



Mix water tools for risk reductions when using non-conventional water resources

Pedrero F., Parra A., García A., Ortuño M.F., and Alarcón J.J.

Dr. Francisco Pedrero Salcedo
Irrigation Department CEBAS-CSIC
fpedrero@cebas.csic.es











General facts at farm level

Non-efficient irrigation systems

Different water sources, qualities and availability

Multiple crops under the same irrigation regime

Limited reliance on non-conventional waters:
-saline, brackish, brine, reclaimed waste waters...

Predominance of low-cost technologies

Lack of awareness/access to modern solutions















Characteristic features of irrigation in the Mediterranean Region

- Predominance of smallholdings
- Wide variety of crops grown in one single irrigation zone
- Presence of irrigation channels and drainage ditches where the reclaimed water is mixed with other sources













A DSS to manage different water sources

Help farmers to contrast information provided by the system with their personal knowledge

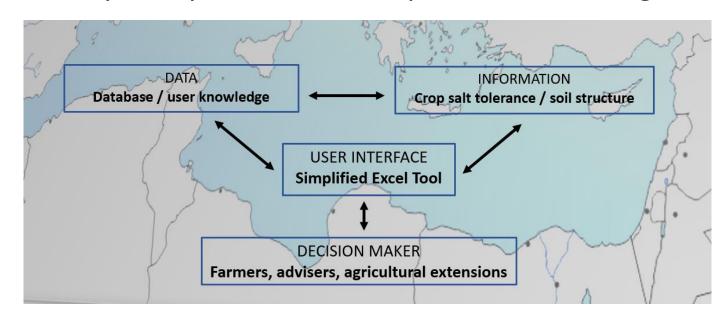
and experiences

Examination of multiple alternatives

Identification of unpredicted situations

Better use of data and resources

Reduce cost















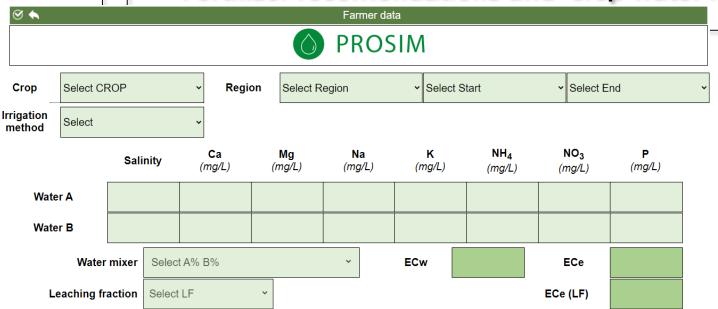
How it works?

Input parameters

- Crop
- **Irrigation method**
- Region
- **Growing season**
- Water analysis
- Blending?
- Leaching?

Output

- **Relative crop performance**
- Water quality and soil structure info (SAR/CROSS)
- Fertilizer recomendations and crop water requirements







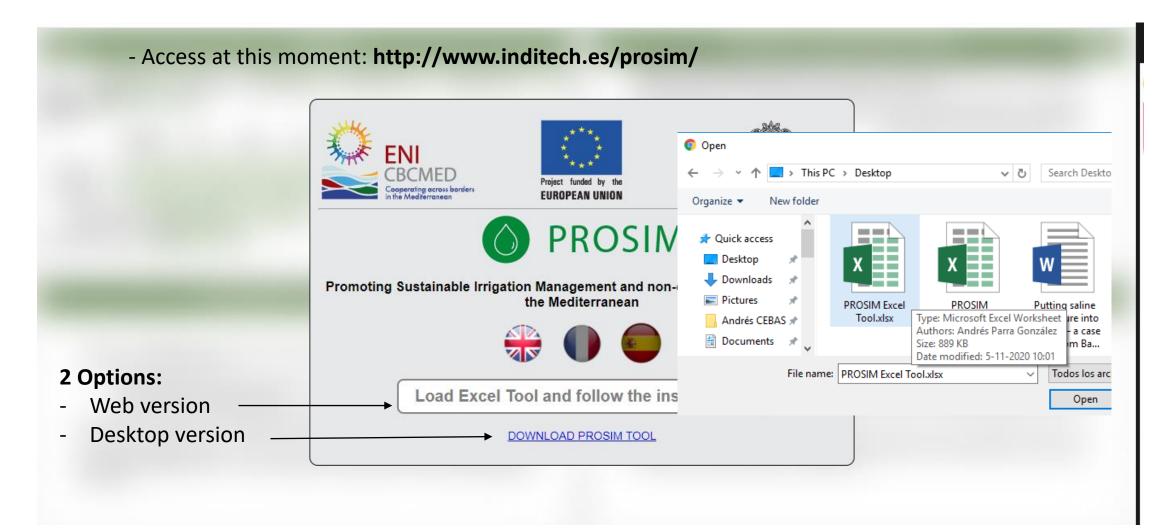
PROSIM







Running the tool





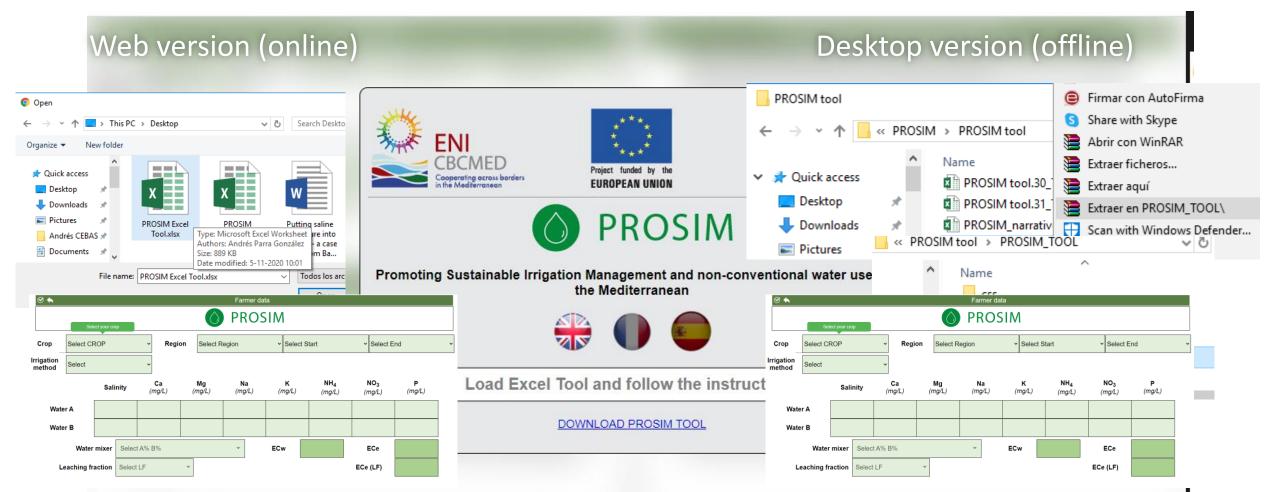












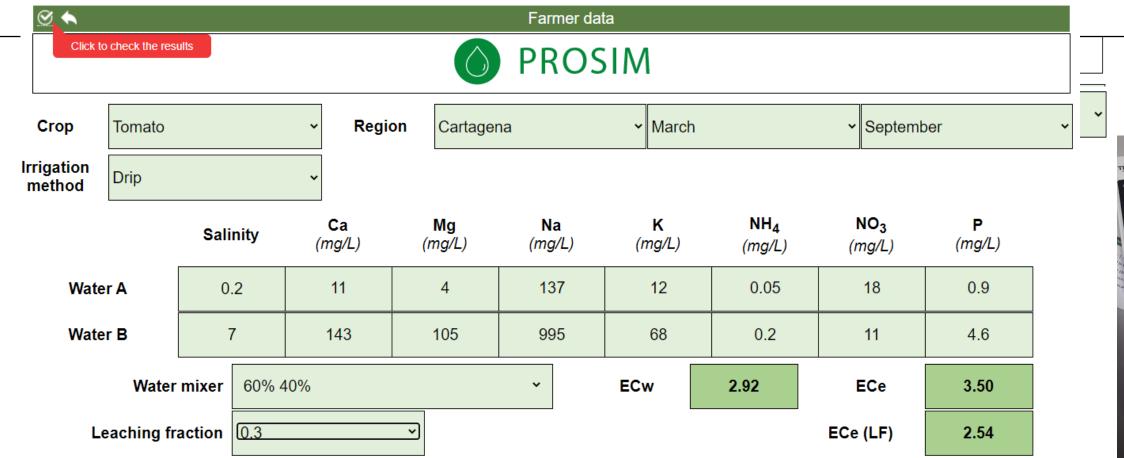
ECw = Irrigation water salinity (in dS/m)

ECe = Root zone salinity (measured as saturation extract of the soil, in dS/m)

ECe = ECw x 1.5 (assuming 15-20% water surplus)

Leaching fraction (LF) = It's the amount of extra irrigation water applied above the amount required by the crop, in order to maintain an acceptable root zone salinity

dS/m (deciSiemens/metre) = Standard unit to measure salinity (conductivity). 1dS/m = 1 mmho/cm ~ 550 ppm







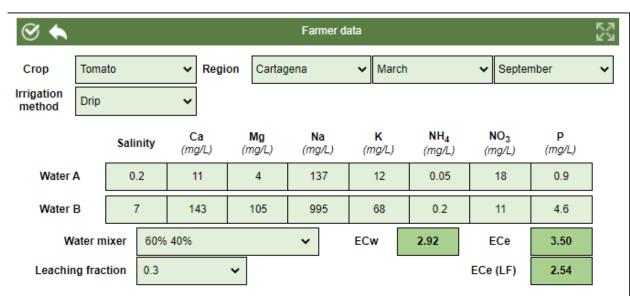


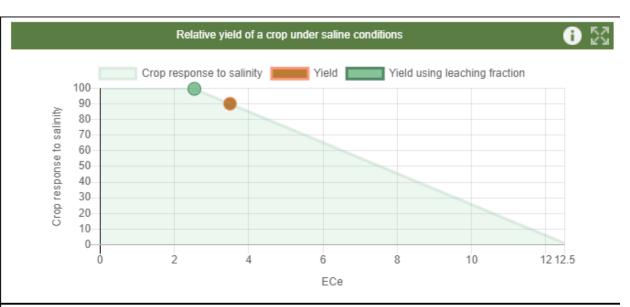


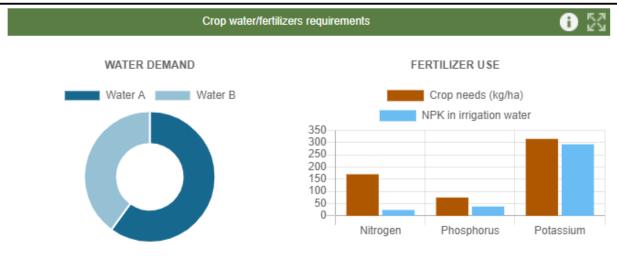


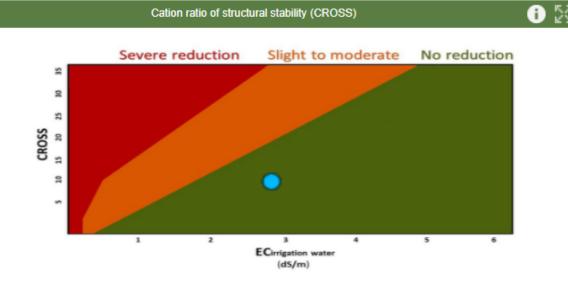


Results

















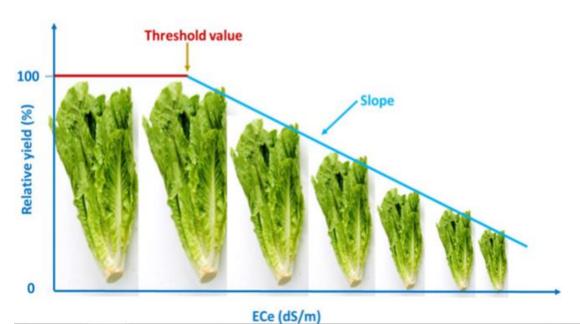




Relative yield under saline conditions

Generally, salinity reduces water availability for crops and consequently the yield. Plants are generally more sensitive to salinity during germination and early growth. Crop performance under saline conditions might be different among varieties or rootstock of the same crop species.

The relative yield of a crop is related to soil salinity (ECe). It expresses the yield reduction as a % when ECe increases. Results are based on the threshold value (salinity level when yield starts to decrease) and theslope (% of yield decrease when ECe increases by 1 dS/m).



ECw = Irrigation water salinity (in dS/m)

ECe = Root zone salinity (measured as saturation extract of the soil, in dS/m)

 $ECe = ECw \times 1.5$ (assuming 15-20% LF)

Leaching fraction (LF) = It's the amount of extra irrigation water applied above the amount required by the crop, in order to maintain an acceptable root zone salinity

dS/m (deciSiemens/metre) = Standard unit to measure salinity. $1dS/m = 1 \text{ mmho/cm} \sim 550$







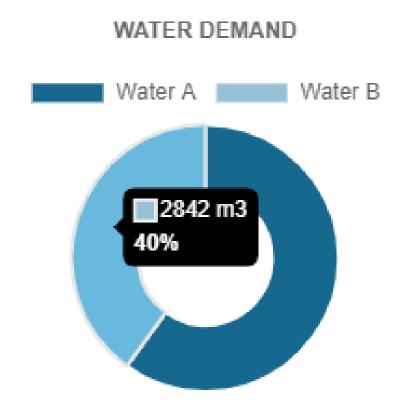


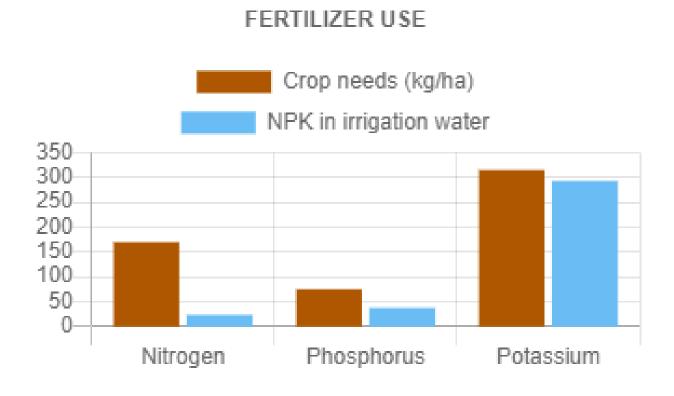


Crop water demand and fertilizer requirements

Crop water/fertilizers requirements











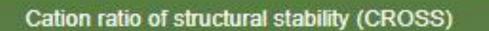




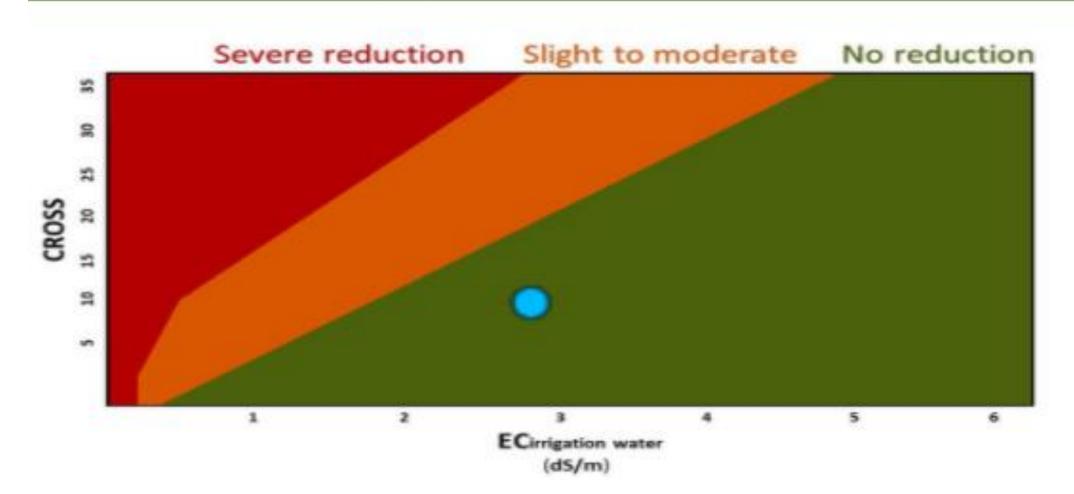




CROSS index



















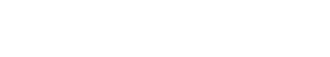
Experimental farms

- Masghara (31 farmers, 15,5 ha)
- Labwue (20 farmers, 7,5 ha)



- Madhia (74 farmers, 30 ha)
- Nabeul (40 farmers, 5 ha)





Balqa (55 farmers 22,5 ha)

Aqaba (15 farmers, 7 ha)



Marsala (2,5 ha)











- Cartagena-Roldán (WWTP, 0,8 ha)
- Jumilla (1 farmer, 3 has)











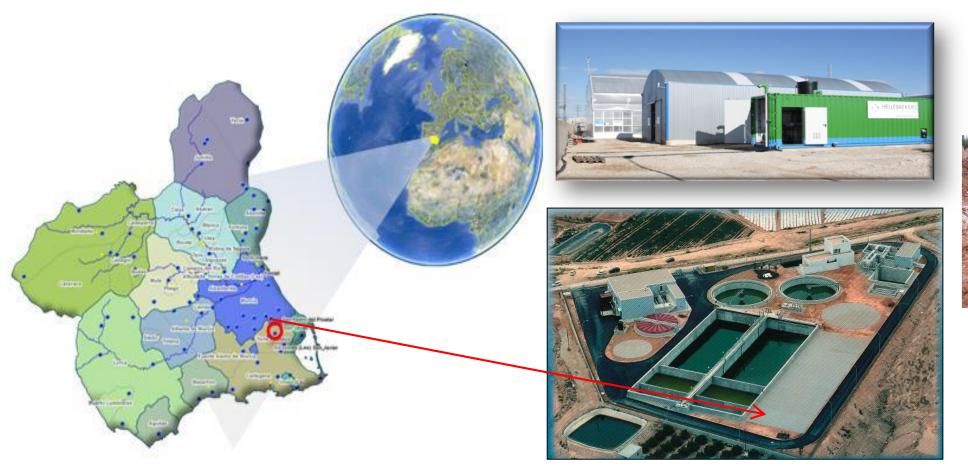








Water and Agriculture Research Platform CEBAS-CSIC















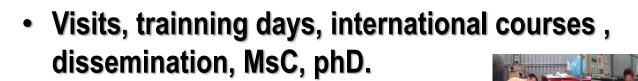


Research projects

- Agricultural reclaimed water use effects on horticultural crops growing on soil and hidroponics.
- Water treatment prototypes testing
- Food safety risk and security studies.
- **Emerging contaminants**
- Sludge



















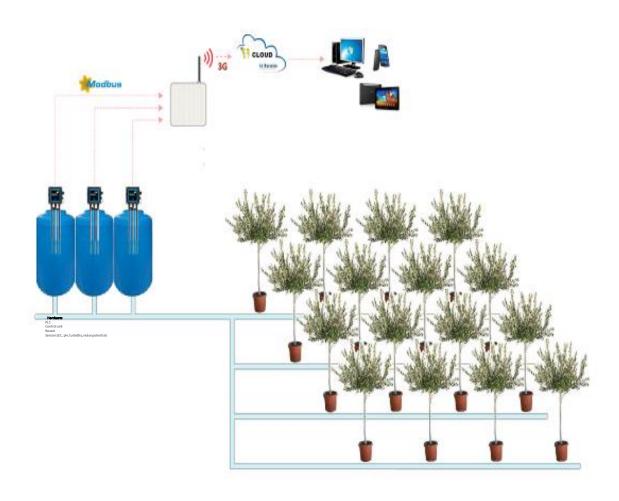


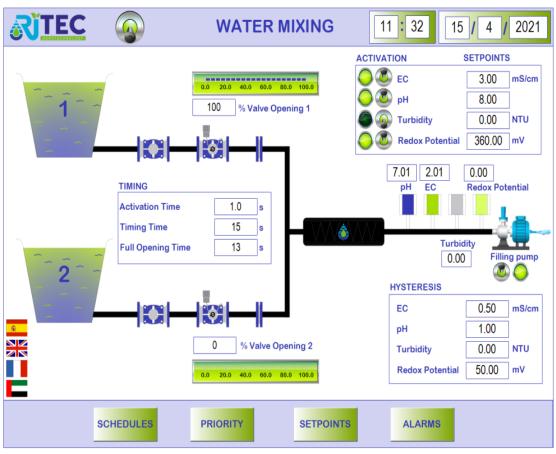






Development of advanced DSS for water mix technique and field demonstration

















Miraflores Irrigation Comunity

- 967 members
- **Total surface with irrigation infrastructures: 1515 Ha**



| Crops (1329 Ha) | % irrigation surface |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Pear | 45 |
| Peach | 32 |
| Apricot | 12 |
| Olives | 5 |
| Plum | 3 |
| Grapes | 2 |
| Almond | 1 |

| Resource type | Volume |
|-------------------|-----------|
| | (m³/year) |
| Water needs | 7.765.000 |
| Underground water | 3.851.288 |
| WWTP Jumilla | 1.500.000 |
| Total volume | 5.351.288 |

With this use of treated wastewater from the Jumilla WWTP, the Miraflores irrigation community will increase from 3600 m³/ha to 4900 m³/ha per year.

