

Making use of saline water- the case for salt-water agriculture

Training programme (11th, 12th, 13th, 18th and 19th September 2017)

Day 1: Basics of water and soil salinity in regard to irrigated agriculture (Mon 11 September)

Prof. Isidoro D.

Time	Activity
08.45	Registration of participants
09.00	Opening session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome address - Presentation of the training program - Presentation of the participants
9:30	Introduction: Scope of the salinity problem in irrigated agriculture (D. Isidoro)
10.00	Coffee-break
10.30	Principles of salinity: Waters (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measurements of water salinity - Solubility and precipitation of salts in the soil environment - The origin of dissolved salts in natural waters - Water quality monitoring
11:30	Coffee-break
12.00	Principles of salinity: Soils (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The salts in the soil solution: salinity and sodicity - Mechanisms of soil salinization - The need for leaching: The leaching fraction
13:00	Lunch
15.00	Monitoring of soil salinity (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measurements of soil salinity and sodicity - Saline-alkaline soils - Monitoring soil salinity/sodicity
17.00	Closure of the day

Day 2: Managing water quality for irrigation (Tues 12 September)

Prof. Isidoro D.

Time	Activity
09.00	Effects of salinity on plants (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mechanisms of salt stress- Measuring crop tolerance to salinity- Models of crop response to salinity
09.45	Effects of salinity on soils (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Soil salinization- Soil degradation by sodification
10:30	Water quality for irrigation (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Other effects of water salinity on irrigated systems- Water quality guidelines- Irrigation practice: The leaching fraction
11.15	Coffee break
11.45	Practical section using Hydrus Model
13.00	Lunch
15.00	Tackling salinity issues in irrigated agriculture (D. Isidoro) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Salinity management in surface irrigation- Salinity management in sprinkler irrigation- Salinity management in drip irrigation- Salinity management at farm and irrigation district scale
17.00	Closure of the day

Day 3: Field trip to desalination plants (Wed 13 September)

Day 4: Master class in writing and winning contract research (Monday 18th September)

Time	Activity
09.15	Identifying EU funding opportunities for research <i>Dr Cecilia Fenech Brincat, Research and Innovation Office, CU</i> Introduction to the online portals and research funding opportunities including Horizon 2020 programme; Delegates introduced to Research Professional and other

	search facilities; hands-on training in using search databases.
10.45	Coffee break
11.00	Developing a personal strategy for winning contract research <i>Prof Jerry Knox</i> Understanding the proposal writing process; what makes a good proposal; the 7 tips for successful proposal writing; ethics, Health and Safety and Environmental policy, gender aspects; evaluation criteria
12.30	Buffet lunch
13.30	Drafting a research proposal: individual exercise <i>Prof Jerry Knox, Dr Steve Hallett</i> Delegates given an Invitation to Tender (ITT) document with a project brief. They will then develop an outline plan for their research including potential partners, outline research approach, indicative budget, timeline and planned outputs. Round up and discussion with each delegate describing their planned approach for their proposal
17.30	Workshop close. Participants return to accommodation

Day 5: Research paper writing (Tuesday 19th September)

Time	Activity
09.00	Transferable skills – the art of technical writing <i>Prof Jerry Knox</i> Learning how to write for different audiences is an important transferable skill. This lecture will cover technical writing, writing quality, and writing an Abstract
10.30	Coffee break
10.45	Writing a research paper <i>Prof Andre Thompson</i> Getting published is a critical element of research. This lecture will cover the peer review process, steps to writing a high quality science paper and getting published
12.00	Promoting and disseminating your research <i>Dr Ruben Sakrabani</i> Getting a paper published is only half the story. Getting your work disseminated, read, and cited is key to developing your research track record and reputation. This lecture will focus on different online systems, bibliographic databases, and ways in which you can maximise the impact and outreach of your research
13.00	Workshop lunch