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BOOK REVIEW

BARRADA, Y., NIELSEN, D. R.: Radiation Techniques for Water-Use Efficiency Studies. — Internat. Atomic Energy Agency, Techn. Rep. Ser. No. 168, Vienna 1975. 127 pp. Austrian Schillings 150.—, in English.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overall view of the results of a five-year coordinated research programme of the joint FAO / IAEA division of atomic energy in food and agriculture. The primary aim of this programme was to integrate technologies of agronomy and soil science related to crop-water requirements, and this book contains a detailed description of the experimental methods used (e.g. neutron moisture meters, hydraulic lysimeters, the use of Penman's equations for estimation of the potential evaporation, and evaporation measurements from an open pan). Eight chapters deal with results obtained by the research institutions of participating countries (Belgium, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon and Pakistan) during the years 1966–1970. The collected data lead to conclusion that increased production per unit of water is best achieved through the application of adequate amount of water per unit land area, and not through the application of lesser amount of water per unit area over a larger area. Appendix 1 presents guidelines for an agro-meteorological station and Appendix 2 reviews the details of design, construction and installation of hydraulic lysimeters. The book is well produced and illustrated with many figures and tables. It is hoped that the findings will stimulate more efficient water use in arid region agriculture and will provide data for planning irrigation projects.

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