- Loss of soil fertility
- Slow down or reverse through  
lixiviation
- Three types: saline, sodic, saline-  
sodic

Institute for Environment and Sustainability (2009).  
Wicke et al. (2011). Energy Environ. Sci. 4:2669-2681.





## Soil salinization

Main parameters distinguishing the soils  
affected by salinity and alkalinity

- Worldwide:
- Europe: 20,
- Natural and

Tipi di suolo	EC <sub>e</sub> (dS m <sup>-1</sup> )	ESP (%)	pH
Suoli salini	> 4	< 15	< 8,5
Suoli alcalini	< 4	> 15	> 8,5
Suoli salino-alcalini	> 4	> 15	> 8,5

- Loss of soil fertility
- Slow down or reverse through  
lixiviation
- Three types: saline, sodic, saline-  
sodic

EC = electrical conductivity of  
saturated paste extract; ESP  
= exchangeable sodium  
percentage.

$$ESP = \frac{[Na^+]}{[Na^+ + K^+ + Ca^{2+} + Mg^{2+}]}$$

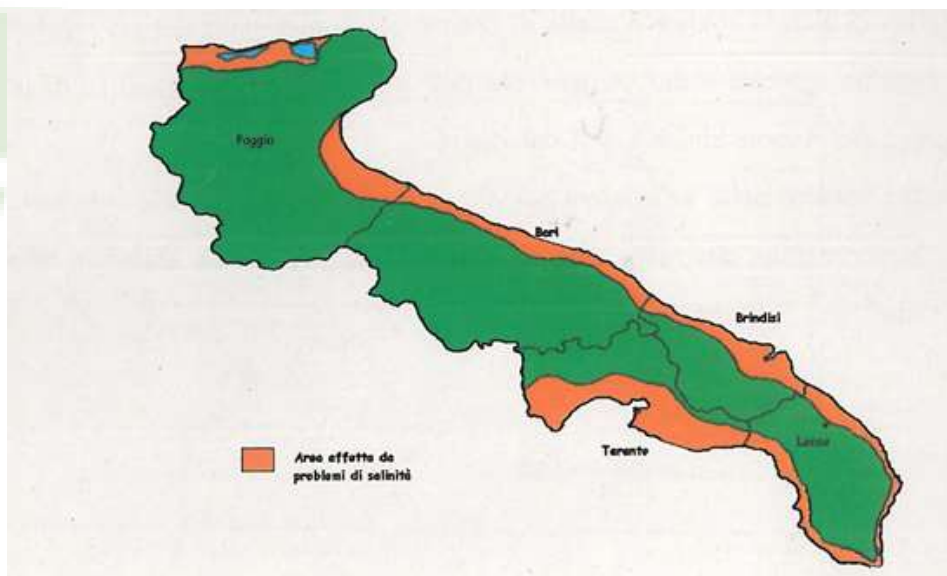
## Salinity problem

**0.25-1.5 million** irrigated hectares per year are lost because of salinization

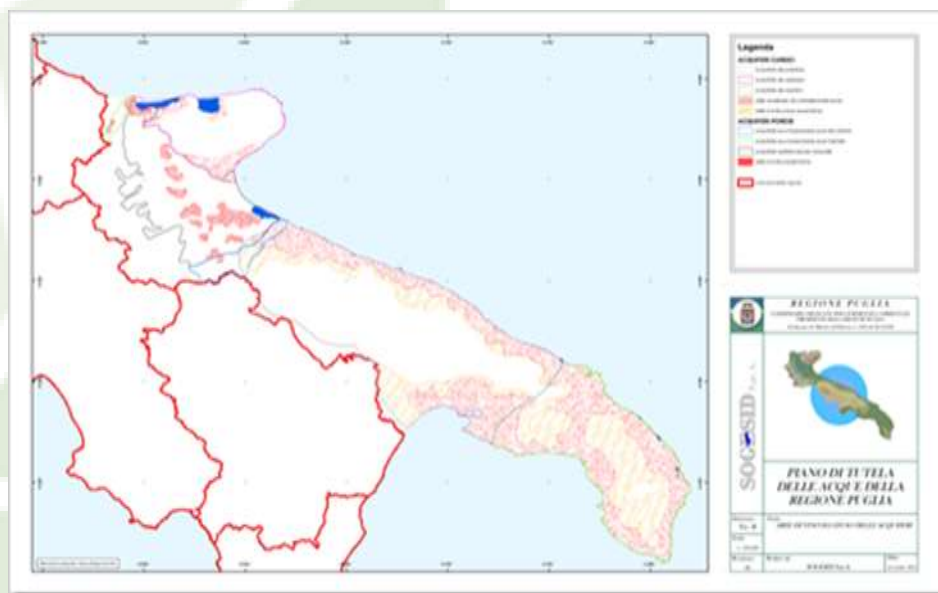
Soil secondary salinization in the semi-arid regions seriously affects the productivity of at least **20-30 million ha**

**11%** of the total irrigated surface

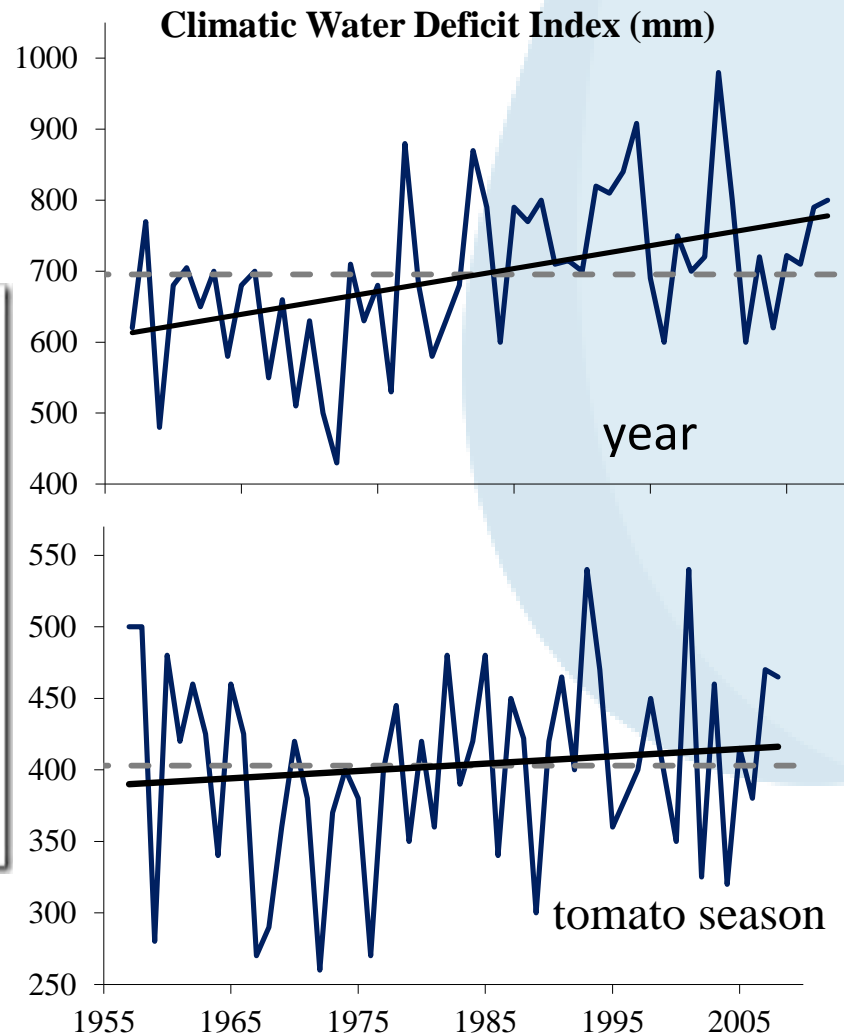
An estimated **100,000** hectares are irrigated with water from aquifers, of which 85% have a very high level of salts



## Salinity problem

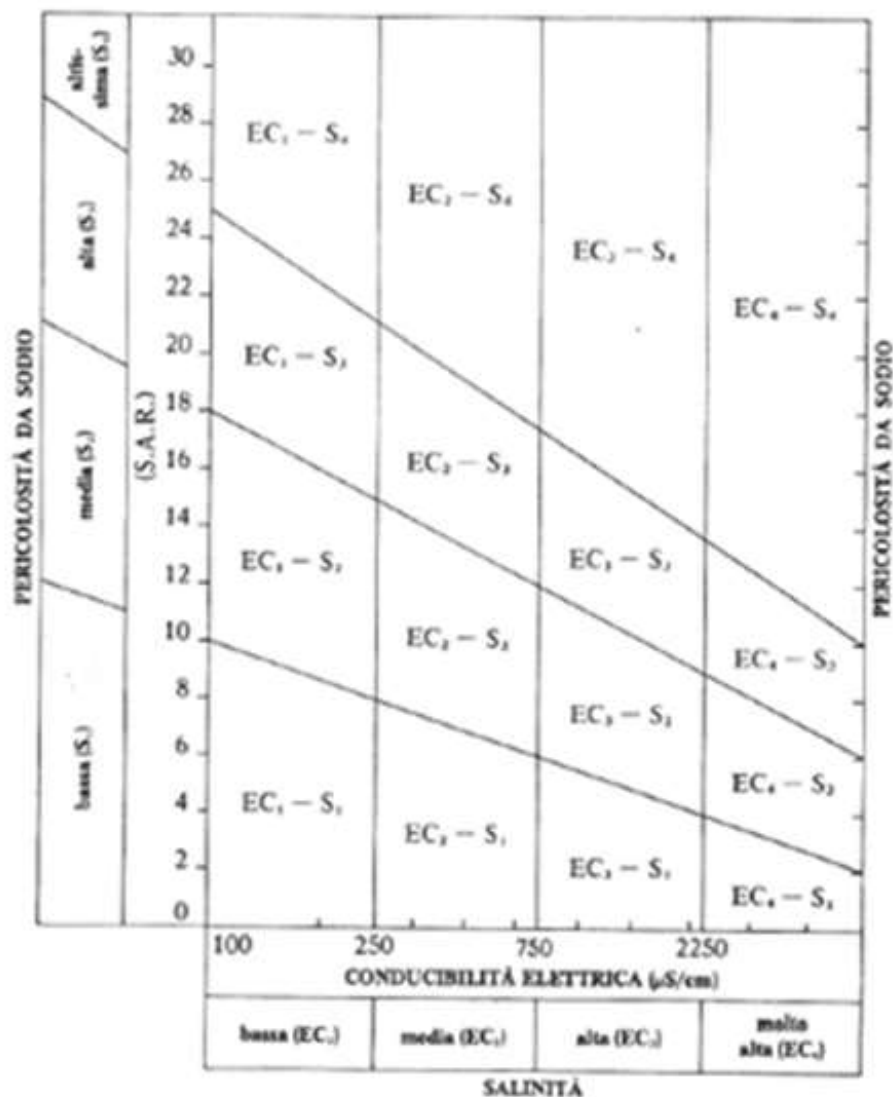


“Aree di vincolo d’uso degli acquiferi”  
(Tav. B della Relazione del PTA) 2006



## Guidelines for assessing water quality for irrigation (Ayers and Westcot, 1994)

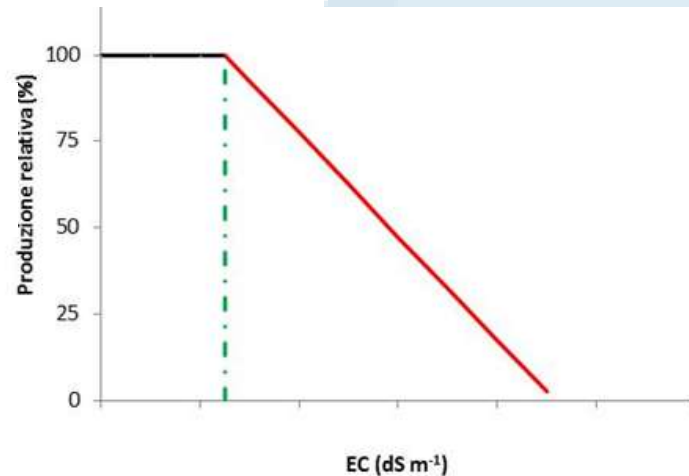
Problemi potenziali dell'irrigazione	Parametro		Nessuna
Salinità (influenza la disponibilità di acqua per la coltura)	EC <sub>w</sub> (dS m <sup>-1</sup> )		< 0,7
	TDS (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )		< 450
Infiltrazione (influenza la velocità di infiltrazione dell'acqua nel terreno tenendo conto, contemporaneamente, di EC <sub>w</sub> e SAR)	SAR = 0-3	con EC <sub>w</sub>	> 0,7
	SAR = 3-6	con EC <sub>w</sub>	> 1,2
	SAR = 6-12	con EC <sub>w</sub>	> 1,9
	SAR = 12-20	con EC <sub>w</sub>	> 2,9
	SAR = 20-40	con EC <sub>w</sub>	> 5,0
Tossicità (effetti da ioni specifici su specie vegetali sensibili)			
<b>Sodio (Na)</b>			
Irrigazione superficiale	SAR		< 3
Irrigazione a pioggia	meq L <sup>-1</sup>		< 3
<b>Cloro (Cl)</b>			
Irrigazione superficiale	meq L <sup>-1</sup>		< 4
Irrigazione a pioggia	meq L <sup>-1</sup>		< 3
<b>Boro (B)</b>			
	mg L <sup>-1</sup>		< 0,7



## Salinity and agronomic options



general model: yield vs.  
salinity  
(Maas and Hoffman, 1977)



biphasic growth response to  
salt stress of 3  
genotypes:

1. sensitive (S)
2. moderately tolerant (M)
3. tolerant (T)

(adapted by Munns, 1993)

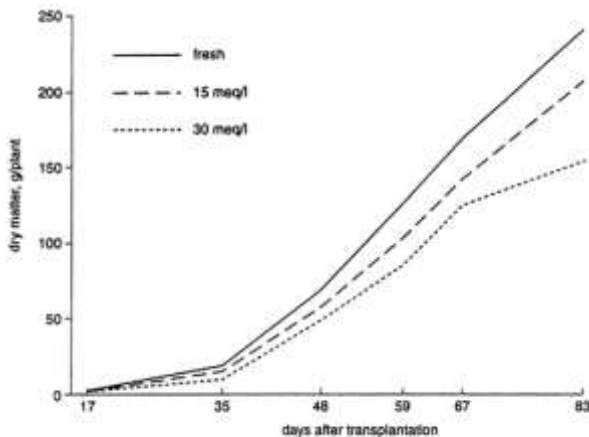
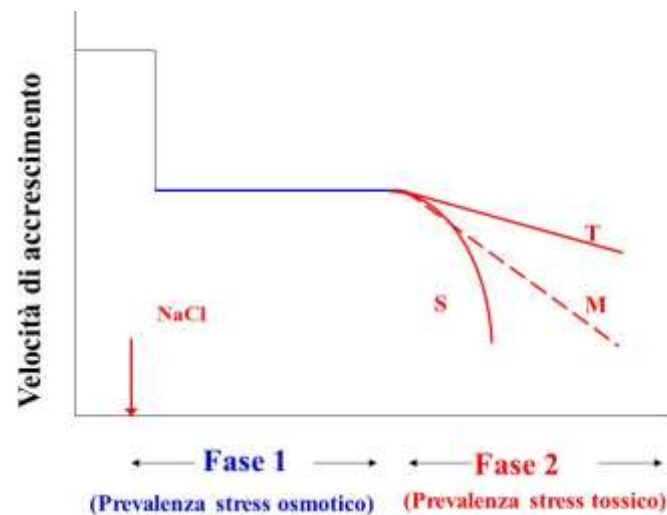


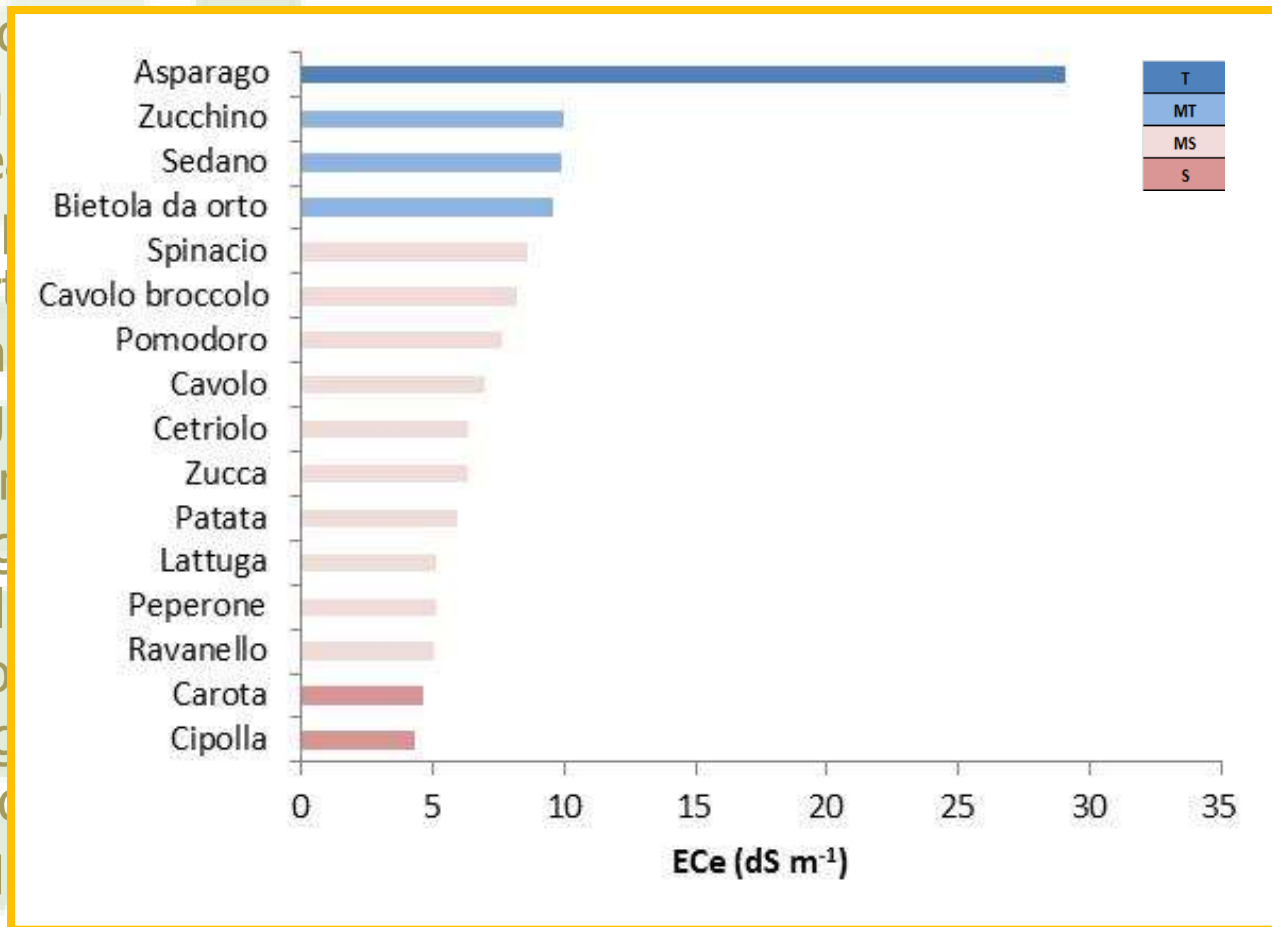
Fig. 4. Leaf area vs. days after transplantation on loam.

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation water
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layers (and superficial crusts)
- crop rotation (irrigated – rainfed crops)
- vertical tillage
- scheduling crop fertilization at different rates
- organic amendment supply
- blending saline and fresh waters
- irrigation methods which do not favor the accumulation of solutes in the soil volume where the roots of the crop are more active
- short irrigation intervals
- irrigation volumes in excess, higher than those required to bring to the field capacity the soil layer colonized by the roots (leaching requirement)

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated



erficial crusts)

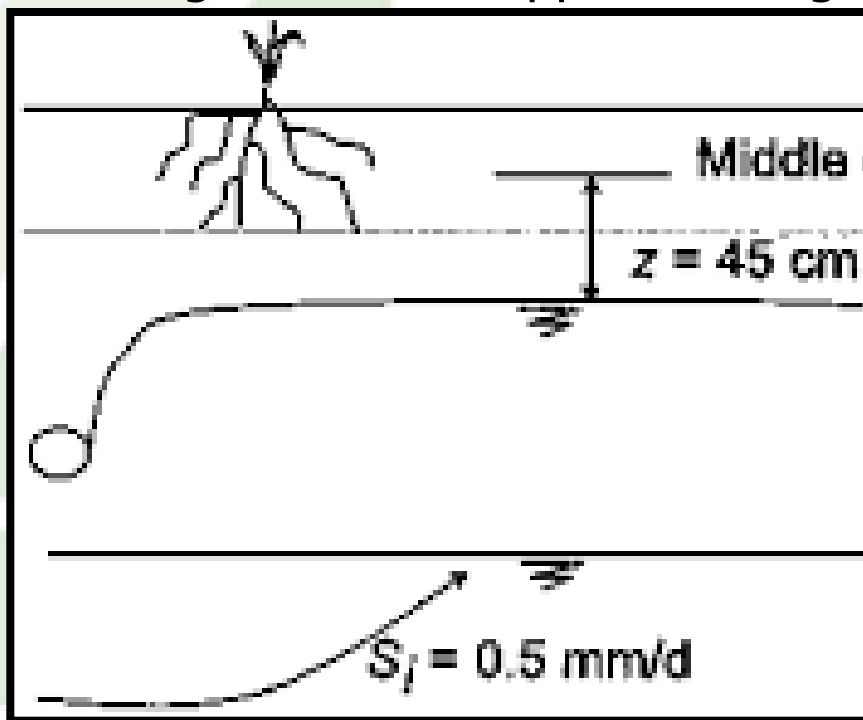
f solutes in the

o bring to the

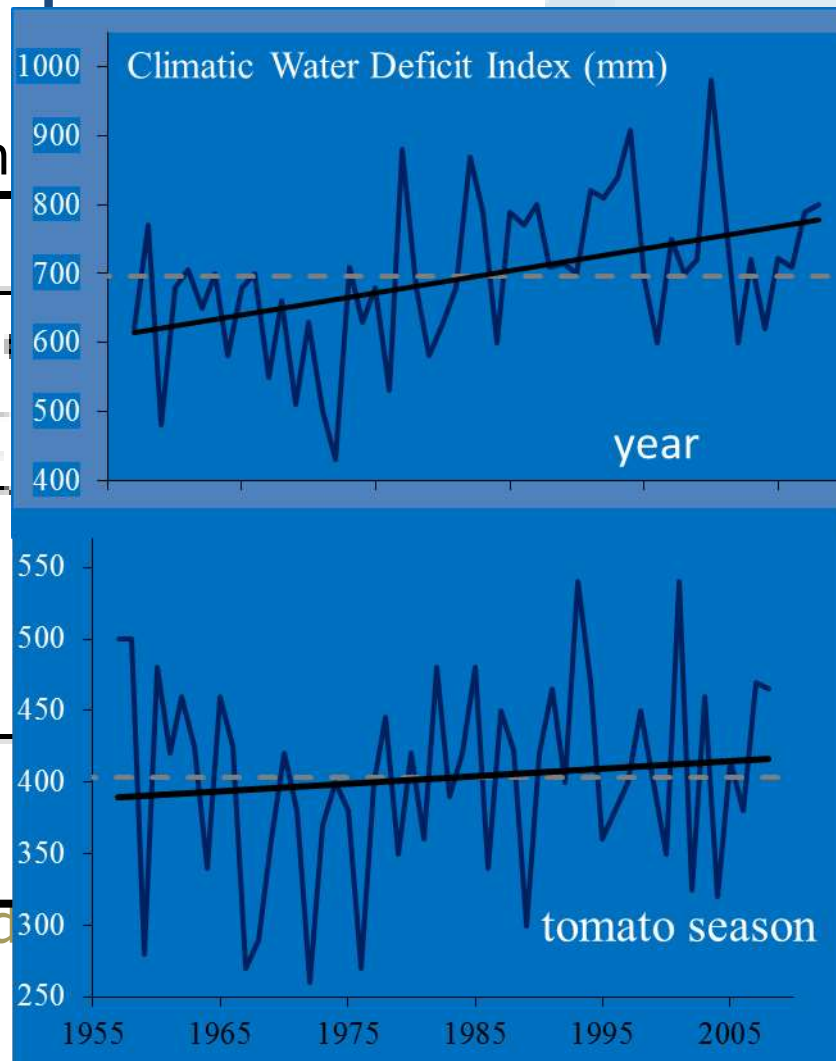
g

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through



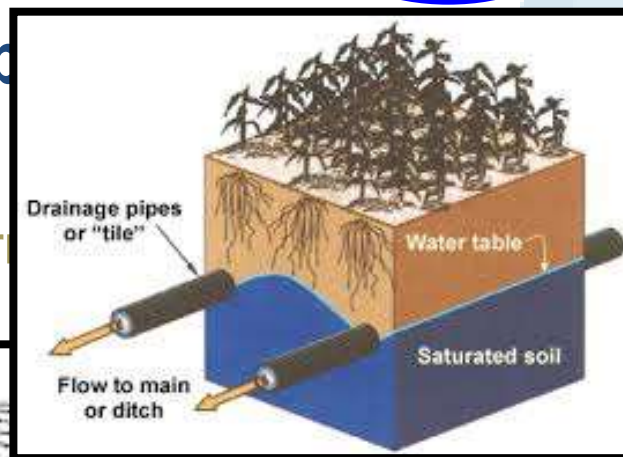
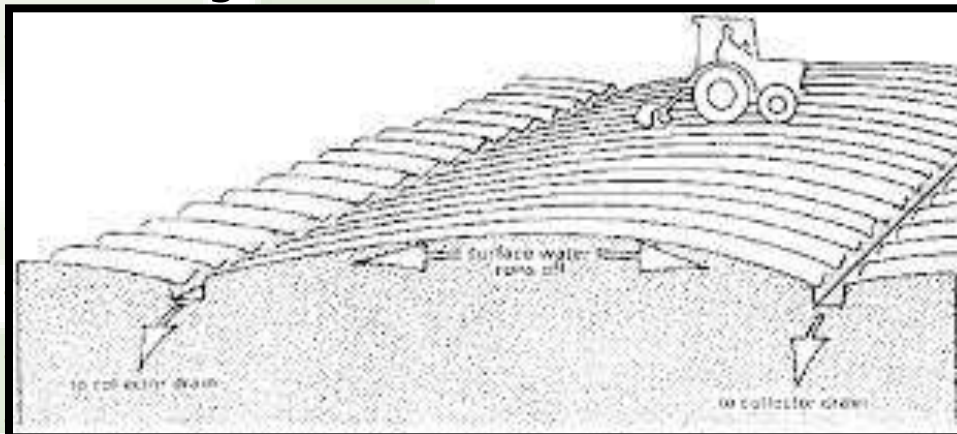
field capacity the soil layer colonized  
(requirement)





## agro-techniques prescrip

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation
- drainage network



- soil volume where the roots of the crop are located
- short irrigation intervals
- irrigation volumes in excess, higher than the field capacity the soil layer colonized by roots (in the case of a requirement)



crusts)

n the

the

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation water
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layers (and superficial crusts)

- crop rotation (irrigated – rainfed)
- vertical tillage
- scheduling crop fertilization
- organic amendment supply
- blending saline and fresh water
- irrigation methods which do not increase soil volume where the roots are
- short irrigation intervals
- irrigation volumes in excess of field capacity the soil layer (in excess of requirement)



## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation water
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layers (and superficial crusts)
- crop rotation (irrigated – rainfed crops)



field capacity the soil layer colonized by the roots (leaching requirement)

solute in the

bringing to the

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation water
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layers (and superficial crusts)
- crop rotation (irrigated – rainfed crops)
- vertical tillage



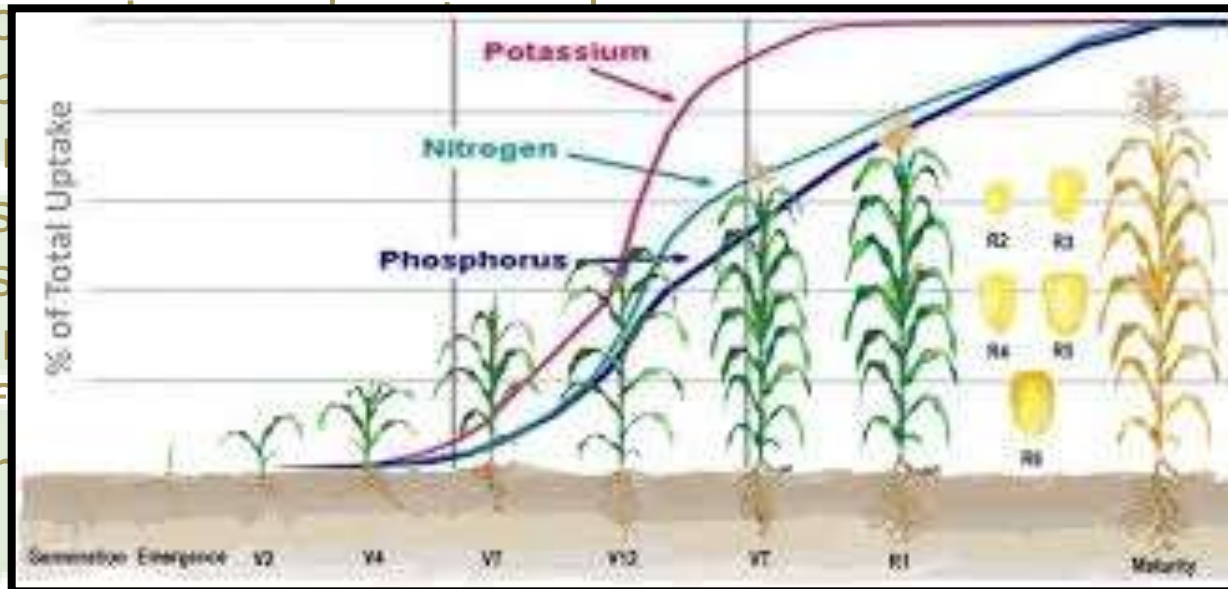
field capacity the soil layer coloniz  
requirement)

the

he

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation water
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layers (and superficial crusts)
- crop rotation (irrigated – rainfed crops)
- vertical tillage
- scheduling crop fertilization at different rates

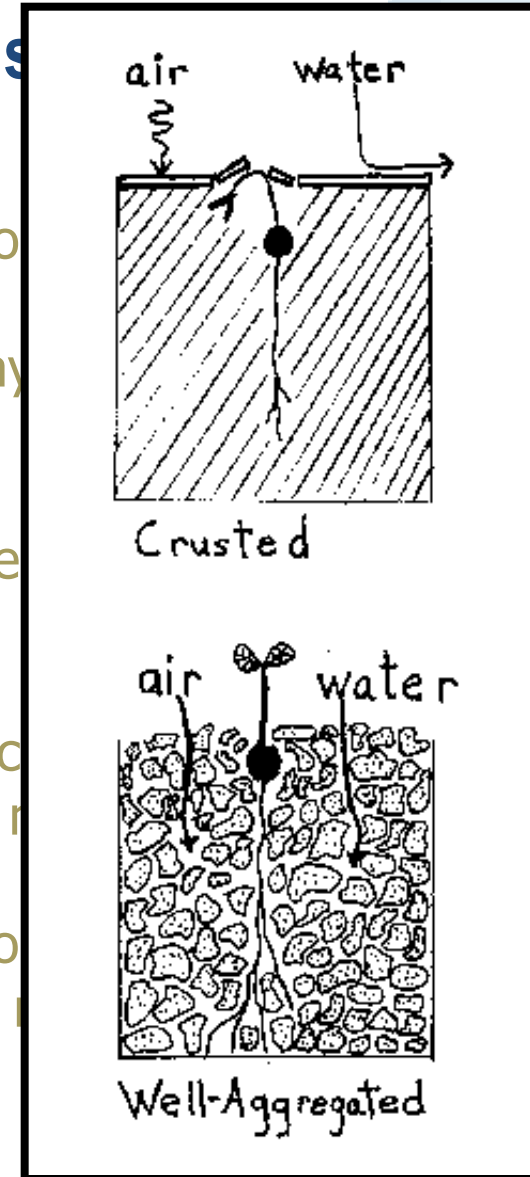
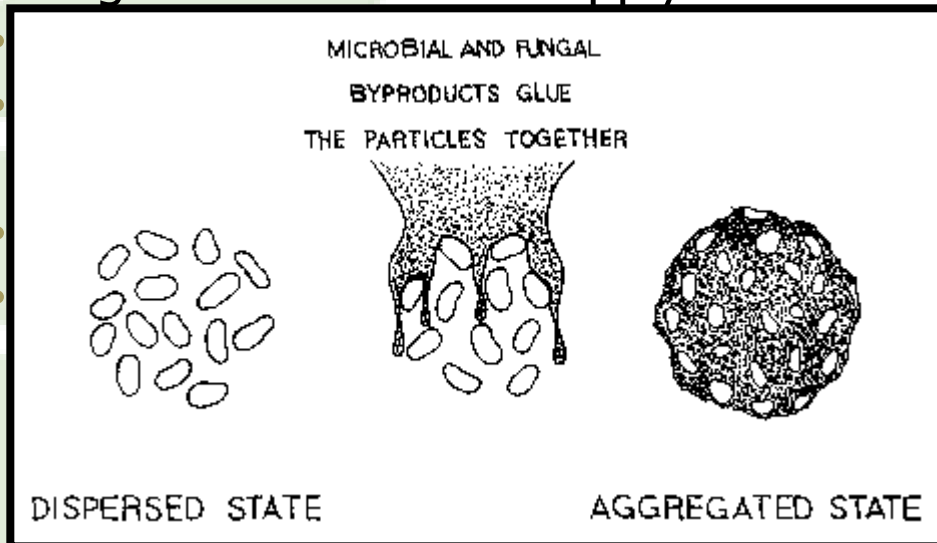


on of solutes in the  
ve

ed to bring to the  
ching

## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layer
- crop rotation (irrigated – rainfed crops)
- vertical tillage
- scheduling crop fertilization at different rates
- organic amendment supply



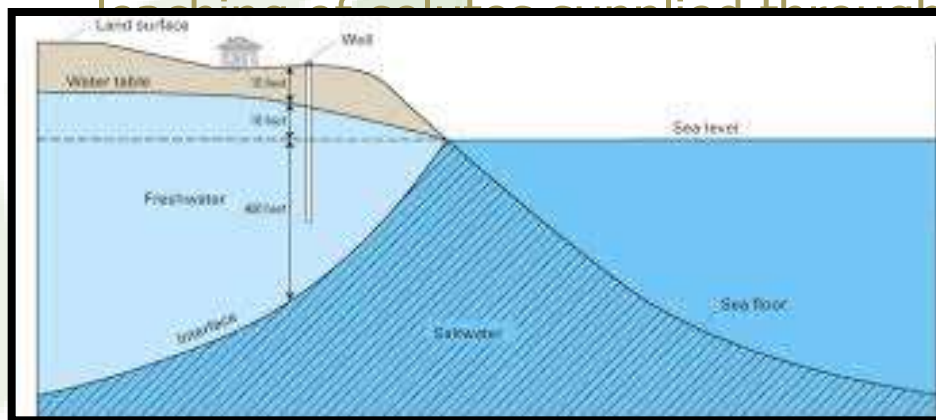
usts)

in the

the

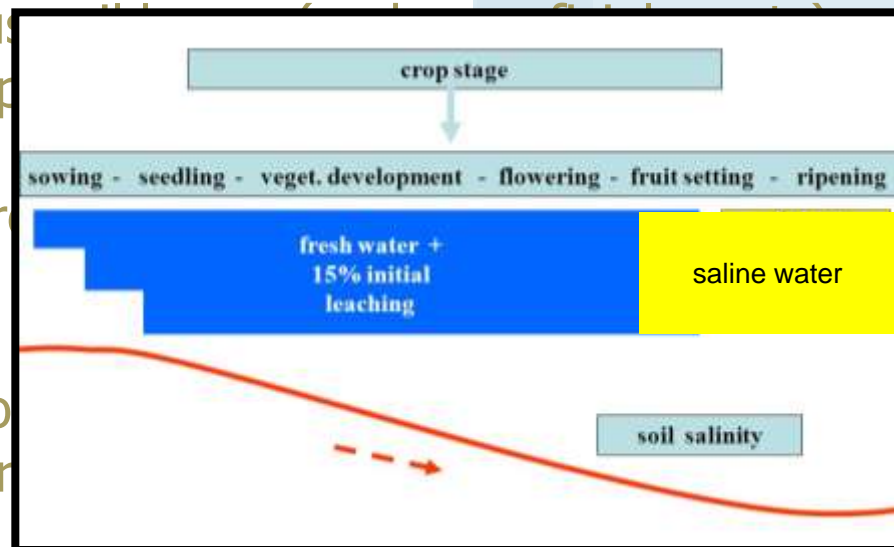
## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated



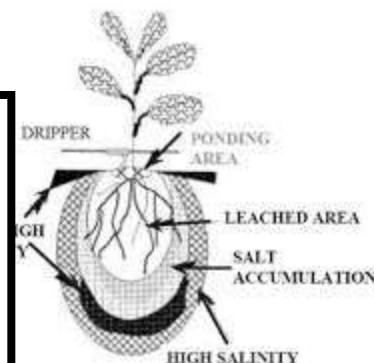
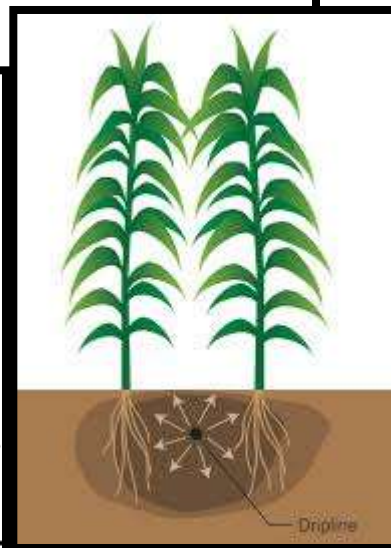
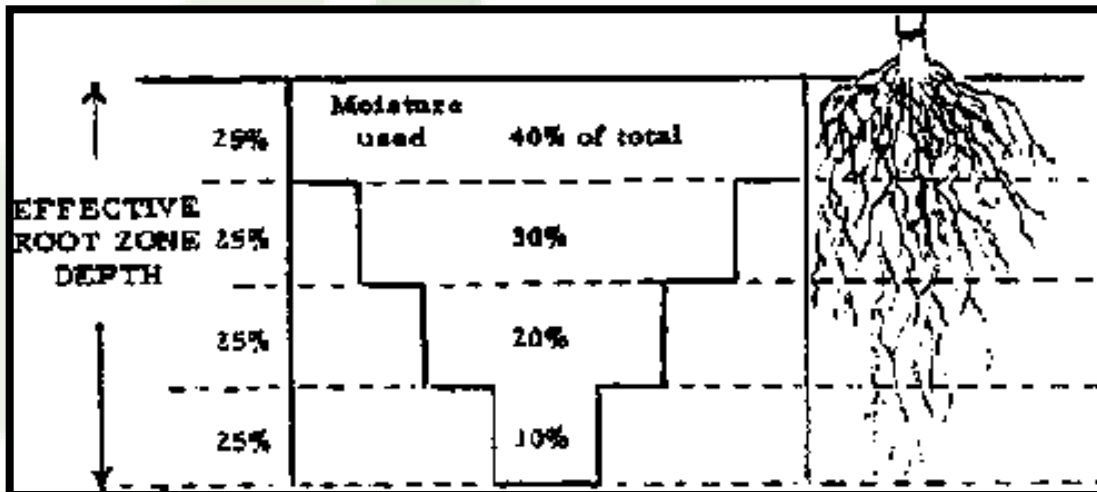
- blending saline and fresh waters
- irrigation methods which do not favor soil volume where the roots of the crop are
- short irrigation intervals
- irrigation volumes in excess, higher than those required to bring to the field capacity the soil layer colonized by the roots (leaching requirement)

irrigation water



## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated

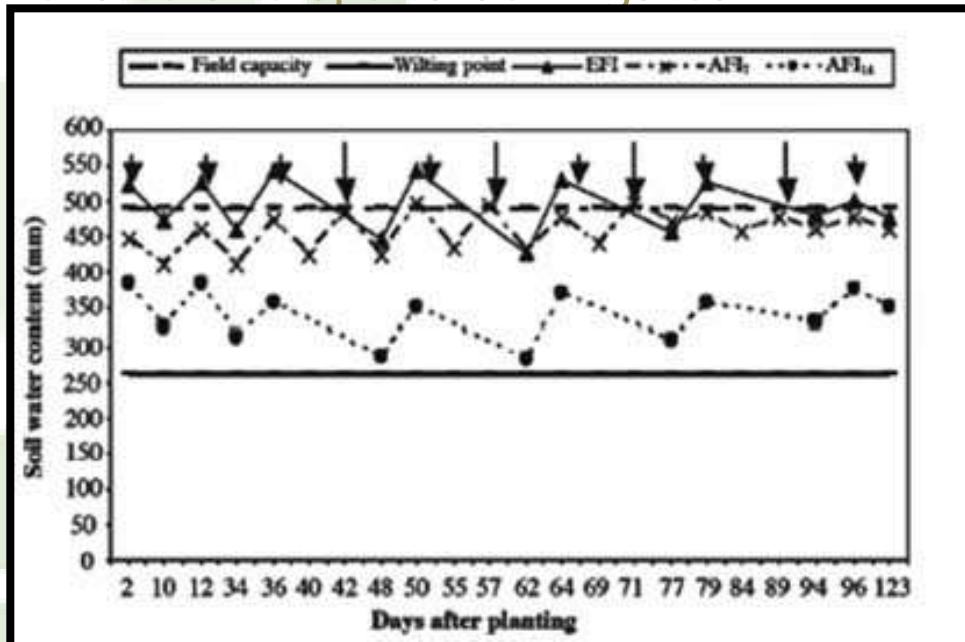


- irrigation methods which do not favor the accumulation of solutes in the soil volume where the roots of the crop are more active
- short irrigation intervals
- irrigation volumes in excess, higher than those required to bring to the field capacity the soil layer colonized by the roots (leaching requirement)



## agro-techniques prescriptions

- choice of crops to be irrigated



- short irrigation intervals
- irrigation volumes in excess, higher than those required to bring to the field capacity the soil layer colonized by the roots (leaching requirement)

irrigation water

oil layers (and superficial crusts)

rates

the accumulation of solutes in the  
are more active

## agro-techniques prescriptions

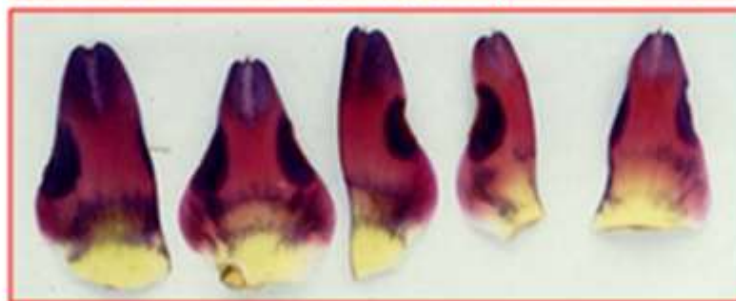
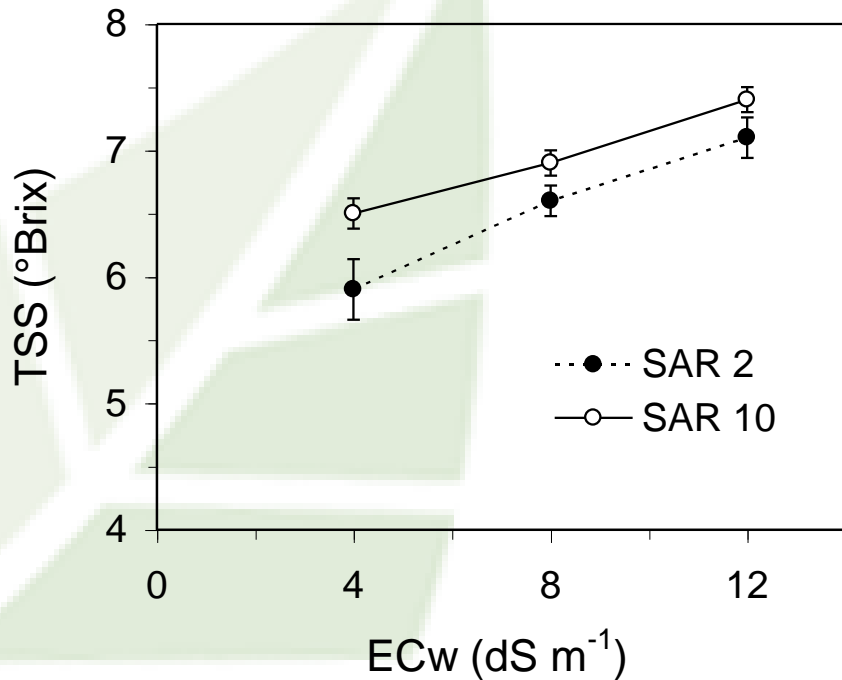
- choice of crops to be irrigated
- leaching of solutes supplied through irrigation water
- drainage network
- breaking and / or removal impervious soil layers (and superficial crusts)

$$LR = EC_w / EC_{dw} = D_{dw} / D_w$$

- LR = leaching requirement, in percento del volume di adacquamento;
- $EC_w$  = conducibilità elettrica ( $dS\ m^{-1}$ ) dell'acqua d'irrigazione;
- $EC_{dw}$  = conducibilità elettrica ( $dS\ m^{-1}$ ) dell'acqua di drenaggio dallo strato radicale, massima compatibile con la produzione ipotizzata della coltura;
- $D_{dw}$  = quantità di acqua di drenaggio espressa in altezza (mm);
- $D_w$  = quantità di acqua irrigua espressa in altezza (mm).

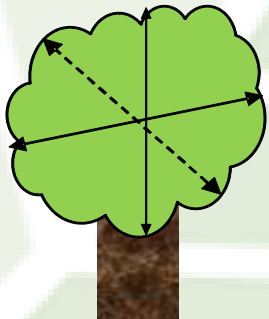
- irrigation volumes in excess, higher than those required to bring to the field capacity the soil layer colonized by the roots (leaching requirement)

the



Periodic plant measurements

Tree Canopy



Leaf Analysis



Fruit Diameter, fruit set



Stem water potential



Leaf gas exchange



Harvest

Yield assessment

Production  
(kg.tree<sup>-1</sup>)

Diameter distribution



Quality indexes



TA

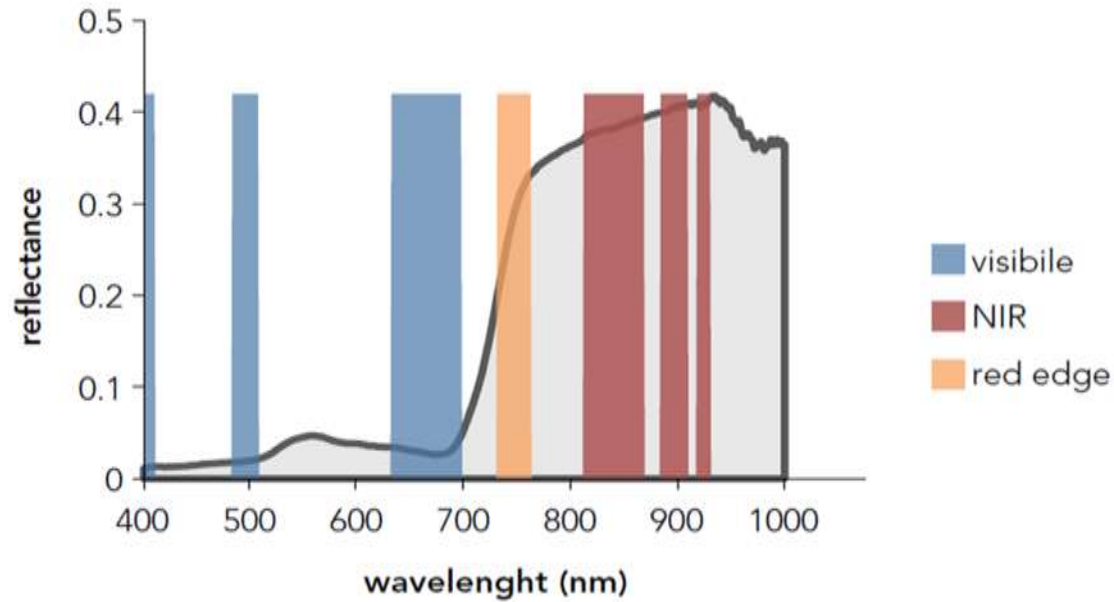
SSC

pH

Vitamin C

Fruit safety





## Soil measurements



### Soil water content

- Matric soil water potential
- Soil solution water quality



*Research Unit for Agriculture in Dry Environments*

marcello.mastrorilli@crea.gov.it

*The water  
for the Mediterranean agricultural systems  
is a question  
of quantity and quality*

**grazie**

Giornata AIGA di Approfondimento

Lo studio e la tutela delle acque sotterranee  
Aula Magna del Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e  
Geocombustibili Università di Bari, Via Orabona 4, Bari  
Martedì 25 ottobre, 2016

