



**Sustainable Water  
Integrated Management (SWIM) -  
Support Mechanism**



Project funded by  
the European Union

*Water is too precious to waste*

**TWO DAYS TRAINING ON THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WWTPS**

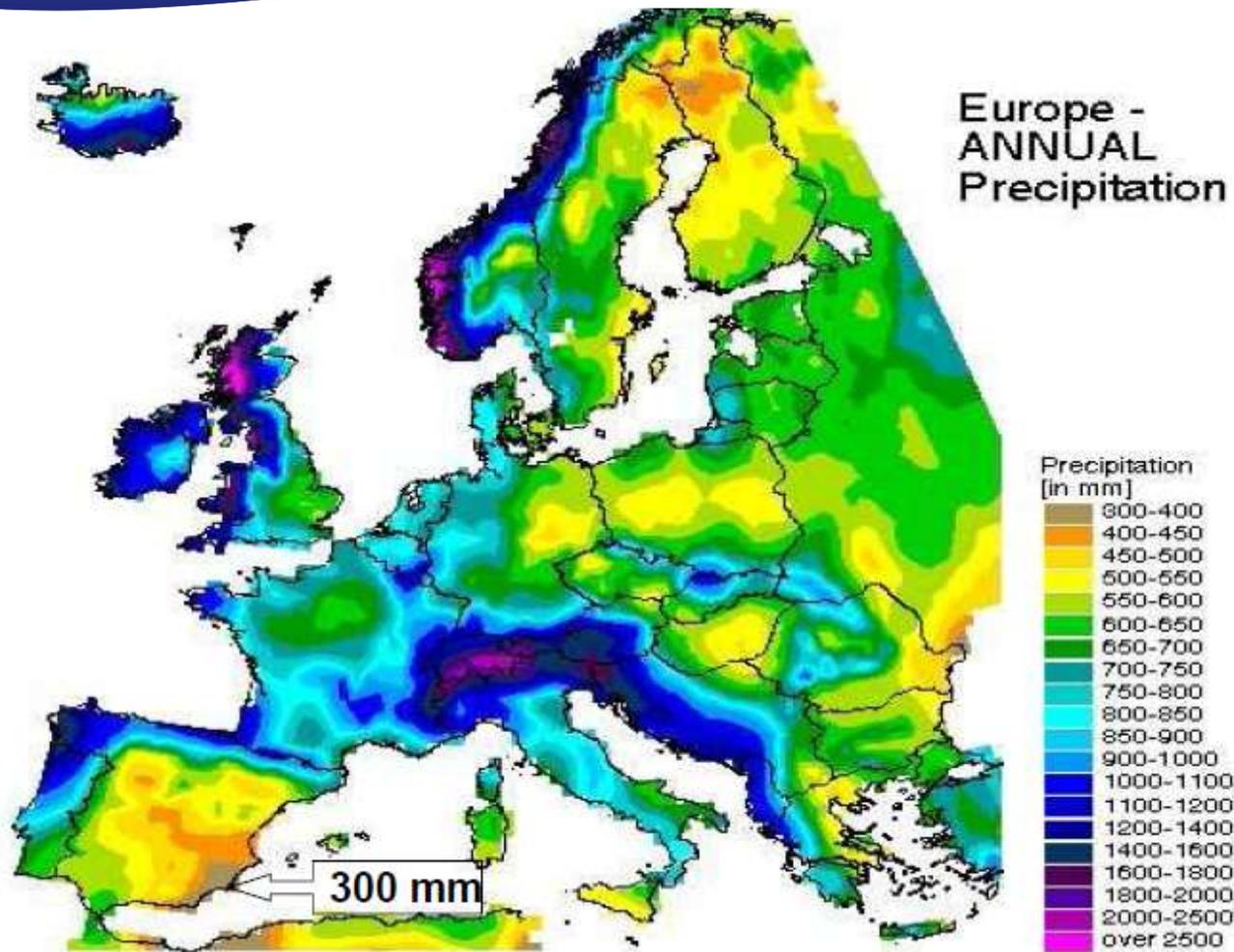
9-10 September, Murcia

**Managing Reclaimed Water**

***Presented by: Dr. Francisco Pedrero Salcedo***



# Rainfall



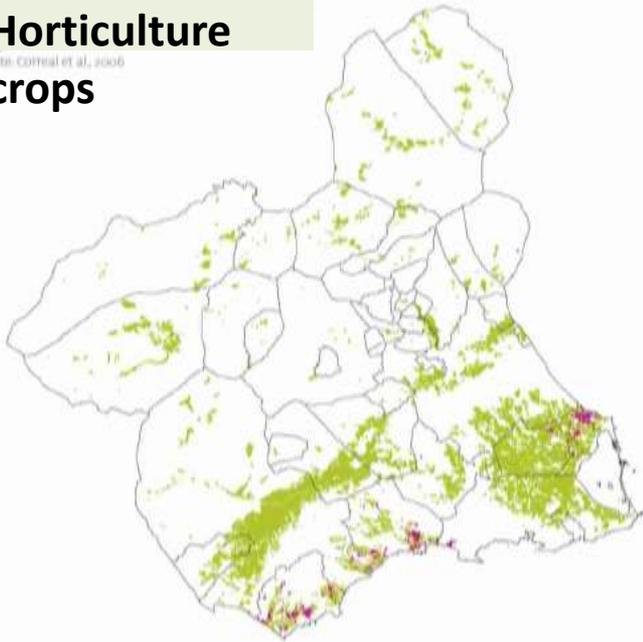
# Agriculture in Murcia

- 336.000 cropped ha (122.000 vegetables – 214.000 fruit trees)
- 170.000 irrigated (85% drip irrigation)

## Horticulture

Fuente: Correal et al., 2006

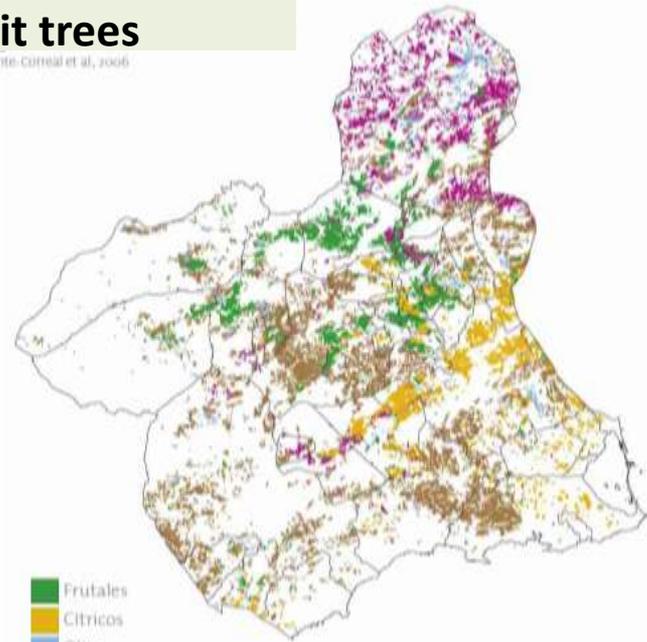
### crops



Hortícolas  
Cultivos forzados

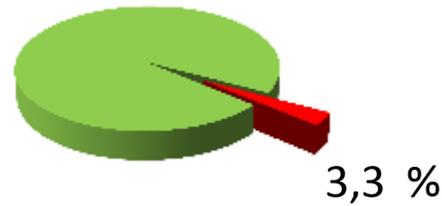
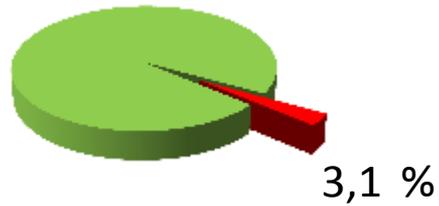
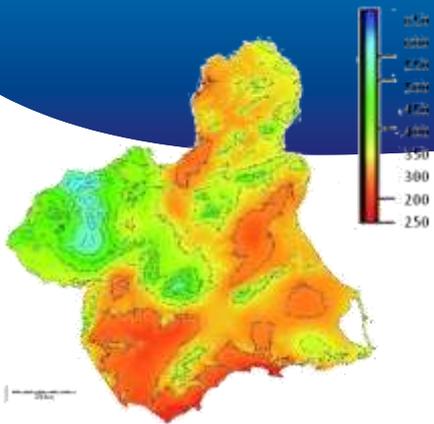
## Fruit trees

Fuente: Correal et al., 2006

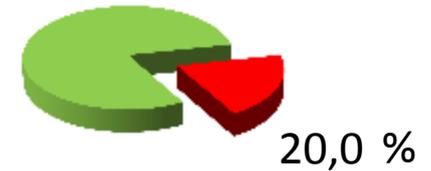


Frutales  
Citricos  
Olivo  
Viñedo  
Almendro

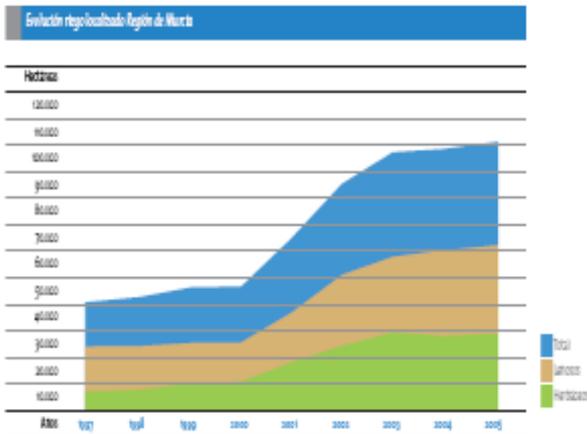
0 10 20 30 40 50 Km



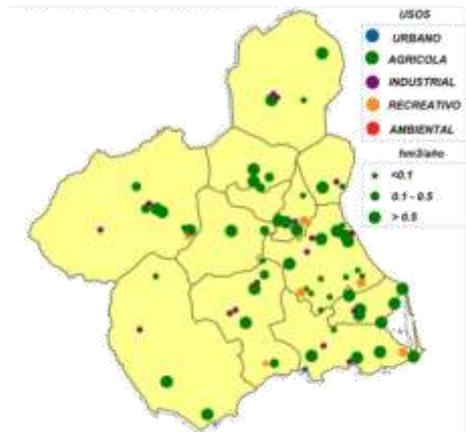
### Vegetables and fruit export



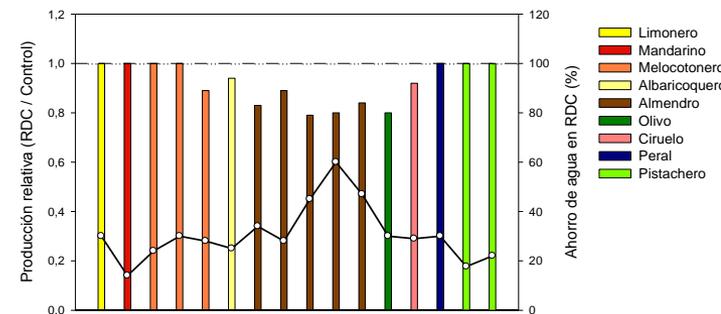
### Modernization 80-90 %



### Reuse 92 WWTP- 102 Hm<sup>3</sup>/year



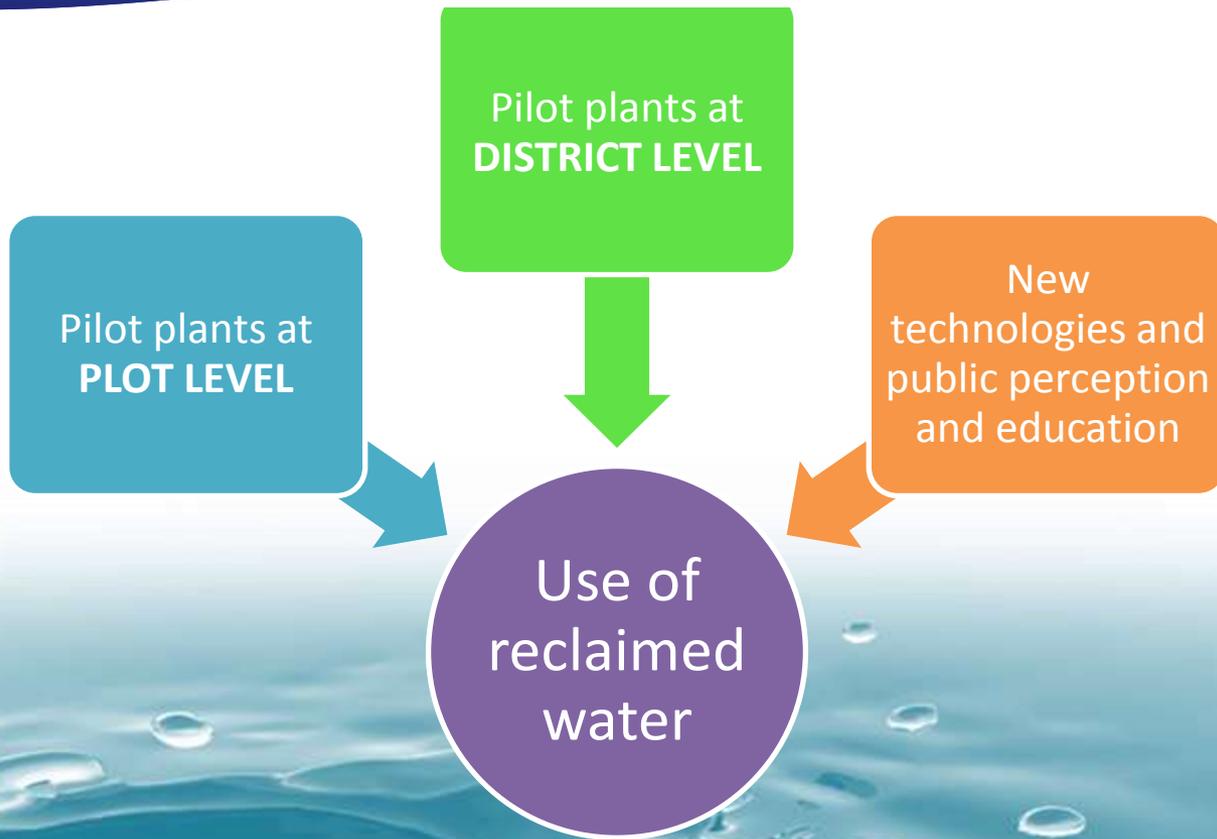
### Deficit management Regulated deficit irrigation



Accumulation/concentration salt??

# 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



# Pilot plants at plot level

- A network of experimental plots in different Mediterranean locations and different types of reclaimed water and crops.
- The effect of using reclaimed water on tree physiology, performance, quality and safety of crops
- Effects on the long and medium term effect on soil salt accumulation, unsaturated area and groundwater pollution.

Orchard  
Province

: Lo Montero  
: Campotejar-Murcia

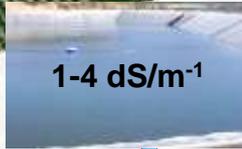
Irrigators  
association

WWTP

3-4 dS.m<sup>-1</sup>



1-4 dS/m<sup>-1</sup>



Tajo-Segura

1 dS/m<sup>-1</sup>



## Experimental plots

Grapefruit



Mandarin



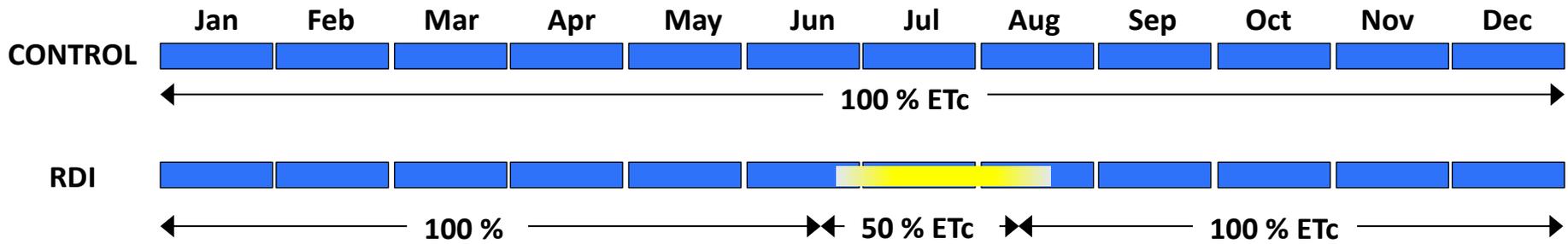
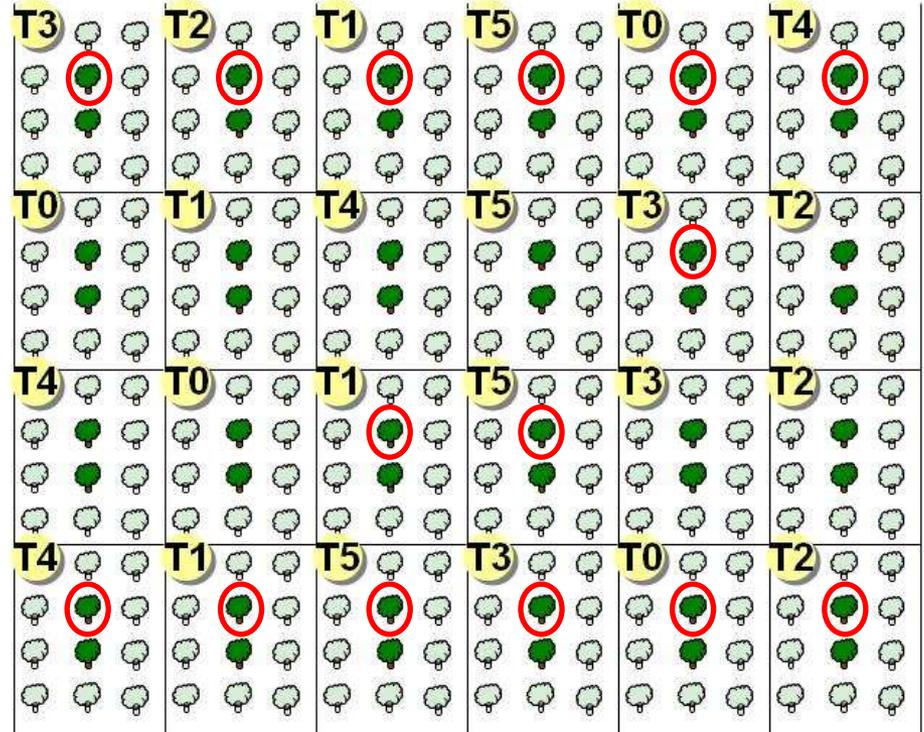
**Variety** : Star Ruby  
**Rootstock** : Macrophylla  
**Age** : 6 years (2007)  
**Plant spacing** : 6 \* 4 m

**Variety** : Orogrande  
**Rootstock** : Carrizo  
**Age** : 10 years (2007)  
**Plant spacing** : 3.5 \* 5 m

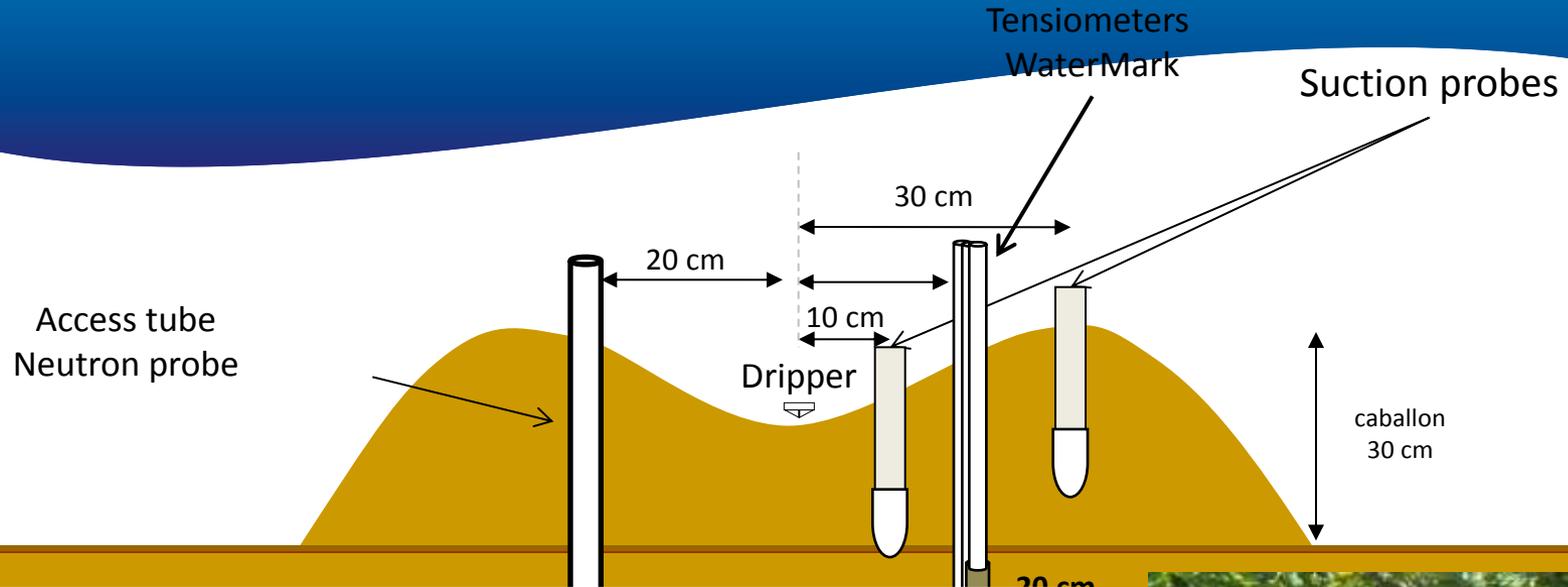
# Experimental design

## Irrigation Treatments

- **Transfer water**
  - TW-C
  - TW-RDI
- **Reclaimed water**
  - RW-C
  - RW-RDI



# Equipment and soil measurements



## 15 days

- Soil water content
- Matric soil water potential
- Soil solution water quality

## Periodic measurements

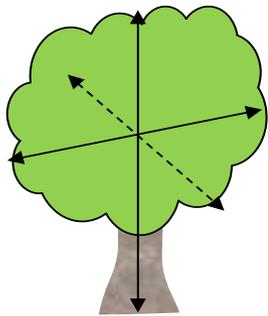
- Salts accumulations at different depths
- Leaf mineral status



# Equipment and plant measurements

## Periodic plant measurements

Tree Canopy



Fruit Diameter, fruit set



Stem water potential



Leaf gas exchange



## Harvest

## Yield assessment

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



Diameter distribution



Quality indexes



TA

pH

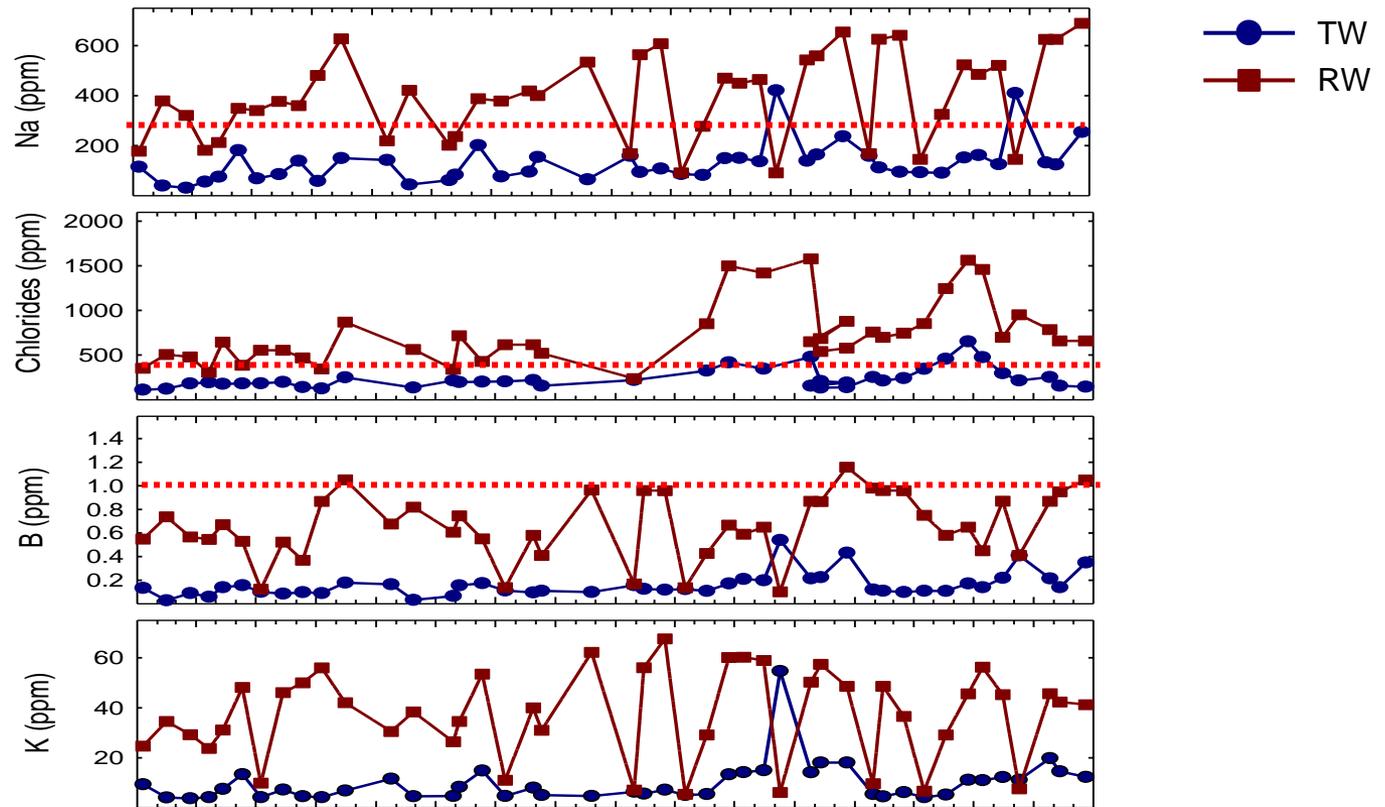
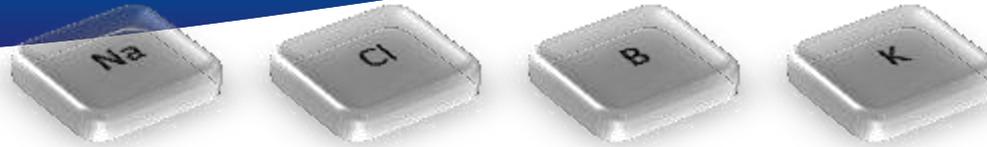
SSC

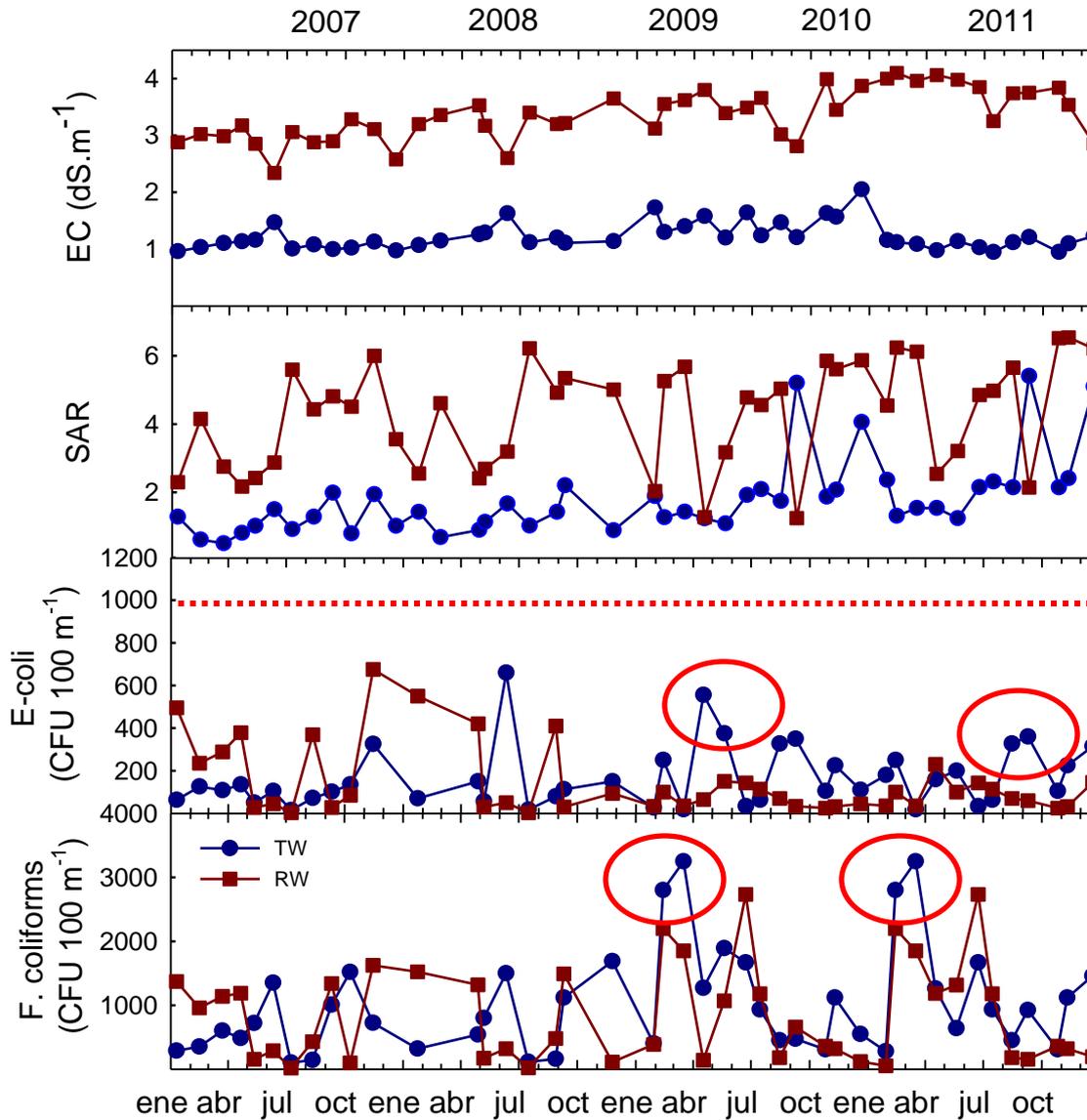
Vitamin C

Fruit safety



# Results. Irrigation water quality



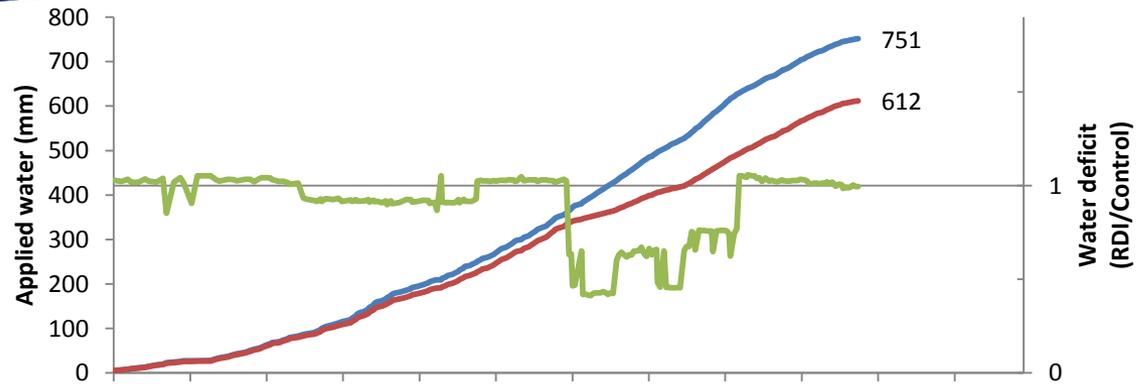


RD 1620/2007

# Water needs and saving

Mandarin

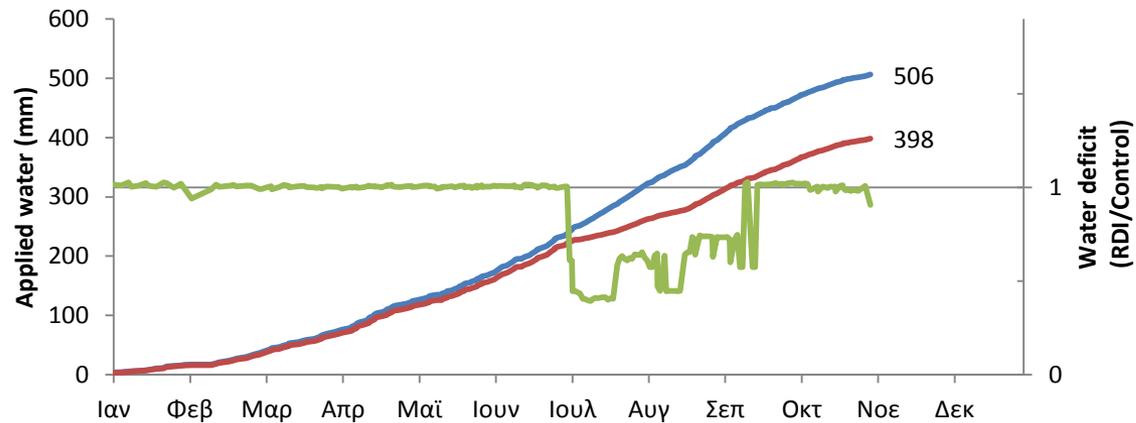
Save 19 %



Grapefruit

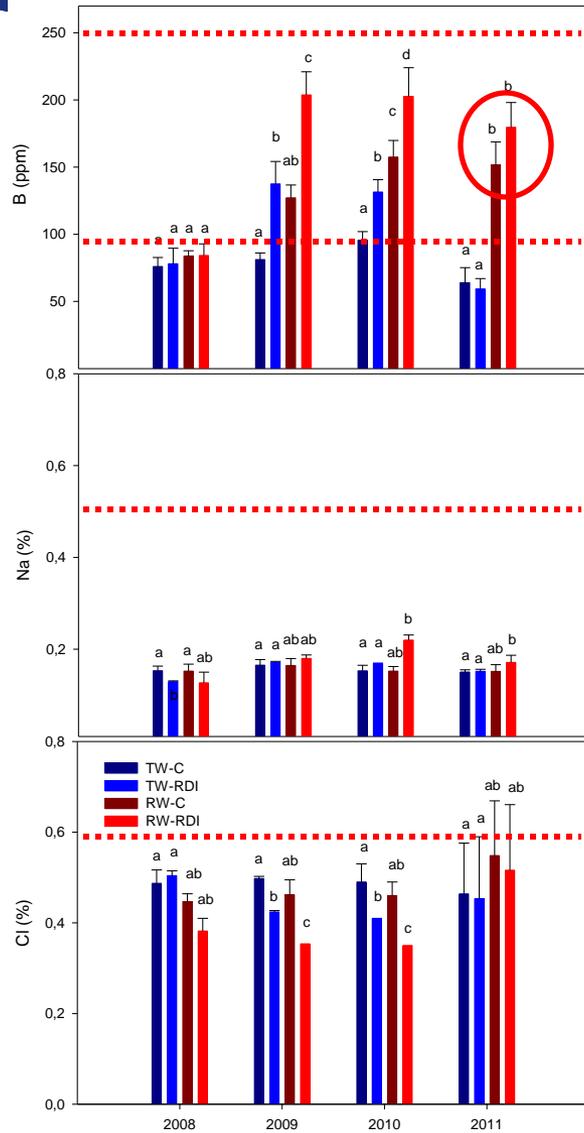
Save 21 %

( $\approx 1000 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$ )

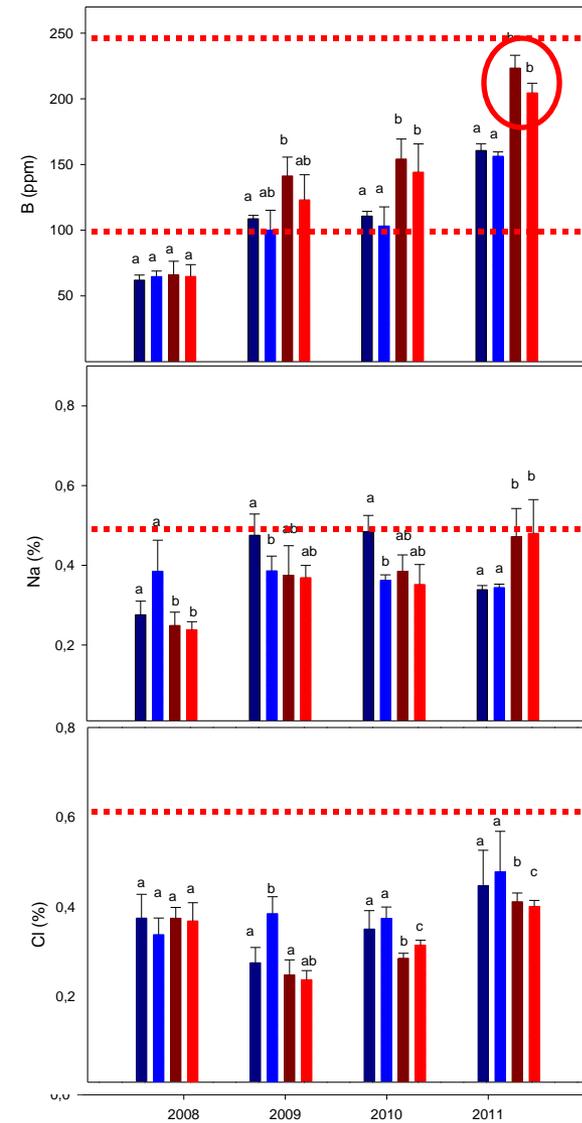


# Leaf mineral status

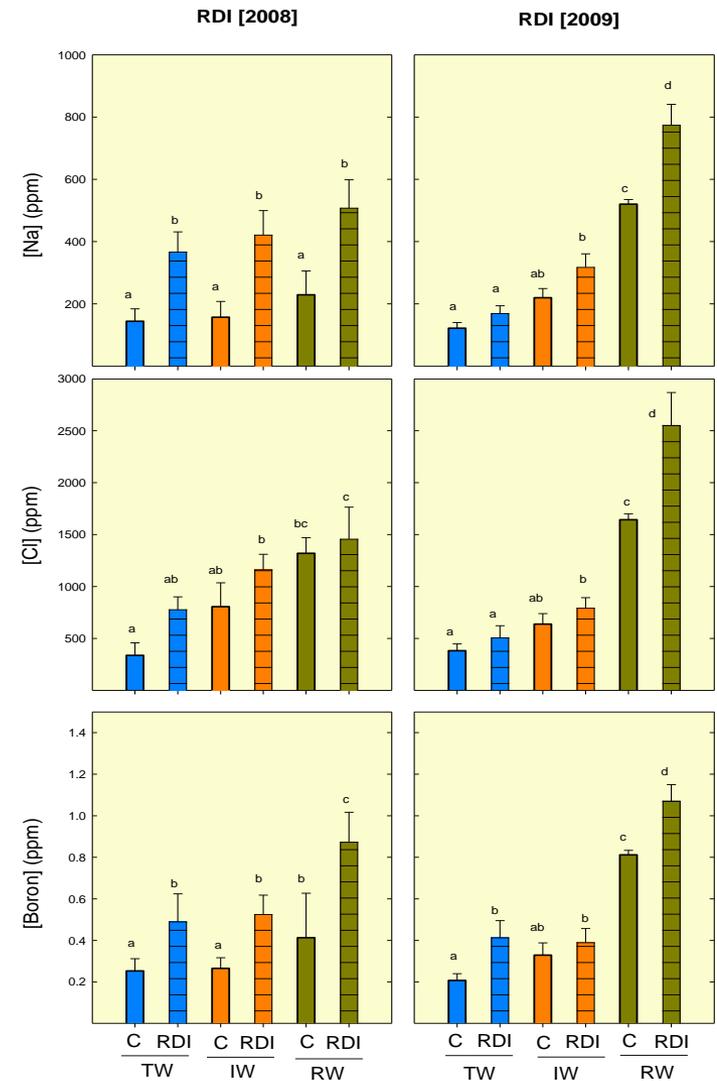
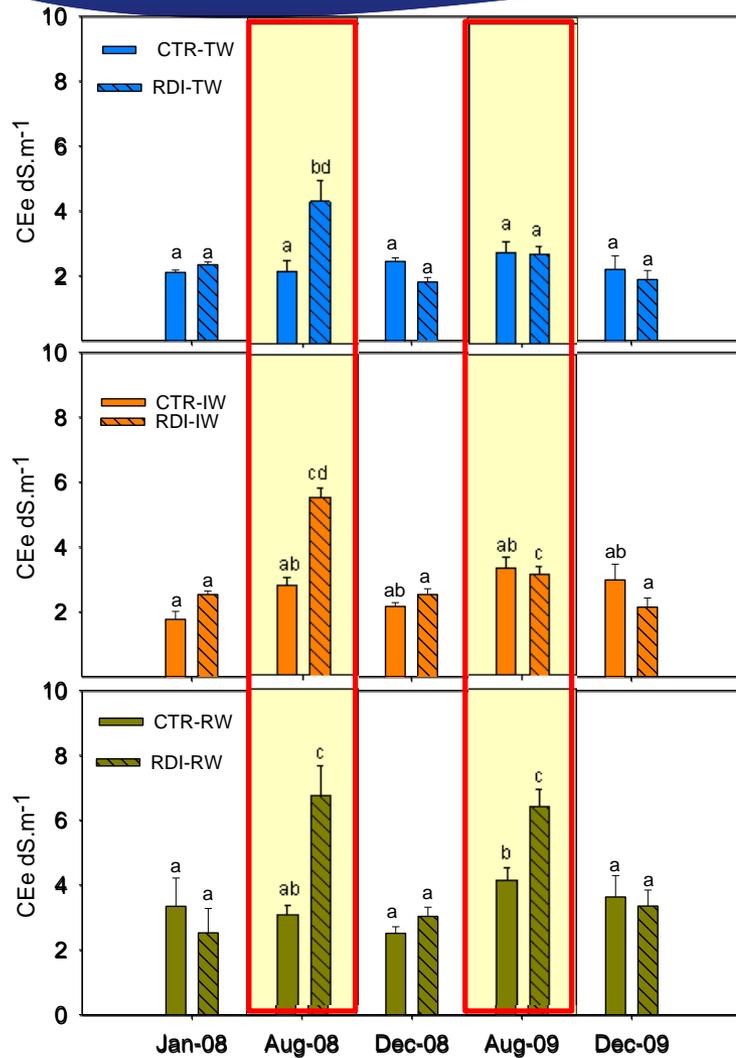
## Mandarin



## Grapefruit

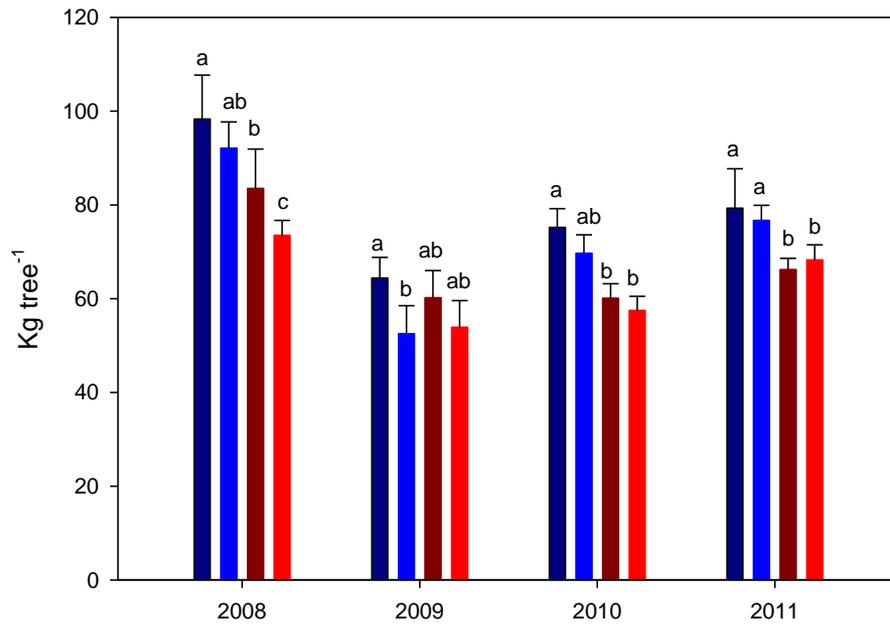


# EC (dS.m<sup>-1</sup>) of the soil saturated paste extract & the soil solution

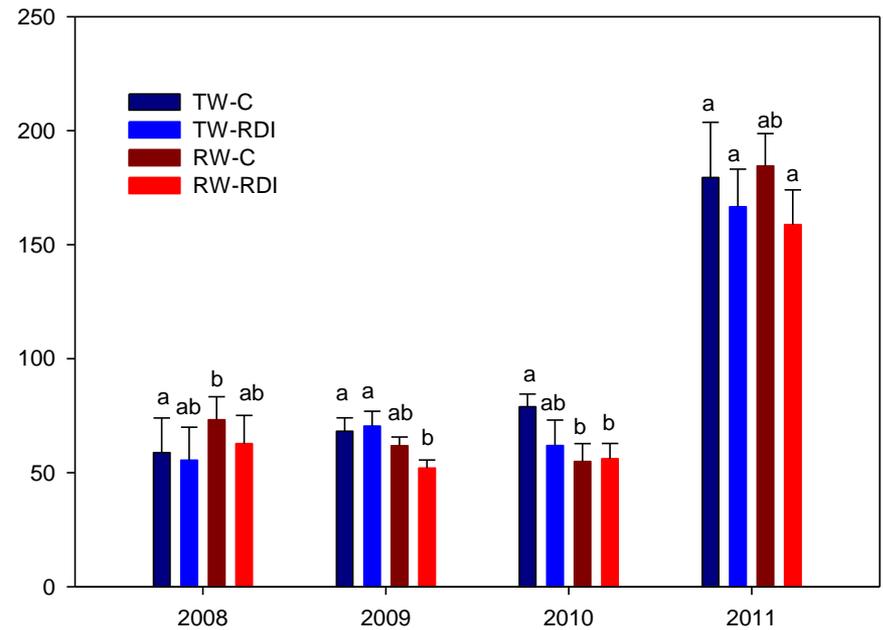


# Yield

## Mandarin



## Grapefruit



# Fruit quality parameters

Treatment	Peel thickness (mm)	Juice volume (ml)	° Brix	pH	Total Acidity	Maturity Index	Vitamin C
TW-CTR	2,52 ± 0,75a	53,00 ± 13,05a	11.6 ± 0.7a	3.6 ± 0.1a	0,9 ± 0.1a	12,8 ± 1.5a	8,5 ± 0.6a
TW-RDI	2,20 ± 0,44a	53,80 ± 14,81a	12.0 ± 0.4a	3.7 ± 0.0a	0,9 ± 0.0a	13,8 ± 0.6a	11,0 ± 0.4b
RW-CTR	2,43 ± 0,43a	61,33 ± 14,32a	12.2 ± 0.9a	3.7 ± 0.1a	1,0 ± 0.1a	11,9 ± 0.8a	13,8 ± 1.1ab
RW-RDI	2,57 ± 0,48a	57,53 ± 12,71a	12.7 ± 1.0a	3.6 ± 0.1a	1,1 ± 0.1a	11,8 ± 0.6a	17,7 ± 0.6c

# LONG TERM EFFECTS?



# ON THE OTHER HAND...

2007



2012



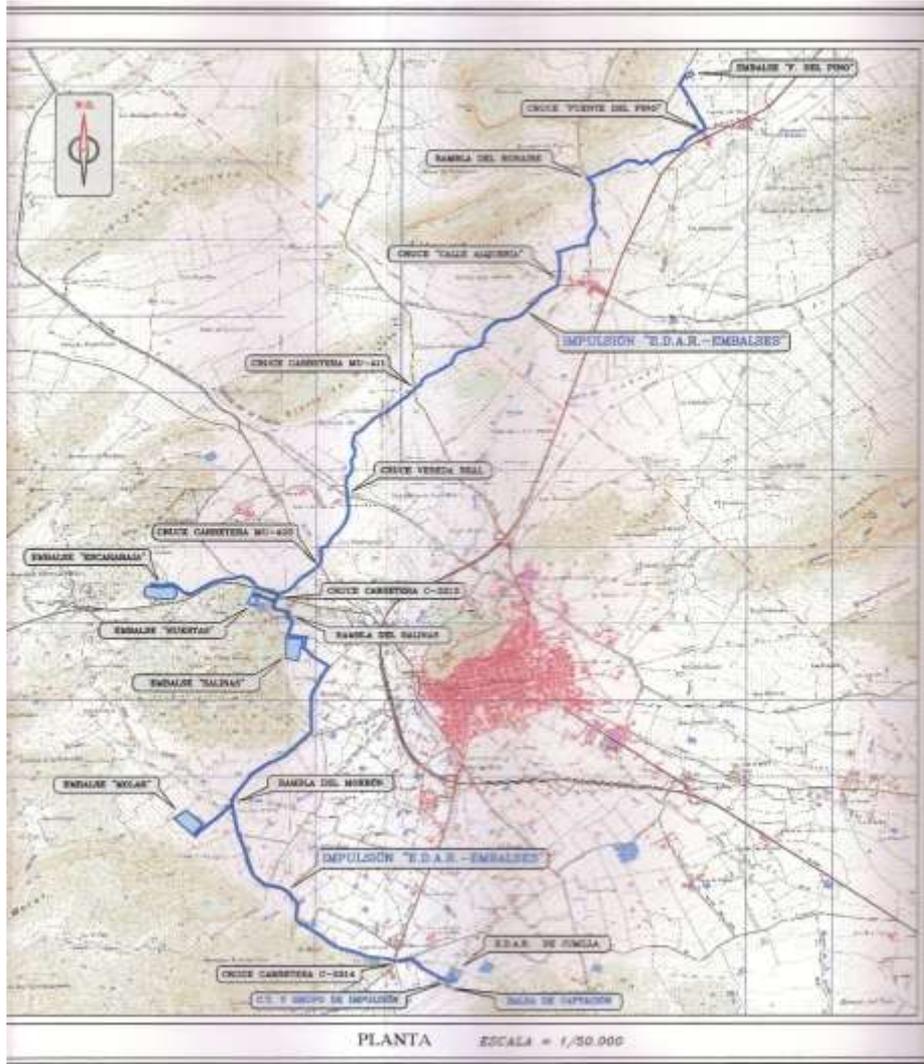
# Conclusions

- **General** A tendency to **reduce the number of fruits** was detected under **RW treatments**. This reduction was more pronounced under regulated deficit irrigation (RW-RDI treatment).
- ✓ Sustainability concerns and technological advances are continuously **augmenting the volume of reclaimed water**.
- Combined effects of RDI strategies and reclaimed water **increased some fruit quality parameters** on mandarin trees. **[Vit.C] RDI-RW > RDI > Control**
- ✓ **Increasing demand and water shortage** conditions are pushing forward treatments using **reclaimed water** for irrigation in modern agriculture.
- **[Na], [B] and [Cl] exceeded the phyto-toxic levels** in reclaimed irrigation-water. **RW is safe resource** for irrigation of fruit trees. Although no toxic problems have been detected during the experiment, some mild toxicity symptoms started appearing during the last year and therefore long term effects could be more pronounced.
- Irrigation with reclaimed water tends to **accumulate salts** within the plant root zone. Therefore, **careful monitoring** is needed to avoid possible reduction in the soil agronomic properties.

# Pilot plants irrigation at district level

- Associated with irrigation districts, often organized around **irrigators associations** with concessions for use reclaimed water
- Continuously assess the **quality of irrigation water** used.
- Assessing the **effects of reclaimed water on plant and soil**, but also estimating how the reservoirs, water pipes systems and all the associated infrastructures with the distribution could affect.

# Miraflores irrigation community



crop	% surface
Pear	45
Peach	32
Grapefruit	2
apricot	12
Olive	5
almold	1
plum	3

•967 irrigators

• Irrigation surface = 1329 Ha



ETSIA

Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería Agronómica



Feasibility study of using reclaimed water from the WWTP of Jumilla in the Miraflores Irrigators Community



# Miraflores Irrigators Community



Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena



# CSIC



# Study of reclaimed irrigation water on soils, aquifers and crops (2011-2016)



# CSIC

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS



## ISLAS BALEARES



# Objectives

## 4. Evaluate the effects of using reclaimed water on plant physiology, yield and fruit quality and safety

**Knowledge about plant water and nutritional status.**

**Yield of the most representatives species in two plots**

**Effects on fruit quality and safety**

# Pilot plots

## INCA

**Olives trees v. Picual – SON CATIU (well water and reclaimed water)**



# Pilot plots

## INCA

Horticulture crops



ANGEL WINERY (well water and reclaimed water)

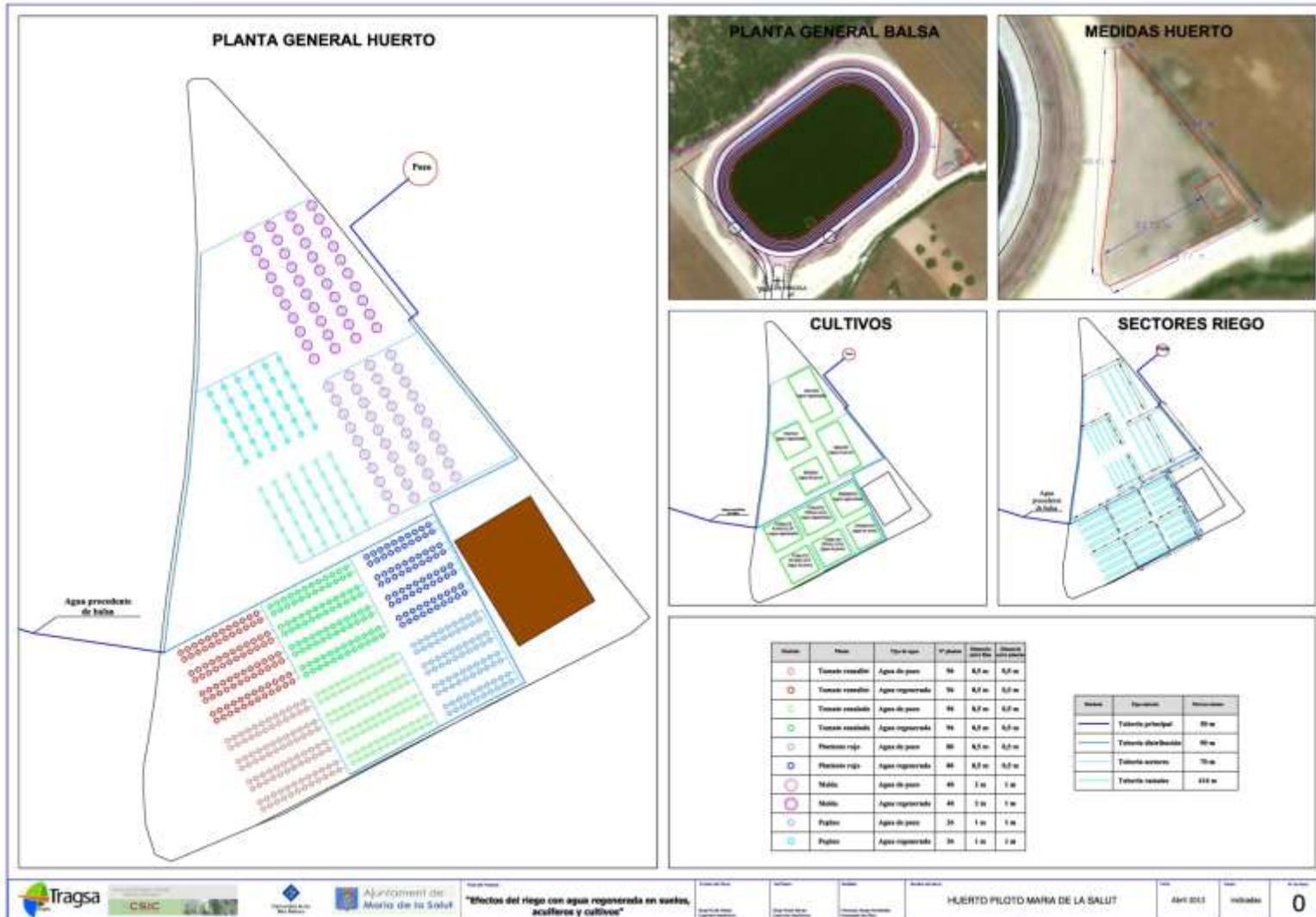
Vinegrapes



# Pilot plots

## MARÍA DE LA SALUD

Horticulture crops (well water and reclaimed water)

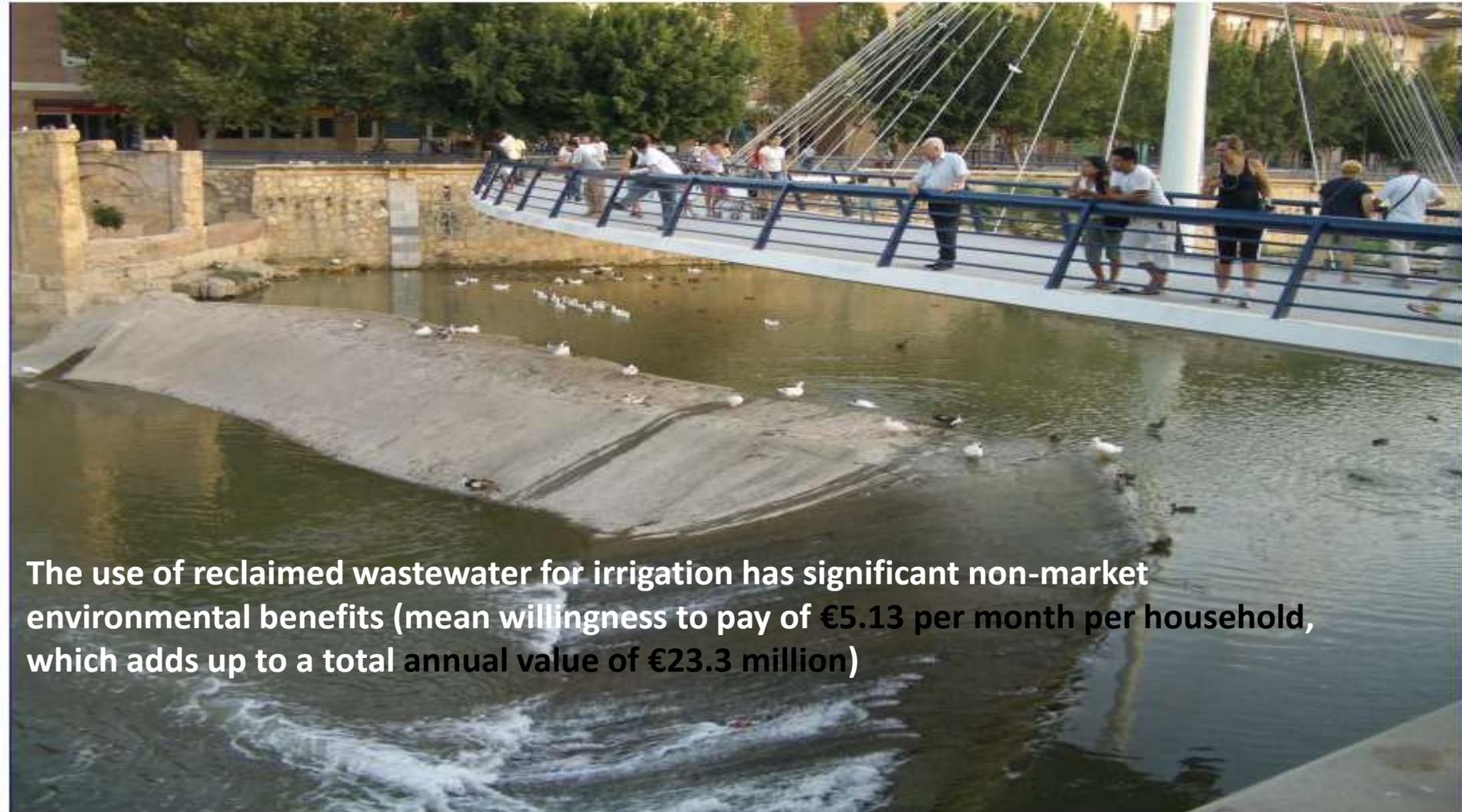


# Public acceptance and education of reclaimed water use

- Conferences must be training at all levels, both users and generators of such waters, to raise awareness of the importance of it.
- Economic analysis. Within this economic assessment all environmental benefits – including non-market benefits – should be included.
- To estimate the non-market benefits that society attaches to the use of reclaimed water for agricultural purposes



# The non-market value of reclaimed wastewater for use in agriculture: a contingent valuation approach



**The use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation has significant non-market environmental benefits (mean willingness to pay of €5.13 per month per household, which adds up to a total annual value of €23.3 million)**

# Local users, local experiences





# Public information

- The most successful projects have been promoted by users, under water scarcity conditions
- Acceptable risks (microbiological and chemical= varies with the socio-economical and cultural conditions
- Demonstration projects generate a very positive public perception and promote public acceptance
- Demonstration projects offer an excellent opportunity for manufactures and operators to study and reseacrh process performance
- Public participation is critical in project's planning , implementation and operation.



**Sustainable Water  
Integrated Management (SWIM) -  
Support Mechanism**



Project funded by  
the European Union

*Water is too precious to waste*

**TWO DAYS TRAINING ON THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WWTPS**

9-10 September, Murcia

**Future Trends in Water Reuse**

***Presented by: Dr. Francisco Pedrero Salcedo***



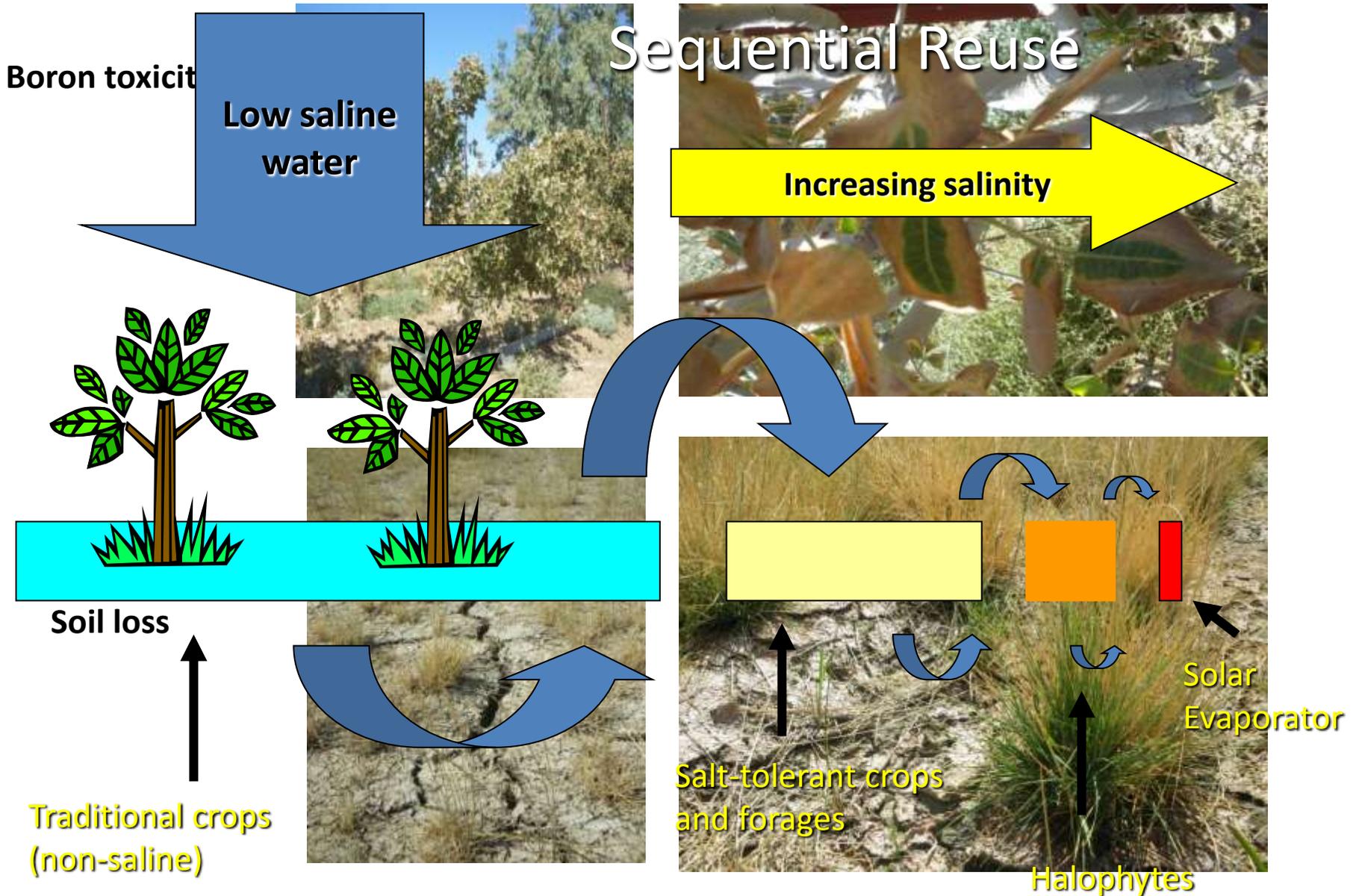
FINAL REPORT

Opportunities and Challenges in Agricultural Water Reuse

Although research on water reuse in agriculture has been done over the years, new research is needed to identify gaps in data such as **salt tolerances of plants**, new or **unknown threats**, **best management practices** for production and processing, and identifying the right water for certain crops. Additional funding should be dedicated to meet these research needs.

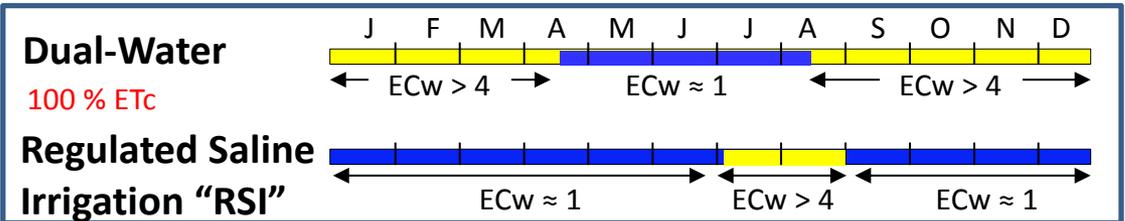
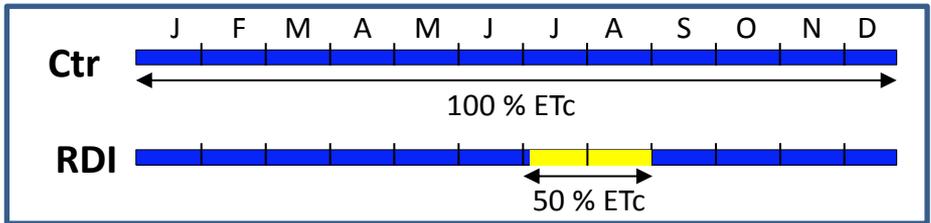
***(Dobrowolski, J., et al, 2008) Opportunities and challenges in agricultural water reuse: Final report.(USDA-CSREES)***

# PROJECT IN FRESNO (CALIFORNIA)



Good quality, Tajo-Segura canal : **TW**  
 (EC = 1 dS.m<sup>-1</sup>)  
 Reduced quality, reclaimed water : **RW**  
 (EC > 3 dS.m<sup>-1</sup>)

**New treatments**



The **objective** is to develop a water treatment system which **reclaims water** and **utilizes nutrients** from municipal wastewater for irrigation purposes. The system will treat domestic wastewater from small villages. It will connect waste to food production with modern technology.

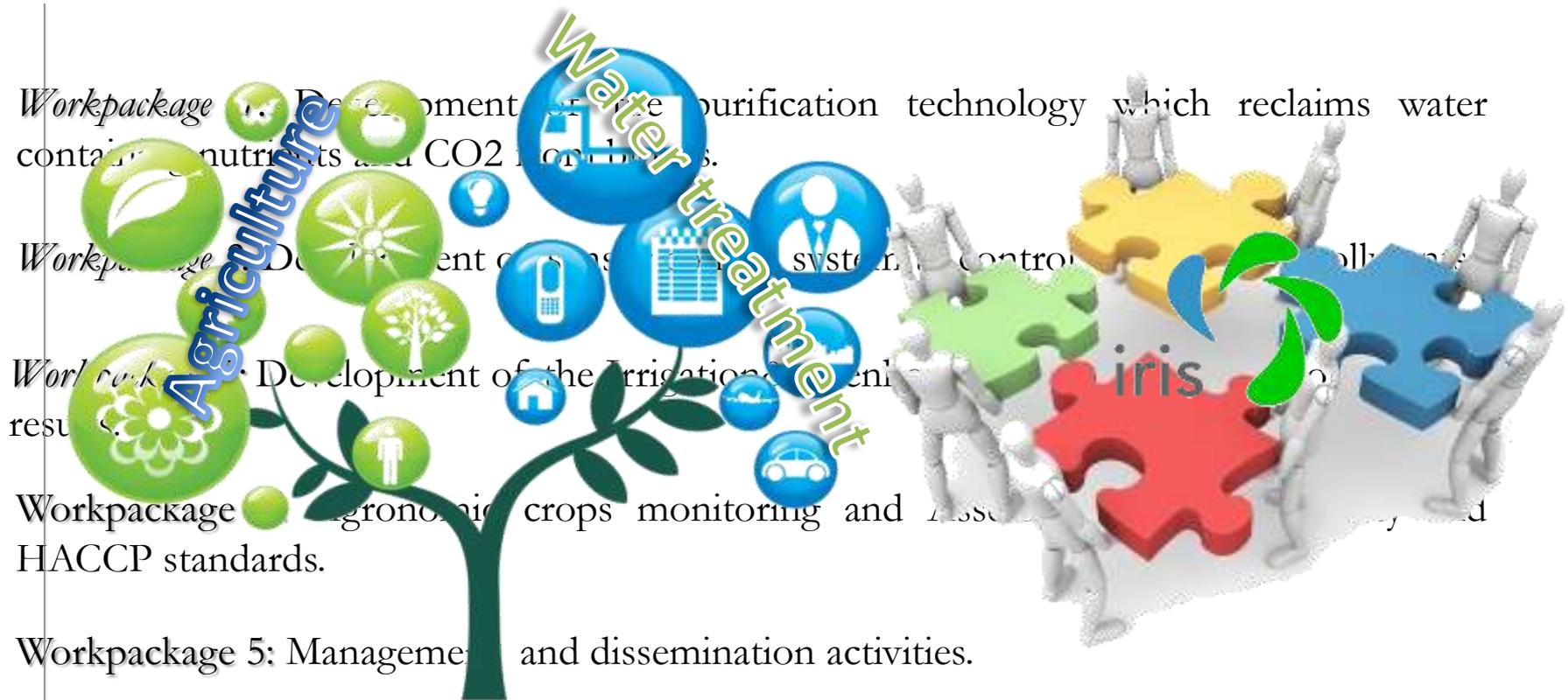
*Workpackage 1:* Development of the purification technology which reclaims water containing nutrients and CO<sub>2</sub> for biogas.

*Workpackage 2:* Development of sensors, control systems and control algorithms.

*Workpackage 3:* Development of the Irrigation system and its control algorithms.

*Workpackage 4:* Agronomic crops monitoring and assessment, HACCP standards.

*Workpackage 5:* Management and dissemination activities.





www.iris-

Intelligent Rectangular Irrigation System

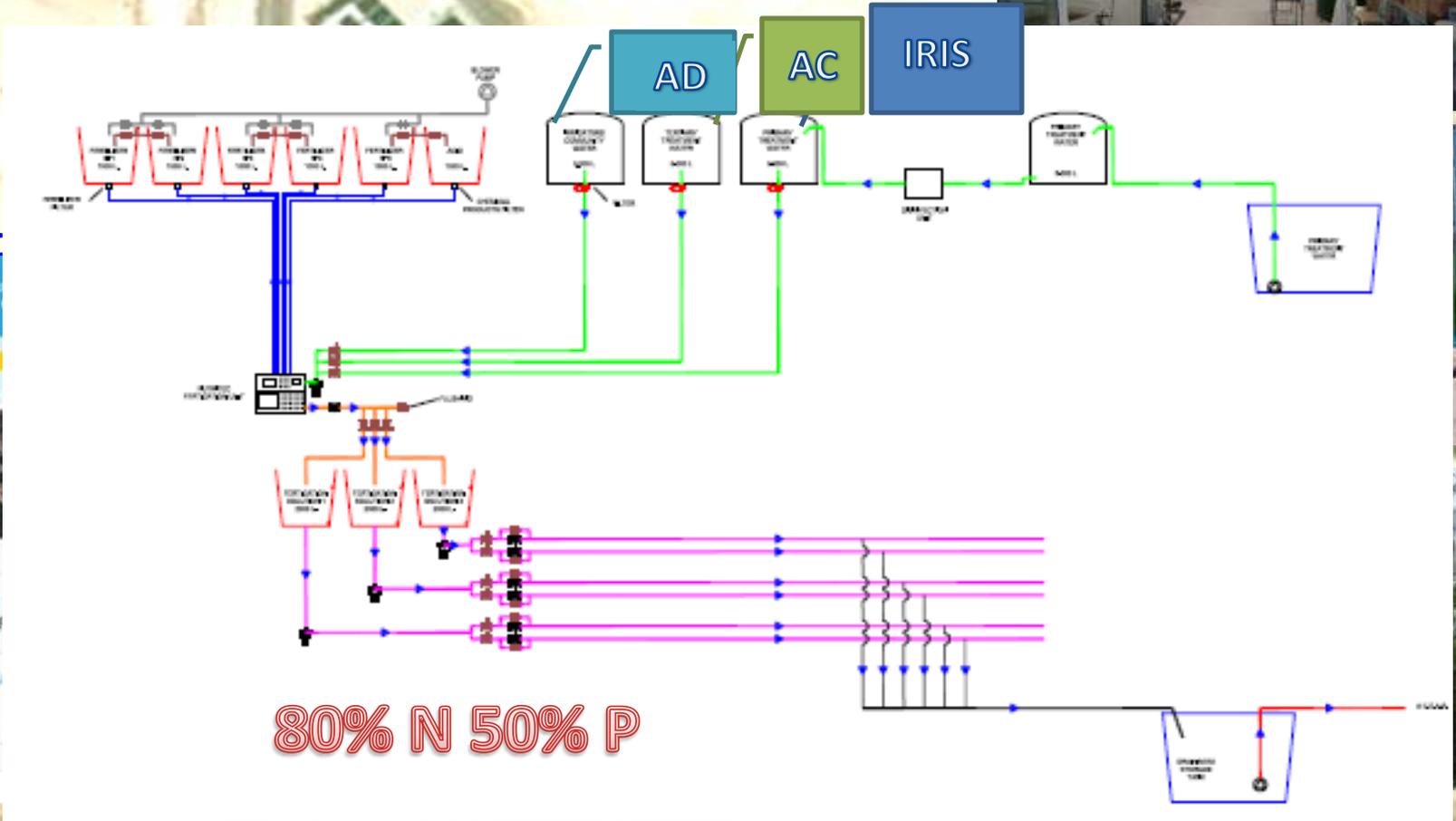
iris

IRIS

CALENDARIO

NOVEDADES

Intelligent



### PARTICIPANTES



## Intelligent

## Reclaim

## Irrigation

## System

Sistema de control agroclimático



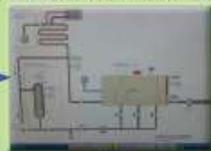
Unidad de fertirrigación



Esquema de funcionamiento  
Tanques fertilizantes



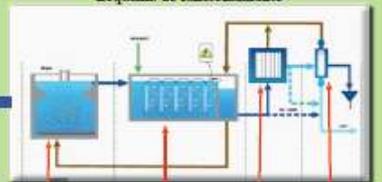
Sistema de control EDAR IRIS



Prototipo EDAR IRIS



Esquema de funcionamiento



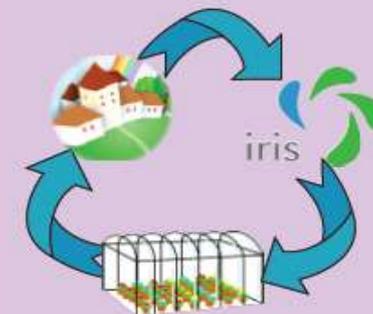
Interior invernadero



Exterior invernadero



Agua IRIS    ●  
Agua    ●  
Depuradora R-B    ●  
Agua Comunidad de regantes    ●  
Sustrato Fibra de Coco    ■  
Sustrato Lana de Roca    ■



Objetivos del proyecto:

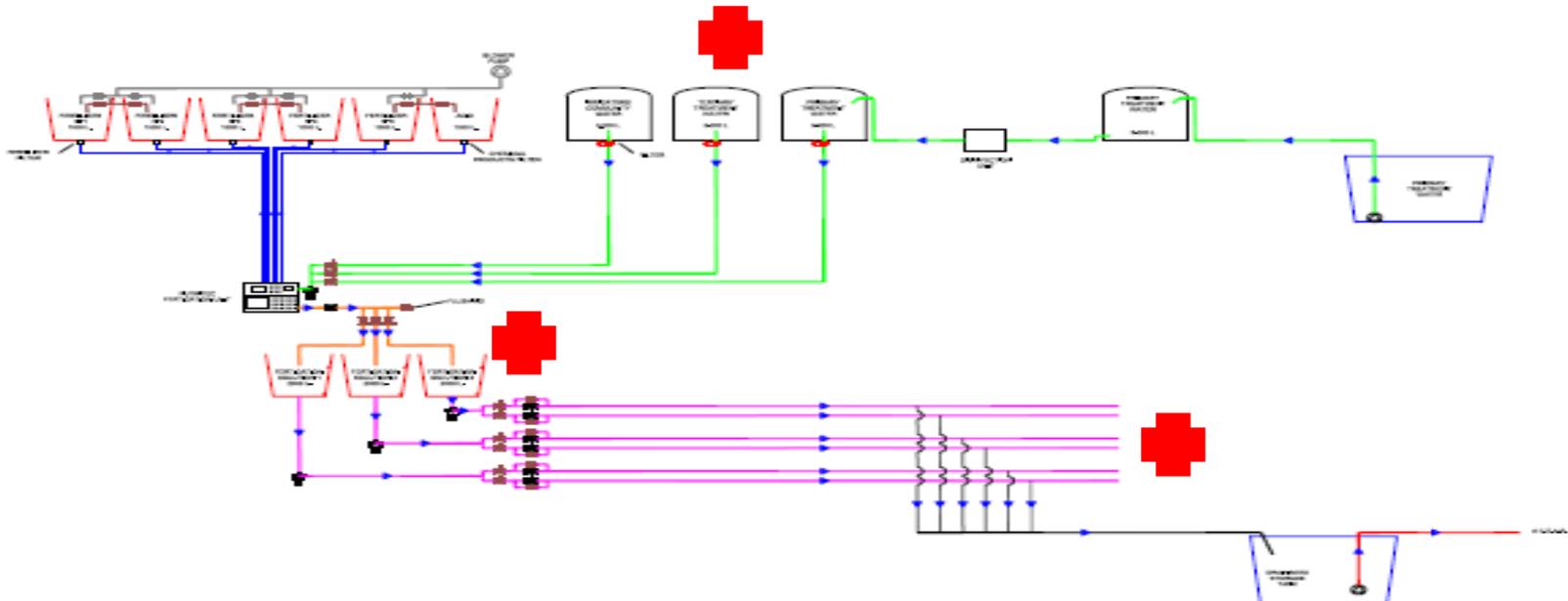
- Reutilización de agua y nutrientes.
- Optimizar producción agronómica.
- Tratamiento aguas residuales pequeños núcleos.
- Obtención producto comercializable©



# Influence of irrigation water in hidroponic tomate microbiology safety

Presence and concentration of:

- Escherichia coli
- Escherichia coli VTEC (identification of 5 pathogens)
- Salmonella spp
- Listeria monocytogenes

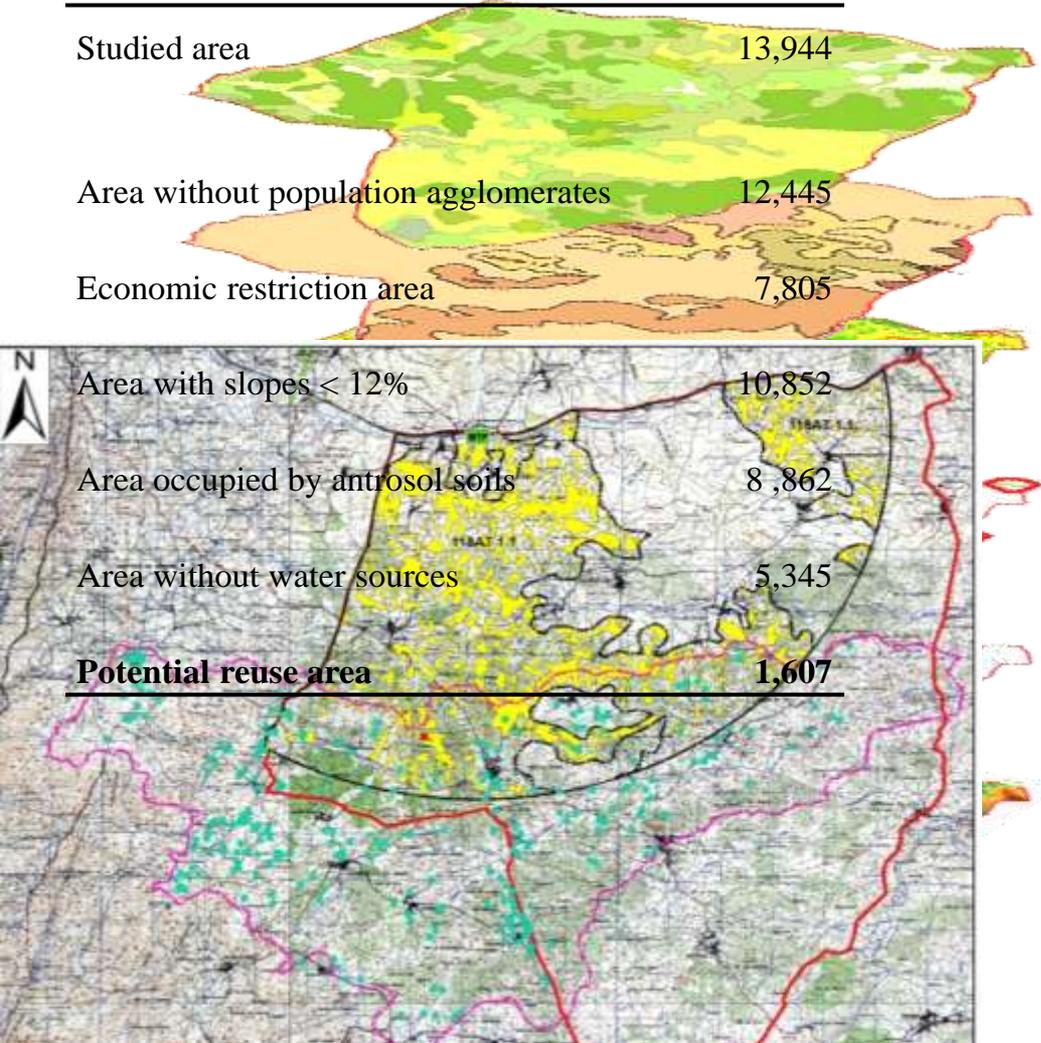


# Potential use of reclaimed water with GIS based on multicriteria analysis

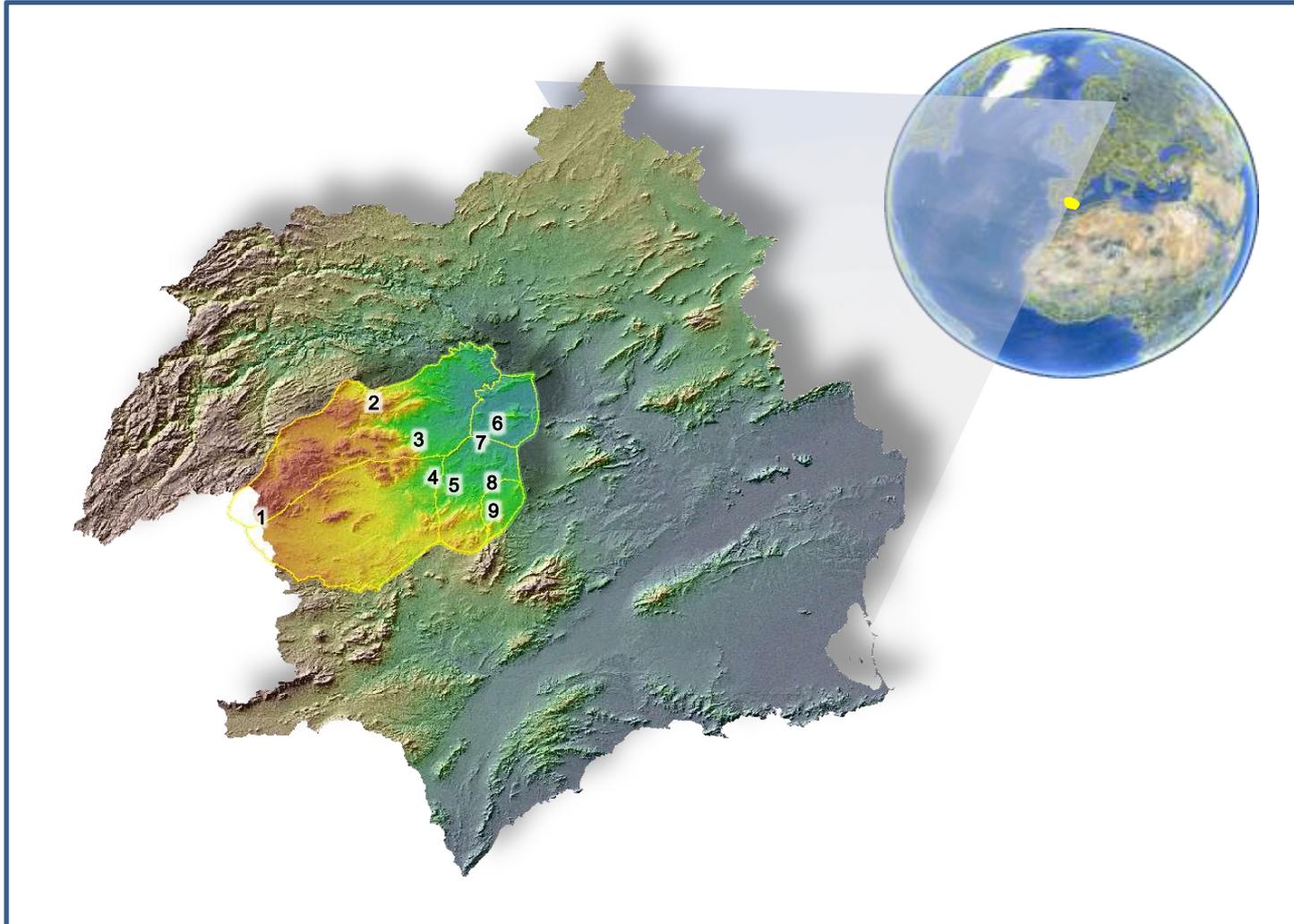


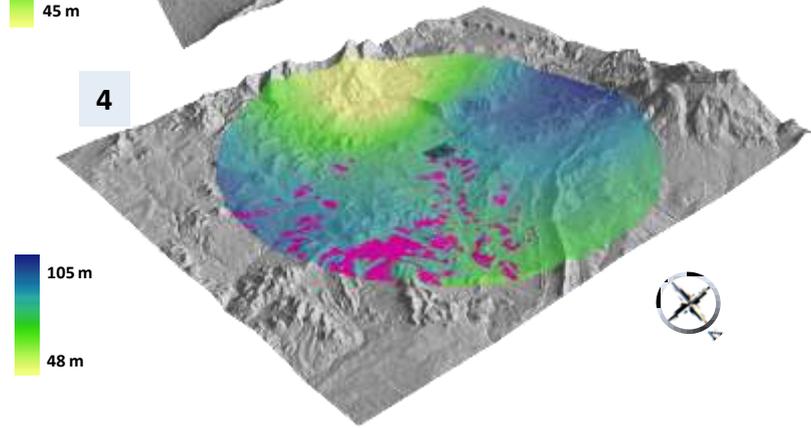
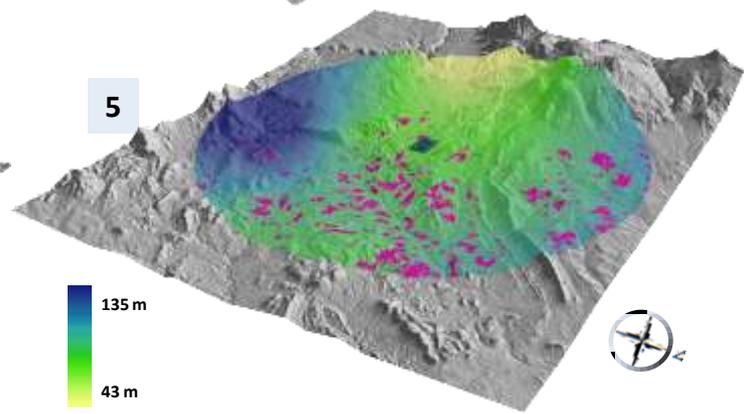
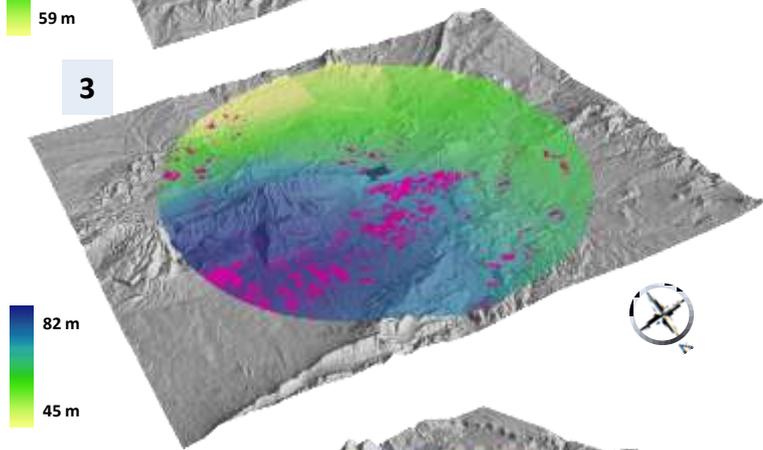
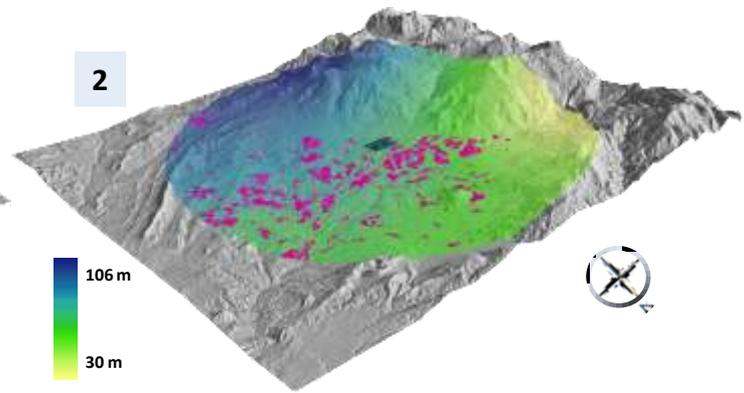
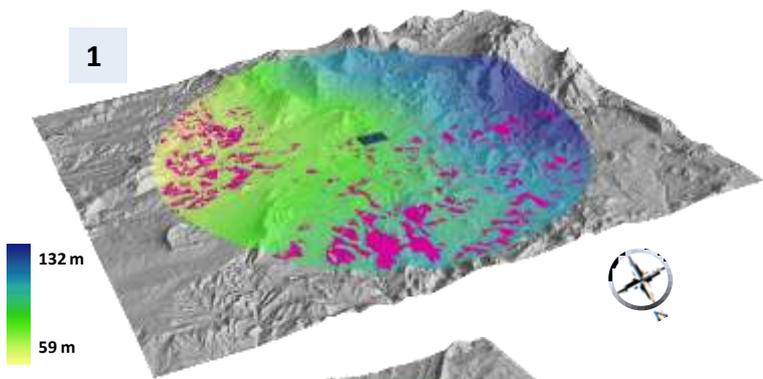
# Results

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>
Studied area	13,944
Area without population agglomerates	12,445
Economic restriction area	7,805
Area with slopes < 12%	10,852
Area occupied by antroposol soils	8,862
Area without water sources	5,345
<b>Potential reuse area</b>	<b>1,607</b>



# Reclaimed water use optimization under Mediterranean conditions through GIS





 Wastewater treatment plant  
 Aquifer depth  
 Optimal groundwater recharge  
 5 Km

# Covered storage ponds



CFU / 100ml	Discovered	Covered	Reduction
Fecal coliforms	1680,8	279	83,4%
E-coli	52,37	5,03	90,4%

# Future perspectives

- ✓ Update and establish **new agronomic thresholds** to properly assess the suitability of reclaimed water for irrigation.
- ✓ Develop new tools and sustainable management strategies that save water and profit the **potential nutritive value** of reclaimed water.
- ✓ Introduce new criteria in the **GIS-techniques** as a tool to assess the proper extension of RW use.



# Future challenges

- Advances in water integrated management
  - Institutional: Water Cycle Agencies
  - Urban and agricultural users
  - Economic and financial aspects
- Appropriate terminology
- Development suitable regulation
- Study and research in demonstration projects
- Promote public information and outreach
- Ensure the viability and sustainability

# Recommendations for the Mediterranean regulation on reclaimed water use

- Microbiological parameters selected must have incidence in present-day Mediterranean countries.
- User can't be responsible for providing treatment and for quality. The concept must be precisely explained (i.e., algae growing in reclaimed water storage ponds).
- Reclaimed water use regulation needs to be harmonized with other regulations (drinking waters, bathing waters, Legionella).
- Must have rational emphasis on control, regardless on the intensity of treatment and the use of the facility.
- Traditional analytical methods must be accepted.



**Sustainable Water  
Integrated Management (SWIM) -  
Support Mechanism**



Project funded by  
the European Union

*Water is too precious to waste*

**TWO DAYS TRAINING ON THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WWTPS**

**9-10 September, Murcia**

**Case Studies in Wastewater Reuse**

***Presented by: Dr. Francisco Pedrero Salcedo***

# Biggest projects on reclaimed water use in irrigation

- **1156 Hm<sup>3</sup>, Australian agriculture**
- **937 Hm<sup>3</sup>, Californian agriculture**
- **355 Hm<sup>3</sup>, Japan**
- **310 Hm<sup>3</sup>, Florida agriculture**
- **246.841 residences in Florida.**
- **794 parks in Florida.**
- **477 golf courses in Florida.**
- **272 schools in Florida.**
- **More than 4000 has in Italia.**
- **Más de 3640 has de bosque, viñedos, olivos, alfalfa, frutales y otros cultivos, Argentina.**
- **70% de toda la producción de alcachofas, Estados Unidos.**
- **10% del suministro nacional total de agua y cerca del 20% del suministro total de agua utilizado para riego.**

# Planned reclaimed water use projects history

<b>1912</b>	The first water reuse system was for irrigation in <b>Golden Gate Park (San Francisco, EEUU)</b>
<b>1965</b>	<b>Israel</b> start to use reclaimed water for irrigation
<b>1966</b>	<b>Florida</b> introduce reclaimed water in the Tallahassee farm building.
<b>1977</b>	<b>St.Petersburg</b> city built the first urban water reuse system in the EEUU
<b>1984</b>	<b>Tokio</b> start to use reclaimed water from Ochiai WWTP, for the use of toilets in buildings in the district of Shinjuku.
<b>1985</b>	<b>Water Conserv II</b> , the biggest water reuse project, combine agriculture irrigation with aquifer recharge through infiltration ( <b>Orlando, Florida</b> )
<b>1989</b>	<b>Spain</b> start to use reclaimed water in golf courses from the Consorci Costa Brava WWTPs.
<b>1998</b>	<b>Monterrey Council, California</b> , start to use reclaimed water in 4800 has of vegetables. At present, they continue irrigating.
<b>1999</b>	<b>Virginia Pipeline project</b> , the biggest water reuse project in <b>Australia</b> , irrigate different types of crops with reclaimed water from the Bolivar WWTP
<b>2005</b>	Inform from the <b>Department of Environment protection in Florida</b> entitle "Use of reclaimed water: perspectives about regulation and security", reported that reclaimed water has been used in Florida during 40 years without no illness.

# Agricultural reuse projects in the Mediterranean



# Spain



Region	Volume of wastewater for reuse (hm <sup>3</sup> /yr)
Comunidad Valenciana	128.0
Comunidad de Murcia	106.0
Islas Canarias	47.5
Islas Baleares	40.0
Cataluña	33.0
Coast of Andaluzia	11.5
Vitoria-Gatzei	12.5
Madrid	8.0



Thank you for your attention

