

Improving water management in agriculture

Irrigation and food production

Edited by Professor Jerry Knox, Cranfield University, UK




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Improving water management in agriculture

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Description:

Irrigated agriculture accounts for around 70% of global water use. However, an estimated 60% of irrigated cropland remains highly water-stressed, a problem intensified by the effects of climate change.

Improving water management in agriculture: Irrigation and food production considers ways of addressing this challenge. It reviews advances in monitoring and optimizing irrigation efficiency, ways of retaining and re-using water resources as well as how farmers can work collaboratively with other stakeholders to manage watersheds more sustainably.

The book highlights key areas where innovation is required to ensure that water use is optimised at farm and watershed scales. The book encourages farmers to reassess their current irrigation models and implement alternative practices which improve efficiency with a reduced environmental impact.

Key features:

- Provides a comprehensive overview of the interventions available to optimise water management in agriculture, including rainwater harvesting and farm reservoirs
- Considers the development and application of alternative irrigation techniques which carry a reduced environmental impact, such as solar powered irrigation
- Addresses the importance of diversification and collaboration in securing water resources for a rapidly growing population

Audience:

Researchers and scientists involved in water and irrigation science, agronomists, as well as government and private sector agencies responsible for agriculture and water resource management

Editor details:

Dr Jerry Knox is Professor of Agricultural Water Management based within the Water Science Institute at Cranfield University, UK. Professor Knox has an international reputation for his research on the science, engineering and management of water for agriculture, including assessing the relationships between water resources, drought, crop productivity and the environment, and the sustainability of irrigated production in the context of climate impacts and food security. His current research addressing water and climate risks is focussed in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. He is Editor of *Outlook on Agriculture* and Associate Editor for *Irrigation Science*.

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