

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural field. The field is divided into numerous long, straight rows of green crops, likely corn. Between these rows are white, winding channels that appear to be part of an irrigation system. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down the length of the field towards a distant horizon. The text "Measuring Water On Farm" is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

# **Measuring Water On Farm**

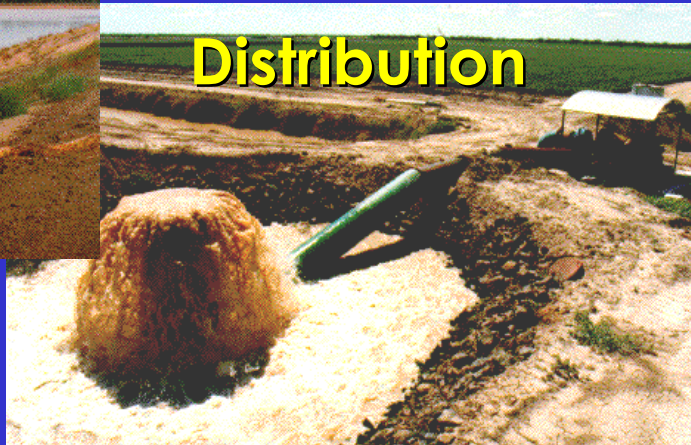
**Paul Dalton** (Dalton Consulting)

# Surface Irrigated Cotton Systems

**Storage**



**Distribution**



**Application**



# Irrigation Efficiency - Performance Indicators

Efficiency = ratio of Outputs from Inputs

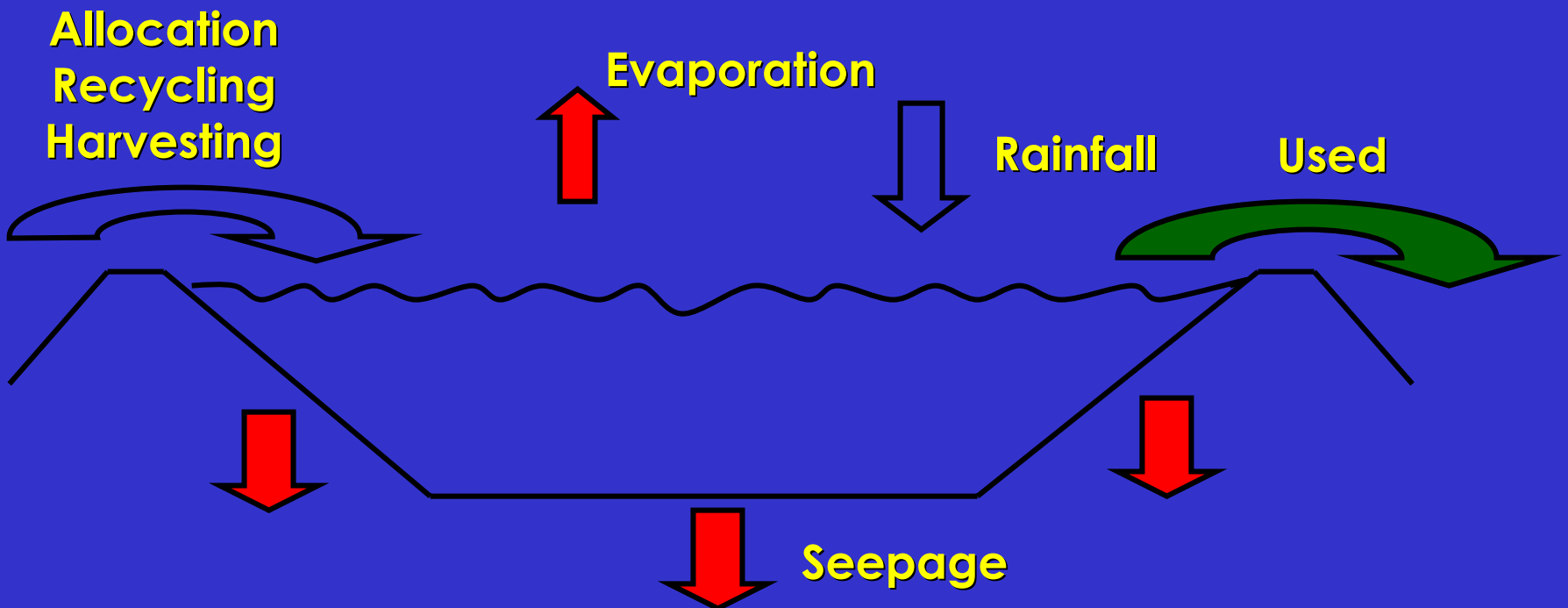
- Economic Efficiency = \$/ML
  - optimise economics
- Agronomic Efficiency = bales/ML
  - optimise production
- Volumetric Efficiency = ML/ML or %
  - optimise water use

$$\text{Vol. Effic. (\%)} = \frac{\text{volume into root zone}}{\text{total distributed/applied}}$$

# **WATER STORAGES**

# Efficiency

$$\text{Storage Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Volume used}}{\text{Volume Stored}}$$



# Measuring Storage Efficiency

- Water Level (1mm)
- Depth / Volume Relationship
- Evaporation
- Weather Station
- Rain gauge
- Seepage during static periods



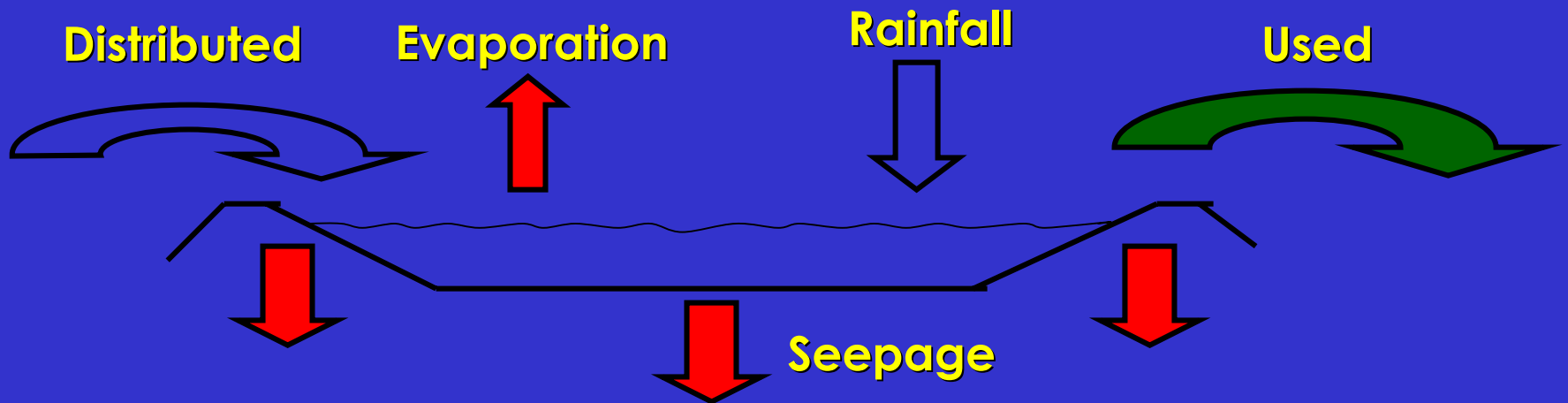
# Results - Storage Efficiency

Storage Description	Storage Period	Stored Water (ML)	Used (ML)	Seepage (ML)	Evaporation (ML)	Storage Efficiency
Farm A 4m max depth 1800 ML	27/11/98 to 28/12/98	1272	1082 (85%)	14 (1.1%)	177 (13.9%)	85%
Farm A 4m max depth 2500 ML	27/11/98 to 5/7/99	2388	1313 (55%)	255 (10.6%)	930 (39%)	55%
Farm B 3m max depth 500ML	2/12/98 to 5/5/99	729	581 (79.7%)	34 (4.7%)	121 (16.6%)	79.7%
Farm E 4m max depth 1800ML	13/8/99 to 16/2/2000	3649	2776 (76.1%)	180 (4.9%)	701 (19.2%)	76.1%

# **DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS**

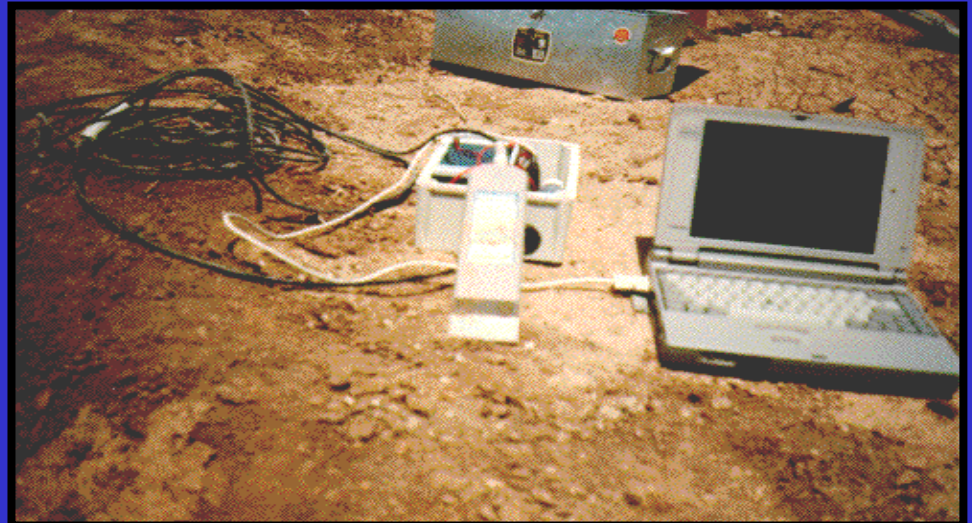
# Distribution Channel Efficiency

$$\text{Distribution Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Volume used}}{\text{Volume Distributed}}$$



# Measuring Distribution Volumes

- Versatile Doppler velocity / flow sensors
- Velocity, depth and cross-sectional area of flow
- Works on ultrasonic Doppler shift principle



# Measuring Losses

- Channel Height - Depth sensor
- Evaporation - pan
- Seepage - volume balance of ponded channel sections



# Results - Channel Losses

Site	Average Daily Loss for period (mm/day)	Average Daily Evaporation for period (mm/day)	Resultant Seepage
Farm A main supply channel	14.6	13.6	1.0 mm/day
Farm A TW channel	34	10.8	23.0 mm/day
Farm B TW channel	31.2	12	19.2 mm/day
Farm E head ditch	13.0	8.4	4.6 mm/day
Farm E head ditch	11.9	8.4	3.5 mm/day
Farm E TW channel	18.2	9.3	8.9 mm/day

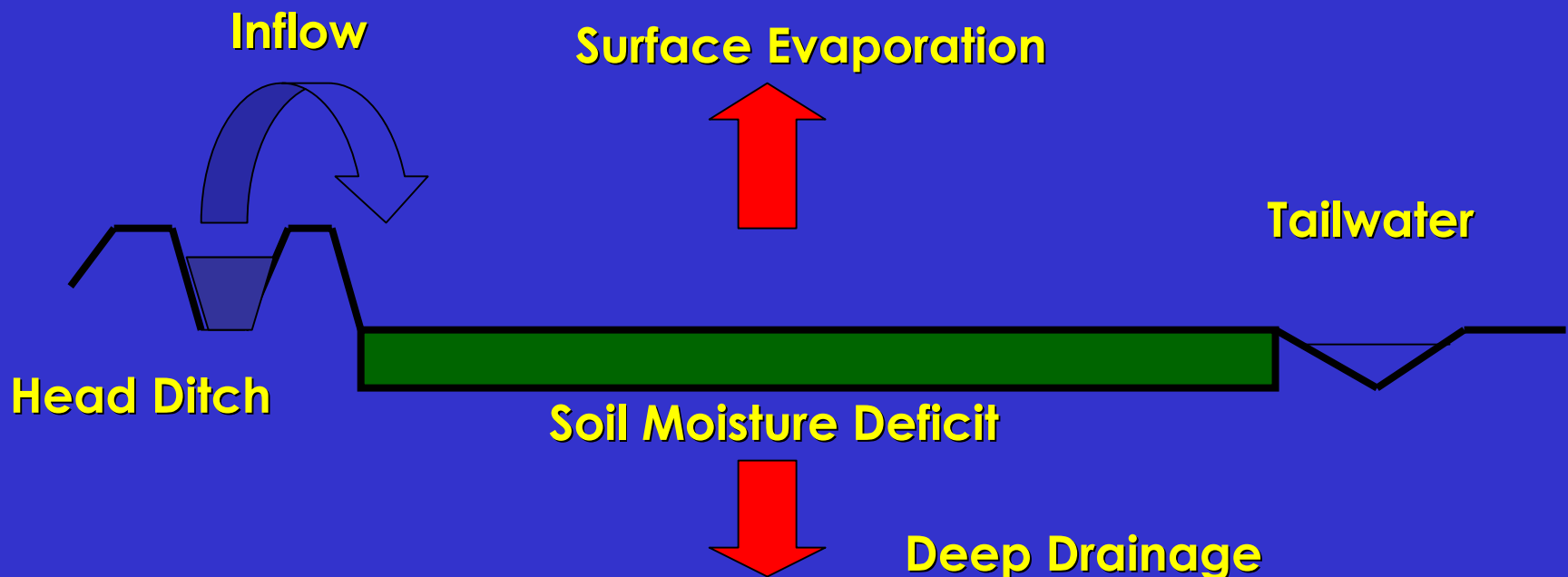
# Results - Distribution Efficiency

Site	Distributed (ML)	Evaporation ML (%)	Seepage ML (%)	Distribution Efficiency (%)
Farm A	5000	130 (3%)	270 (6%)	91 %
Farm B	1300	68 (5%)	109 (8.4%)	86 %
Farm E	4800	94 (2%)	90 (1.8%)	96 %

**APPLICATION- FIELD / FURROW**

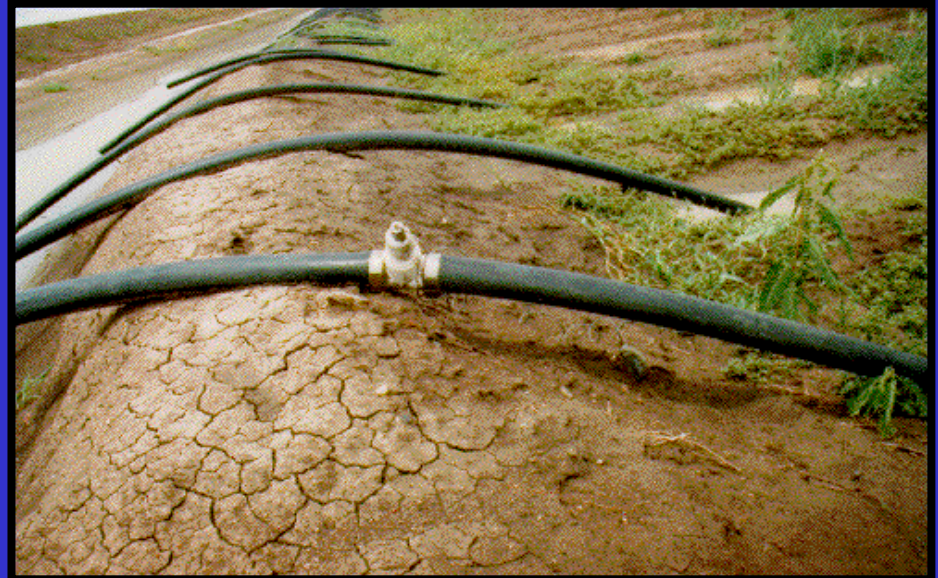
# Application Efficiency

$$\text{Application Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Volume applied to Deficit}}{\text{Volume Applied to Field}}$$



# Application Rate

- GLI tee mount flow sensors in siphons
- Measures siphon flow rate and the total volume applied (mm)



# Outflow Data

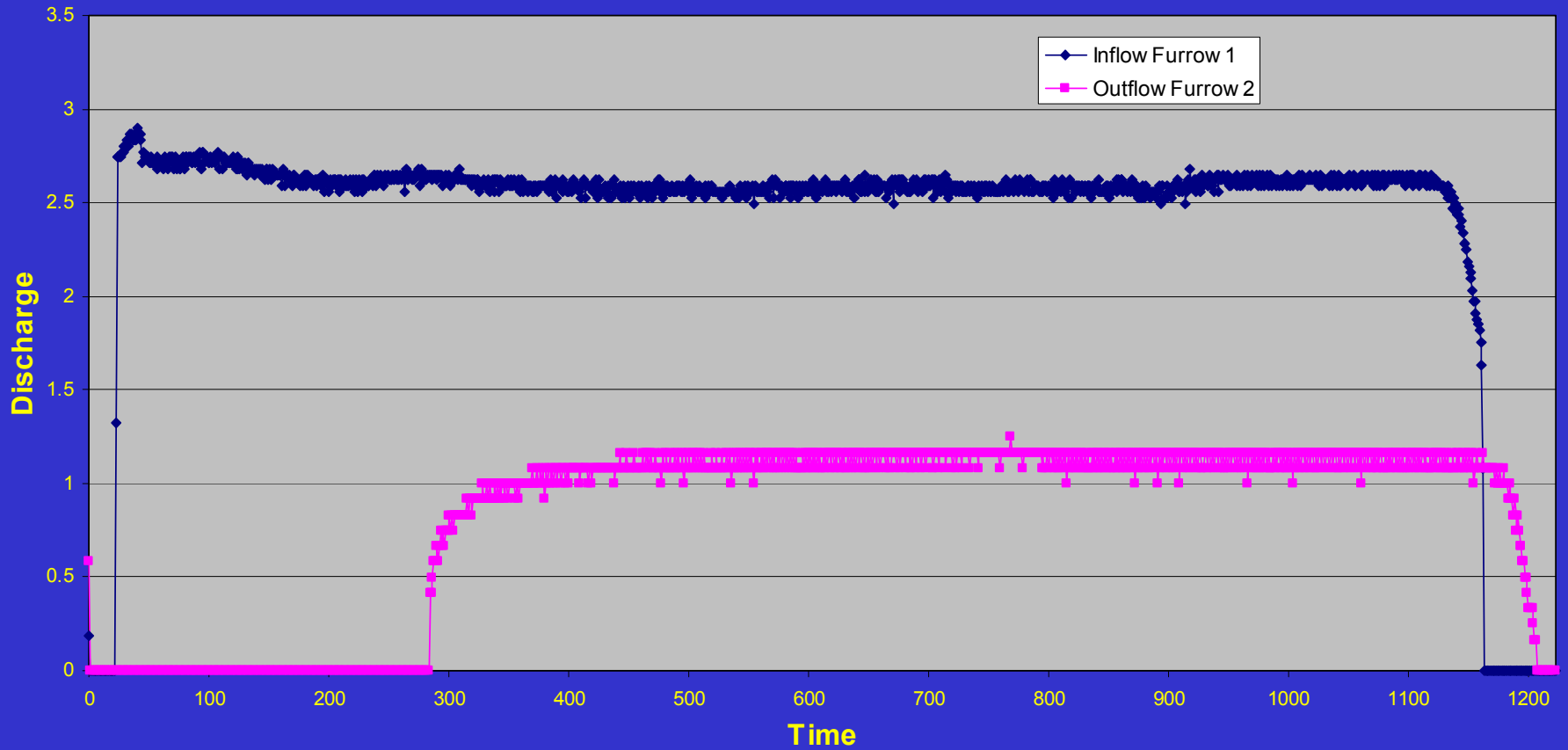
- PVC dam
- GLI tee mount flow sensor
- Measures the tailwater flowrate and volume (mm)



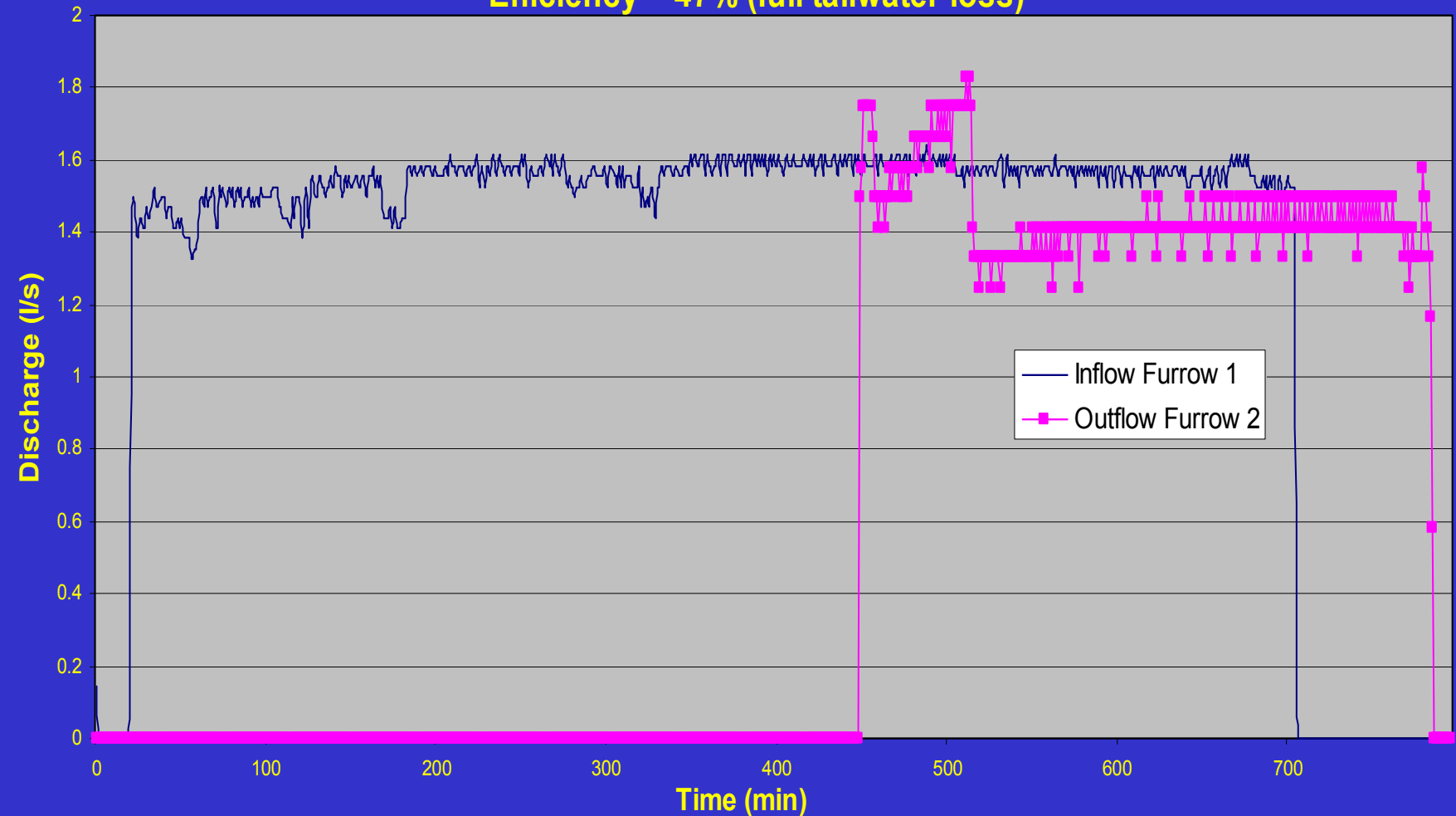
# Soil Moisture Deficit

- Neutron Probe
- amount of water applied to the soil profile

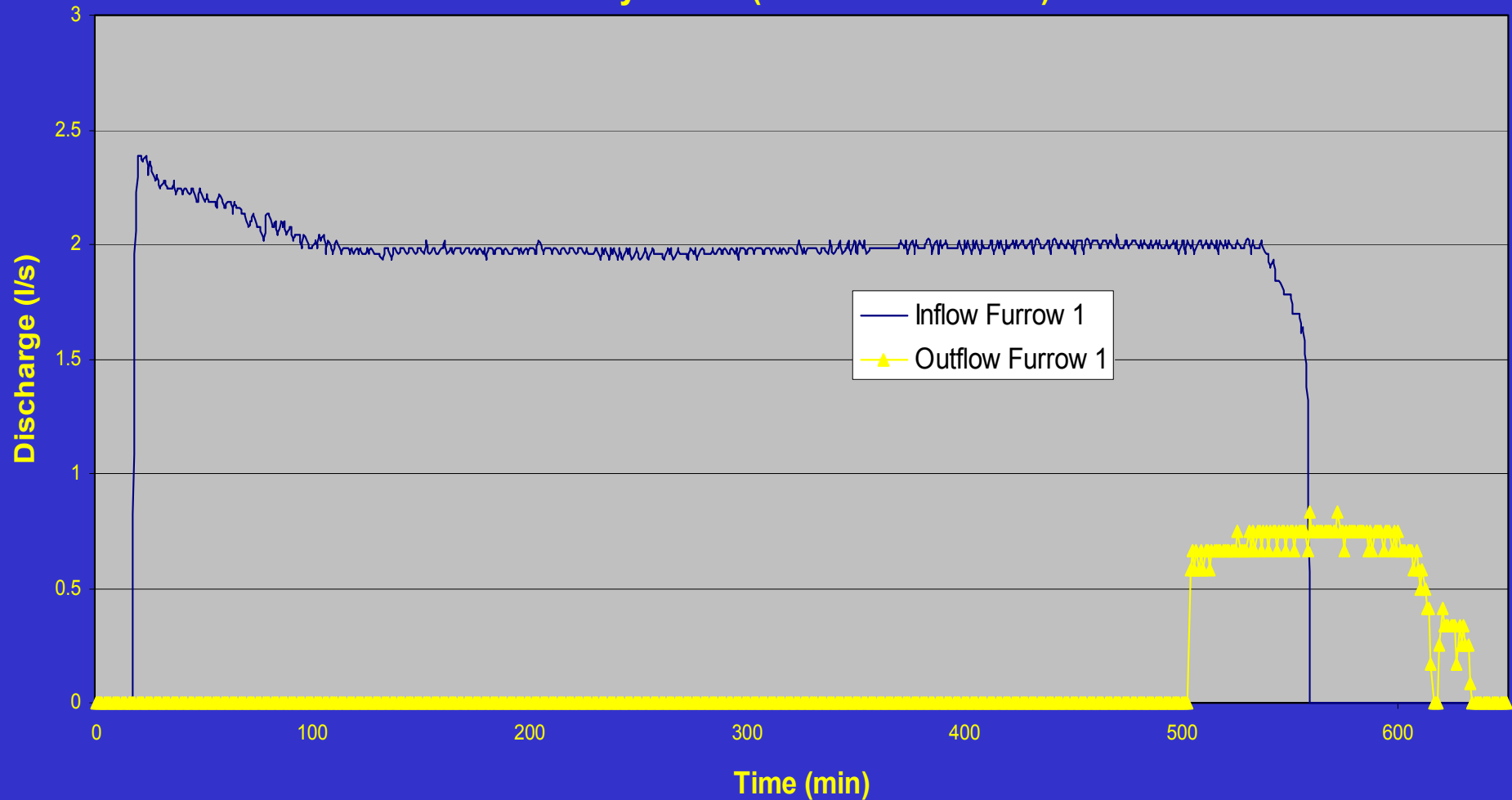
Applied = 355mm  
Deficit = 120mm  
Tailwater = 120mm  
Deep Drainage = 115mm  
Efficiency = 33% (full TW losses)  
Efficiency = 51% (no TW loss)



**Application = 85mm**  
**Deficit (applied to fill soil profile) = 40mm**  
**Tailwater = 40mm**  
**Deep Drainage = 5mm**  
**Efficiency = 93 % (no Tailwater losses)**  
**Efficiency = 47% (full tailwater loss)**



**Application = 87 mm**  
**Deficit (applied to fill soil profile) = 78 mm**  
**Tailwater = 7 mm**  
**Deep Drainage = 2mm**  
**Efficiency = 97% (no Tailwater losses)**  
**Efficiency = 90% (full Tailwater loss)**



# Seasonal Application Data

APPLIED				TAILWATER	DEFICIT	TOTAL INFILTRATION	DEEP DRAINAGE (=error & "other losses")	EFFICIENCY	
Irrigation No. and Date	Av. Furrow Application Rate (l/s/fur)	Application Time (min)	Application to Furrow (mm)	Runoff Tailwater Furrow (mm)	Added to Soil Moisture Defecit (mm)	Total Infiltrated (mm)	Deep Drainage (mm)	Application Efficiency (TW recycling) %	Application Efficiency (no TW recyc) %
3 – 10/12/98	1.25	719	89.8	21.7	35.5	68.1	32.6	63.7	39.5
4 – 21/12/98	1.34	1216	130.0		50.2				38.6
6 – 7/1/99 Low Head High Head	1.55	685	84.9	39.1	39.9	45.9	6.0	93	47.0
	1.94	650	100.9	23.9	39.9	77.1	37.2	63.2	39.5
7 – 17/1/99 Low Head High Head	1.58	818	103.6	18.4	84	85.2	1.2	98.8	81.1
	2.01	540	86.7	6.5	78	80.2	2.2	97.5	90.0
8 – 15/2/99 Low Head High Head	1.52	973	118.6	7.8	99.3	110.9	11.6	90.3	83.7
	2.34	648	105	8.5	89	96.5	7.5	92.8	84.8
Total			750mm *	100mm #	545mm @	650mm †	105mm	86%	73%
%			100%	13%	73%		14%	86%	73%

(\* assumes averages between measured applications when more than one is recorded and that initial two unmeasured irrigations were 70mm and irrigation 5 was 100mm)

(# assumes tailwaters of 10mm per irrigation on irrigations that were not recorded)

(@ assumes deficits of 50 mm in irrigations 1,2 and 5)

(! assumes infiltration of 80mm in irrigations 1,2,4 and 5)

# Seasonal Application Data

APPLIED				TAILWATER	DEFICIT	TOTAL INFILTRATION	DEEP DRAINAGE (+error and "other losses")	EFFICIENCY	
Irrigation No. and Date	Av. Furrow Application Rate (l/s/fur)	Application Time (min)	Application to Furrow (mm)	Runoff Tailwater Furrow (mm)	Added to Soil Moisture Defecit (mm)	Total Infiltrated (mm)	Deep Drainage (mm)	Application Efficiency (no TW loss) %	Application Efficiency (full TW loss) %
1 – 16/10/98	1.53	632	96.6		50				52
2 – 09/12/98	1.94	550	106.7	7	43	100	57	47	40
Low Head	1.35	474	64.4	7	43	57	15	77	66
3 – 23/12/98	2.34	549	128.6	7.7	71	121	50	62	55
4 – 07/01/99	2.16	345	74.7	0.4	54	74		73	73
5 – 19/01/99	2.25	495	111.9		85				76
7 – 11/02/99	1.88	359	67.7	1	53	67	14	80	79
8 – 22/02/99	2.16	556	120.4	1.41	87	119	32	73	72
<b>Total</b>			<b>685mm</b>	<b>27mm #</b>	<b>443mm</b>	<b>640mm @</b>	<b>197mm</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>%</b>			<b>100%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>65%</b>		<b>29%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>67%</b>

(# assumes average tailwaters per irrigation on irrigations that were not recorded)

(@ assumes infiltration of 80mm in irrigation 1 and 100mm on irrigation 5)

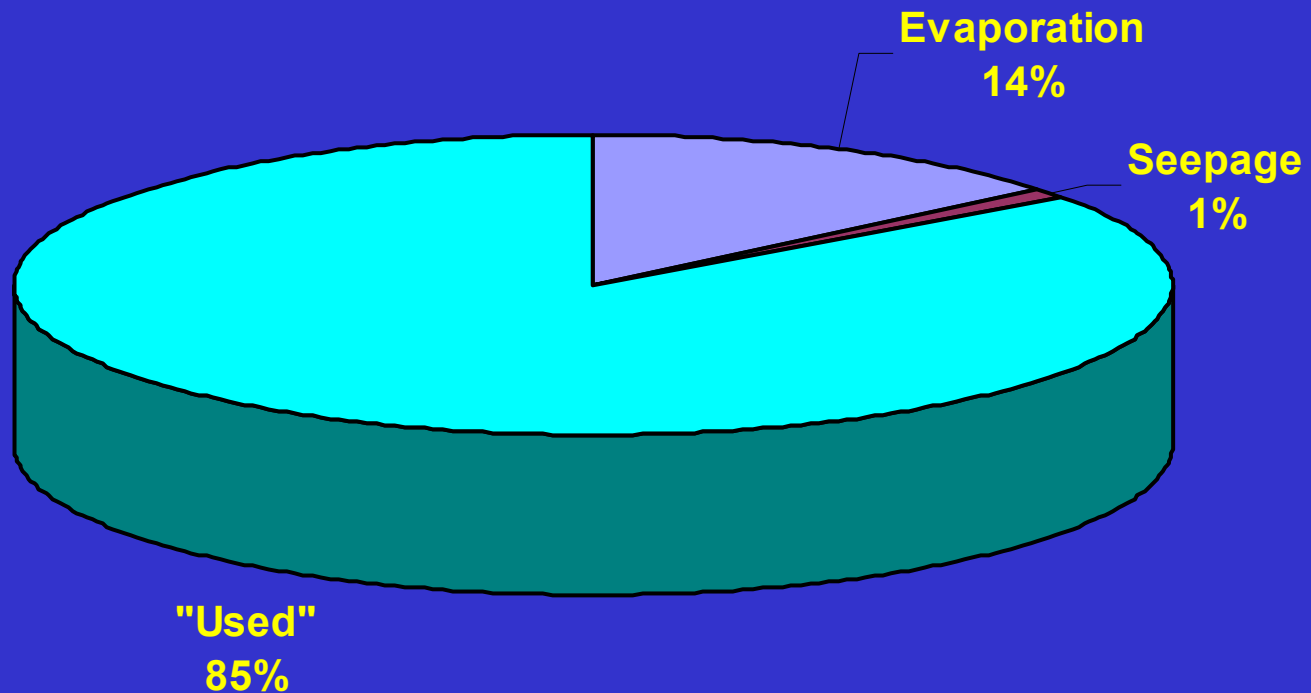
# Seasonal Application Data

## Application Efficiency and Volume Balance Data at Farm E Field 2

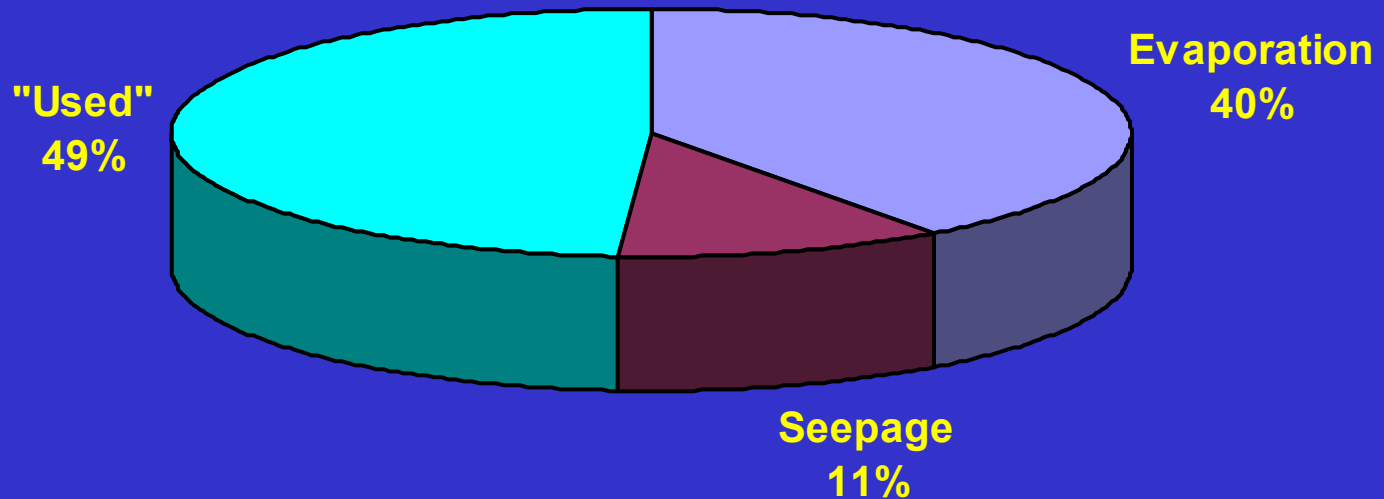
Irrigation No. and Date	I (mm)	TW (mm)	Defecit (mm)	Surface Evap' (mm)	Deep Drainage (mm)	Ea (no TW loss) %	Ea (full TW loss) %	DU %	Er (%)
1 – 01/10/99	116	21	80	8	8	86.4	68.6	94	100
2 – 04/12/99	113	8	54	7	44	55	48	86	100
3 – 26/12/99	127	20	69	8	30	70	54	93	100
4 – 11/01/00	90	21	65	0	4	95	72	90	95
5 – 20/01/00	61	6.4	64	0	0	100	89	83	84
6 – 31/01/00	84	22	85	0	0	100	74	97	74
7 – 08/02/00	83	15	80	0	0	100	82	91	85
8 – 25/02/00	93	9.3	76	0	7	92	82	93	100
TOTAL	767mm	123mm	573mm	23mm	88mm	91%	75%		

# **BENCHMARKING**

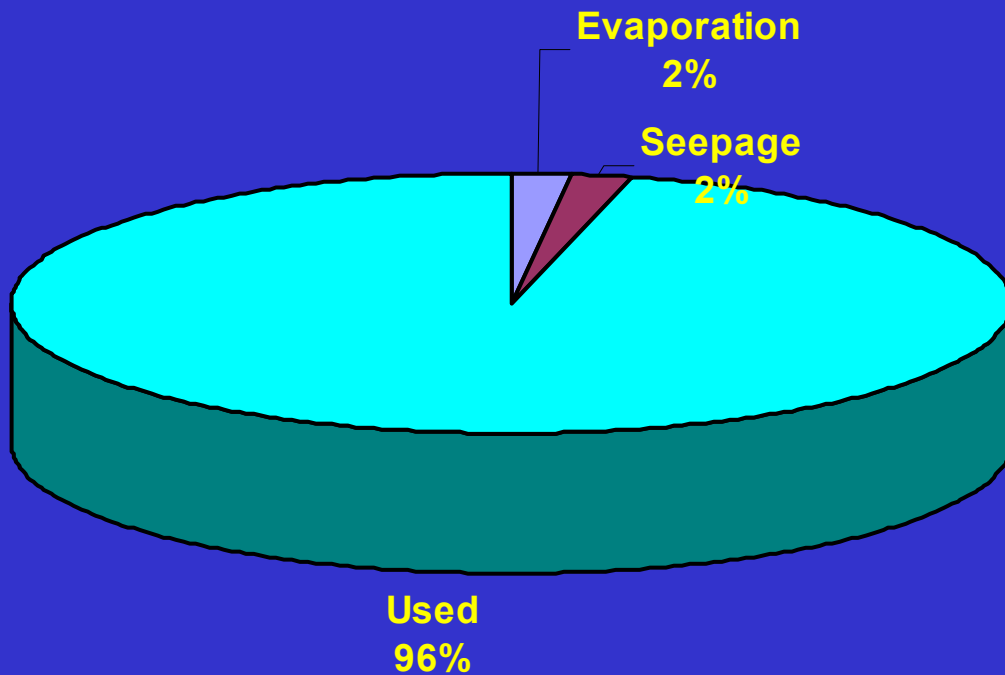
# Storage Efficiency (best case)



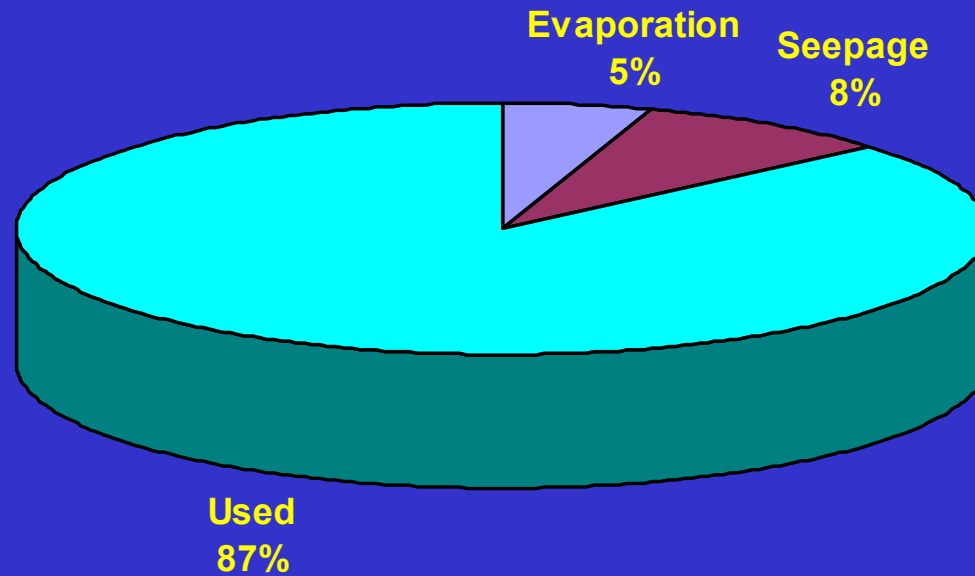
# Storage Efficiency (worst case)



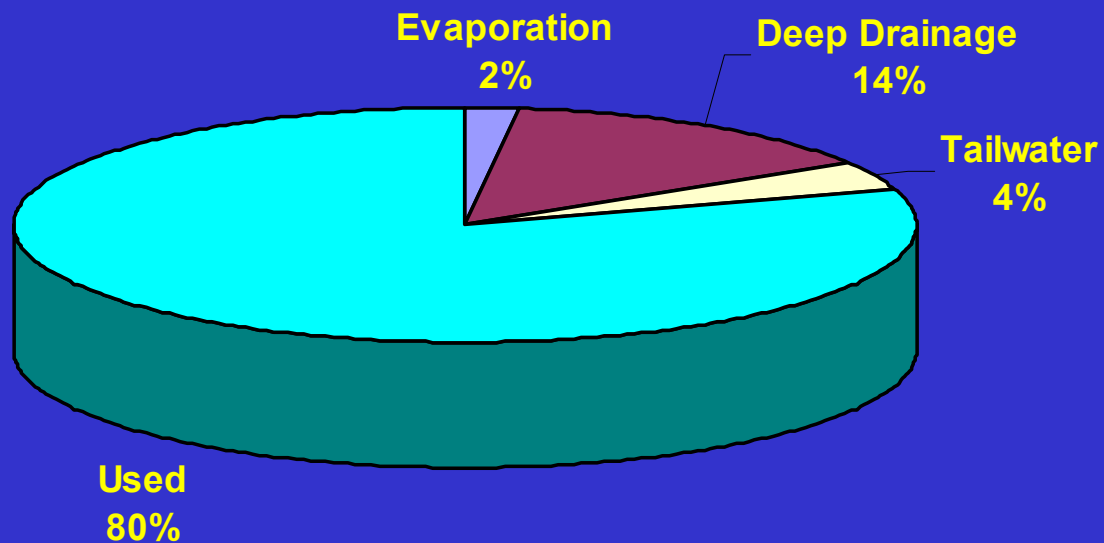
# Distribution Efficiency (best case)



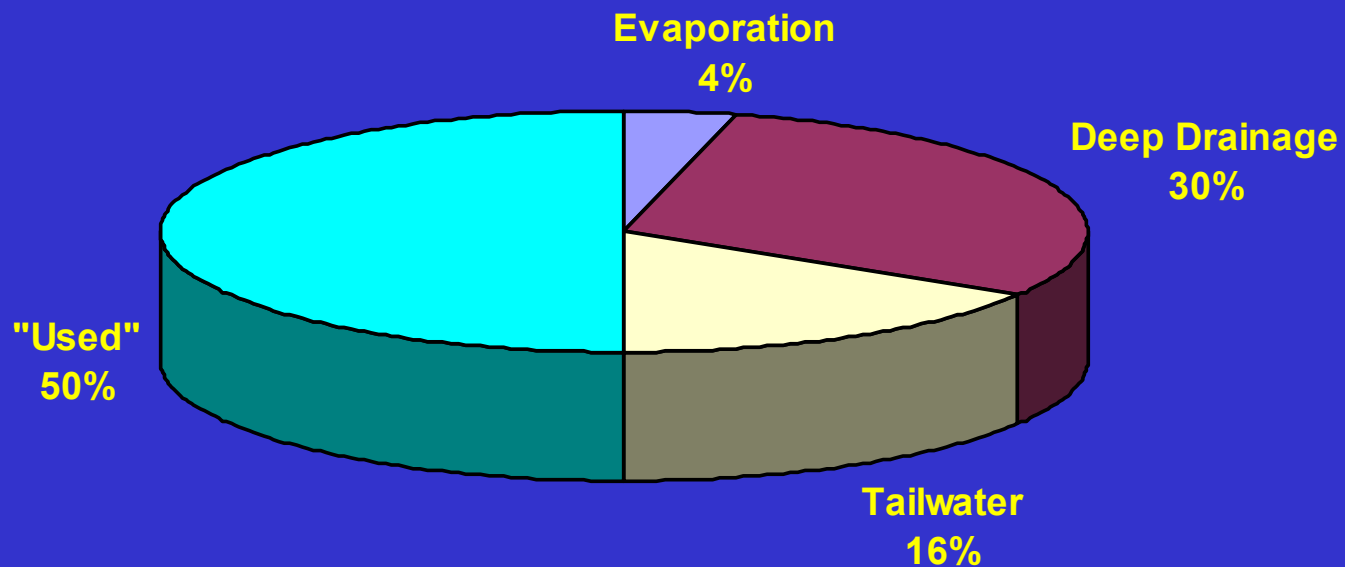
# Distribution Efficiency (worst case)



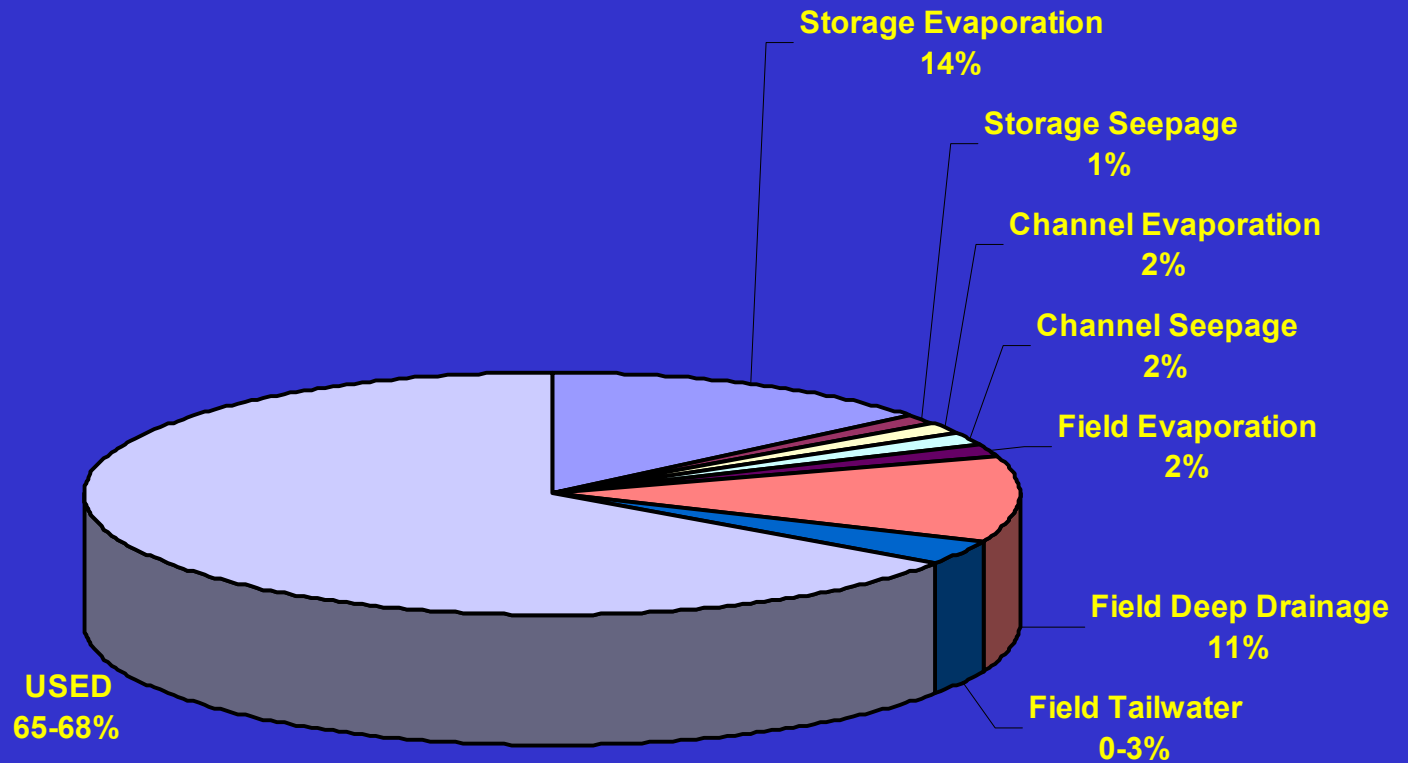
# Application Efficiency (best case)



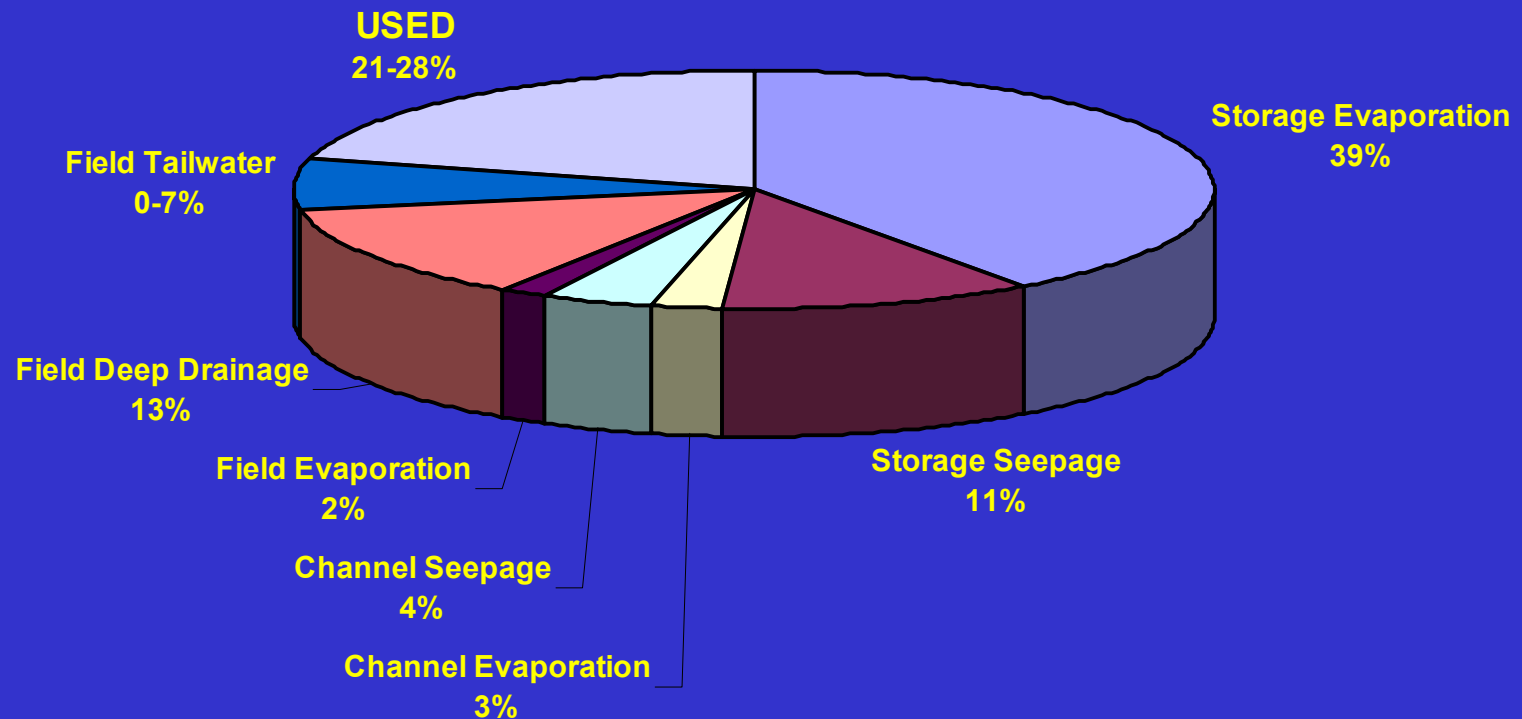
# Application Efficiency (worst case)



# WHOLE FARM WATER USE EFFICIENCY (best case)



# WHOLE FARM WATER USE EFFICIENCY (worst case)



**IMPROVING EFFICIENCY**

# THE MAIN GAINS

- Storage Evaporation Mitigation - “the Holy Grail”
  - covers
  - deepening storages - decreasing surface area/volume ratio
  - \$\$\$\$\$\$
- In some cases Storage Seepage
  - \$\$\$ ??

# Cost/Benefit of Deepening Storages

Water Storage Design Comparisons for a 3500ML storage at Goondiwindi

Wall Height (m)	5	7.5	7.5	10
Water depth (m)	4.2	8.7	8.7	12.4
Shape	Square	Square	Round	Round
Area (ha)	76	42	44	28
Earthworks (m <sup>3</sup> )	349,600	654,887	592,876	888,483
Earthworks unit cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.00	1.33	1.3	1.25
Earthworks cost (\$)	\$349,600	\$871,000	\$770,739	\$1,110,604
Av. Evaporation on Yearly basis (m)	1.8			
ML lost to Evap.	1521	734	736	516
% Evap Loss	43%	21%	21%	15%
Extra ha of crop production (@ 6ML/ha)	0	131	131	167
Extra \$ (@ \$1976/ha gross margin)	0	\$258,856	\$258,856	\$329,992
Years to pay back extra investment	-	2.01	1.62	2.3

# THE MAIN GAINS

- IN FIELD IRRIGATION APPLICATION
  - Deep drainage
  - Tailwater
  - HOW? - low cost simple management changes

# Managing Applications

- Siphon Application Rate
- Siphon cut-off time
- Matching Applied volume to Soil Moisture Deficit

# Measure it to manage it!!



# Evaluate and Improve

- $\text{APPLIED (mm)} = \text{RATE} \times \text{TIME}$
- 1 mm = 1 litre over 1 sq. m
- 1000000 litres over 1 ha = 100mm (4 inches)
- Manage and Optimise Irrigation
  - Manage Siphon Application Rate
  - Manage Siphon cut-off time
  - $\text{Applied (mm)} = \text{Required Soil Deficit (mm)}$
- ARE YOU OVER OR UNDER IRRIGATING?
- Could you grow more crop with the same water

FIRST EVALUATE

# IRRIMATE

## Surface Irrigation Monitoring Tools



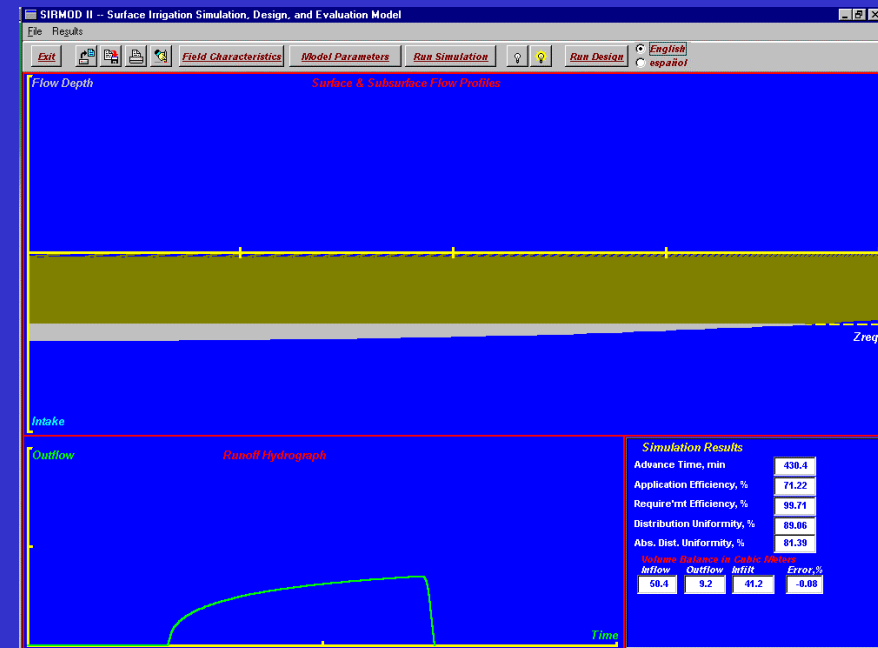
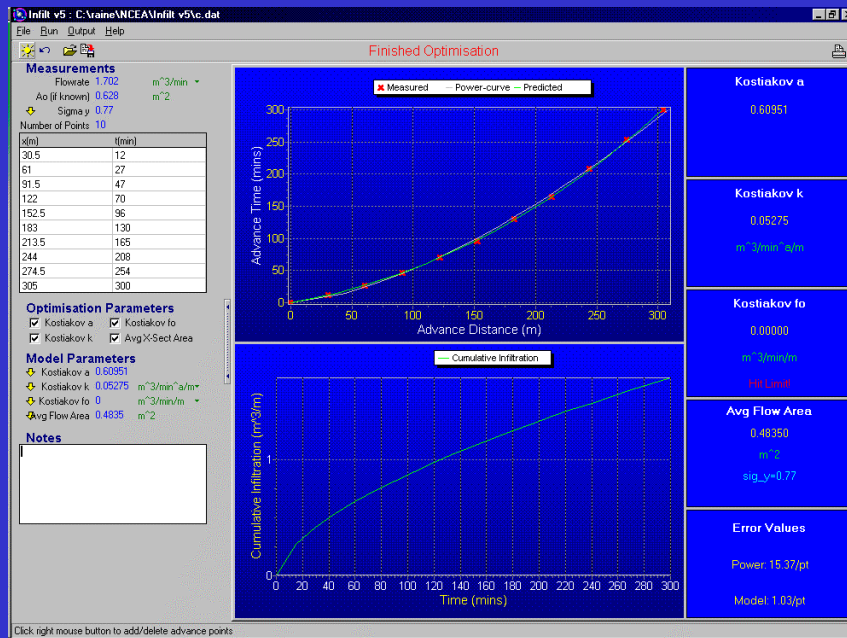
Irrimate Siphon Flow Sensor



Irrimate Advance Sensor and  
Palmtop Computer

# SIRMOD

## Simulation Modelling of Surface Irrigation



“Infiltr” - Infiltration Characterisation

“Sirmod” - Surface Irrigation Model

# Current Practice

- Field Length - 1000m
- Slope 1:800
- Alternate furrow irrigation
- Soil Moisture Deficit - 70mm
- Application rate = 4l/s (63mm siphon at 350mm head)
- Cut-off time - when reaches the end or after - approx 16 hrs

# **CURRENT PRACTICE**

**EG.....**

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00

Volume Balance in Cubic Meters		
Inflow	Outflow	Infiltration
0.0	0.0	0.0
Error, %		
0.00		

English  
español

Run Design

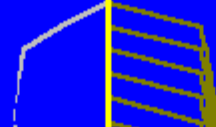
Run Simulation

Model Parameters

Field Characteristics

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles



ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

English  
español

Run Design

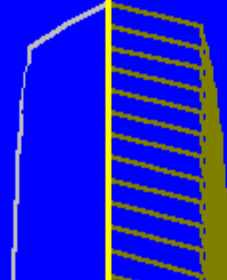
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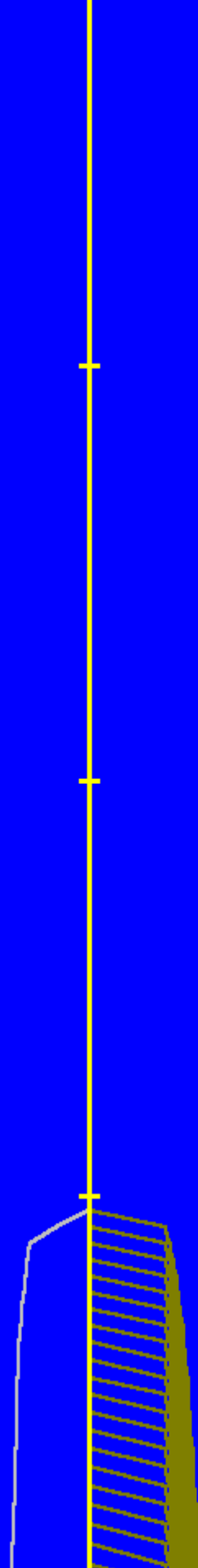
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flow

Runoff Hydrograph

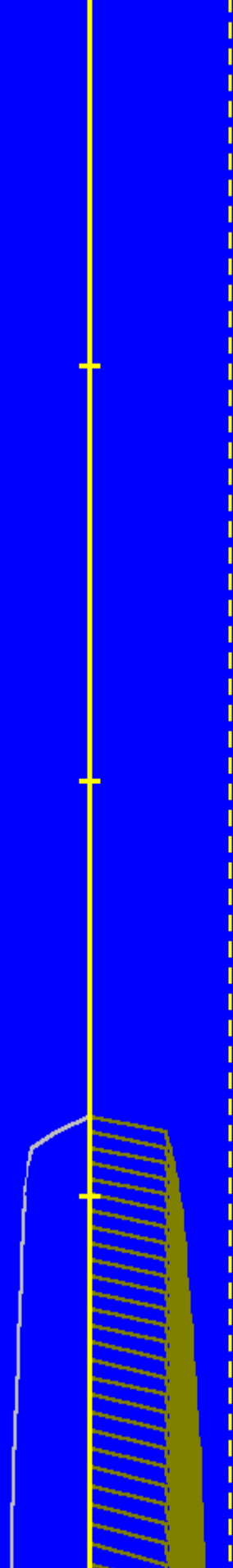
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Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



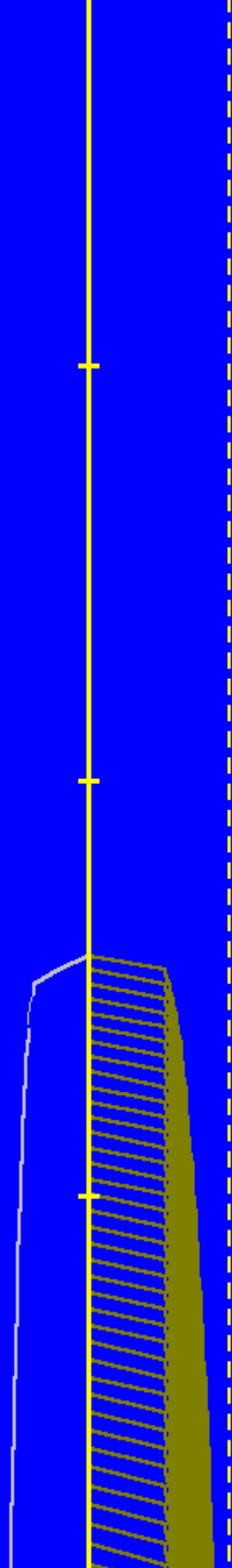
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Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



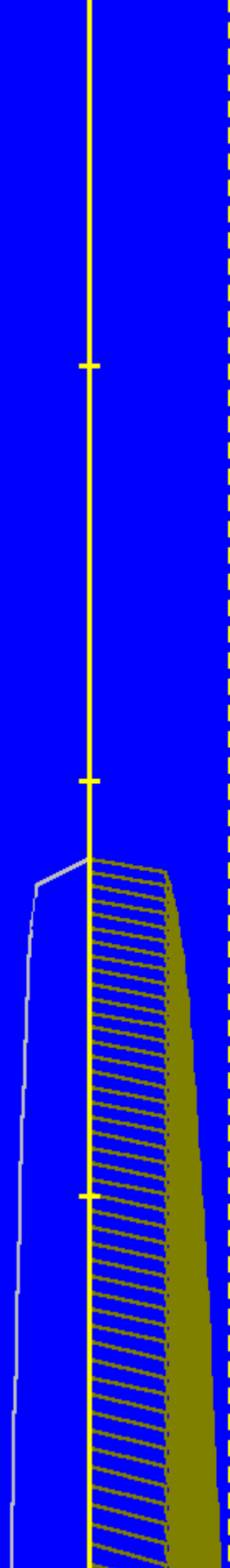
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Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



## Simulation Results

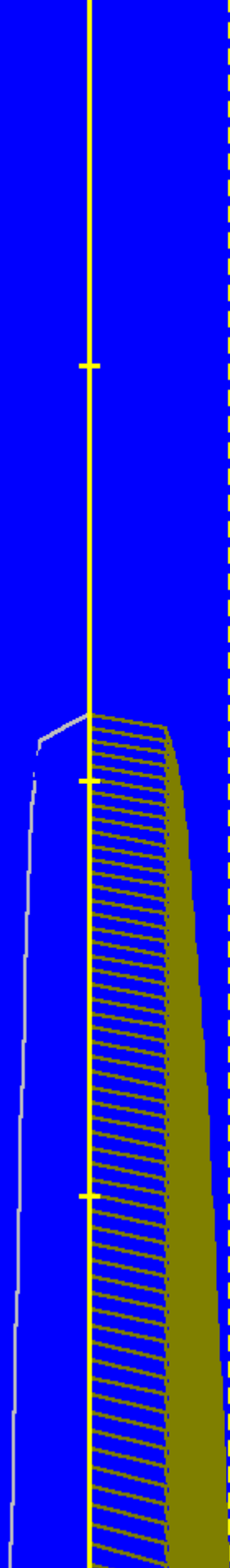
Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
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Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



## Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

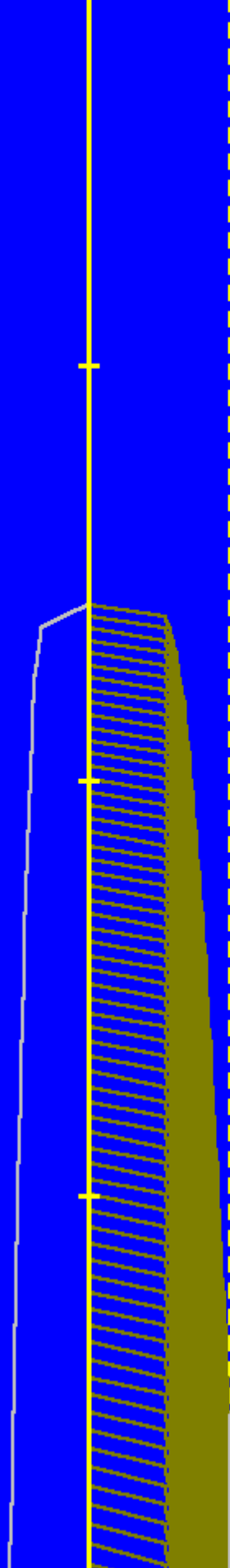
Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

## Runoff Hydrograph

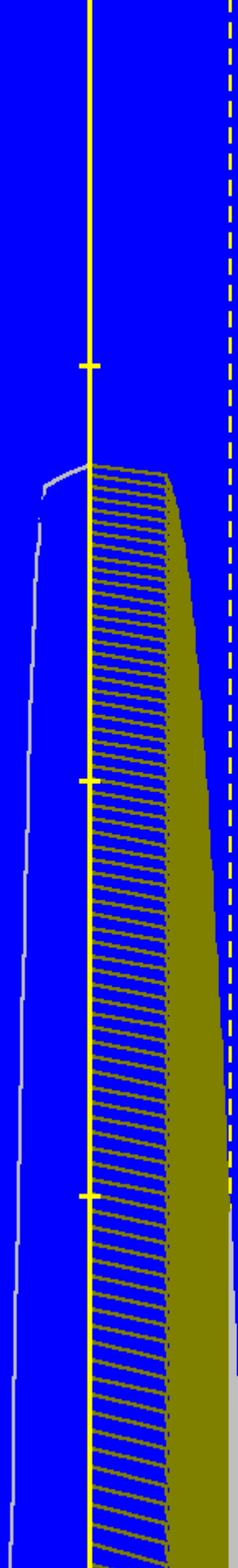


flow

## Simulation Results

	inflow	Outflow	Infiltr	Error, %
Advance Time, min	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Application Efficiency, %	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Require'nt Efficiency, %	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00

## Volume Balance in Cubic Meters



## Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

English  
español

Run Design



Run Simulation

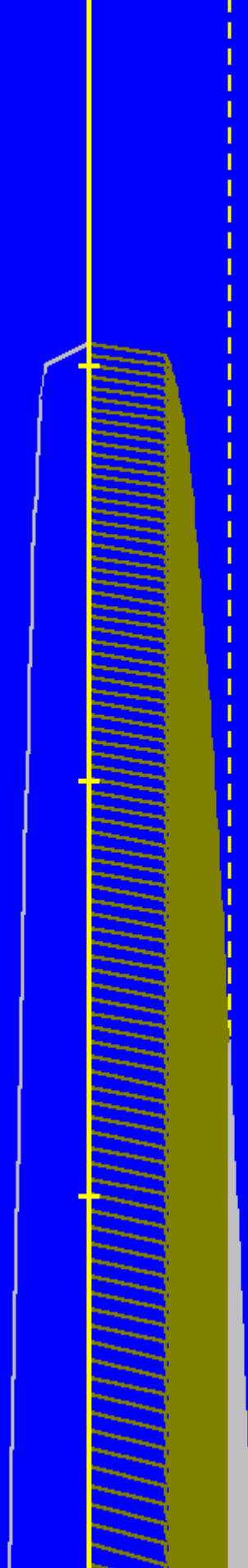
Model Parameters

Field Characteristics



Flow Depth

Surface & Subsurface Flow Profiles



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flow

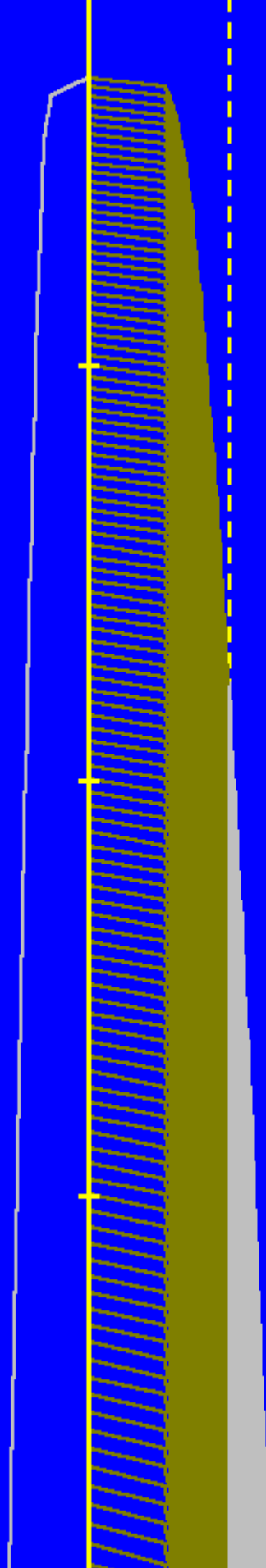
Runoff Hydrograph

### Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance is Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles



ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

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Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
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Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
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English  
español

Run Design



Run Simulation

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Application Efficiency, %	0.00
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Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
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Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
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Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

English  
español

Run Design

Run Simulation

Model Parameters

Field Characteristics

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles

ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

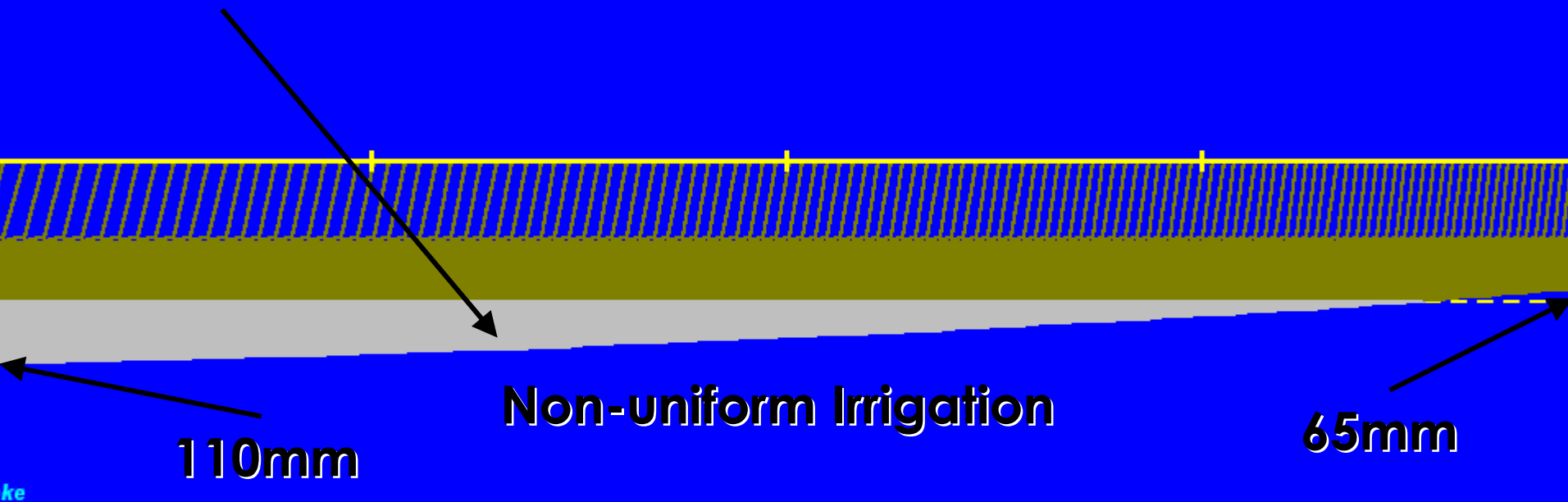
Advance Time, min	650.5
Application Efficiency, %	73.77
Require'mt Efficiency, %	99.36
Distribution Uniformity, %	81.60
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	72.54
<b>Volume Balance in Cubic Meters</b>	
Inflow	250.0
Outflow	21.8
Infiltr	228.3
Error, %	-0.06

[Field Characteristics](#)[Model Parameters](#)[Run Simulation](#)[Run Design](#)[English](#)  
[español](#)

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles

High Deep Drainage

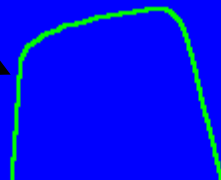


ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

High Tailwater

**Simulation Results**

Advance Time, min	650.5
Application Efficiency, %	73.77
Require'mt Efficiency, %	99.36
Distribution Uniformity, %	81.60
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	72.54

**Volume Balance in Cubic Meters**

Inflow	Outflow	Infiltr	Error, %
250.0	21.8	228.3	-0.06

THEN IMPROVE

# Optimise The Irrigation Application

- MATCH APPLIED (mm) WITH REQUIRED (mm)
- Measure Irrigation using IRRIMATE
- Simulate Irrigation using SIRMOD
- OPTIMUM APPLICATION RATE
- OPTIMUM IRRIGATION TIME

# OPTIMISED IRRIGATION

EG.....

English  
español

Run Design



Run Simulation

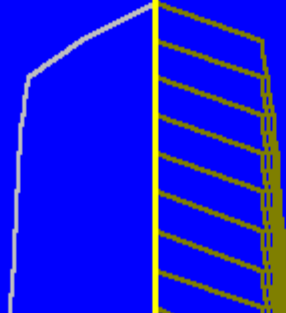
Model Parameters

Field Characteristics



Flow Depth

Surface & Subsurface Flow Profiles



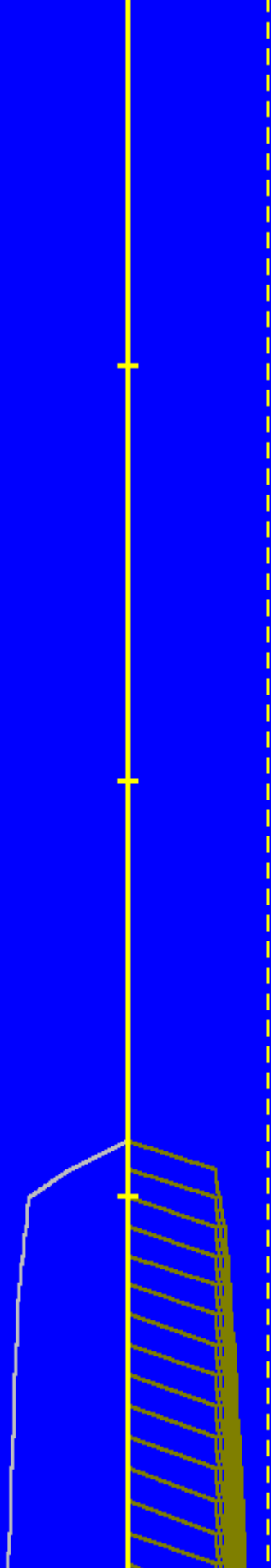
Water

Runoff flow

Runoff Hydrograph

### Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

English  
español

Run Design

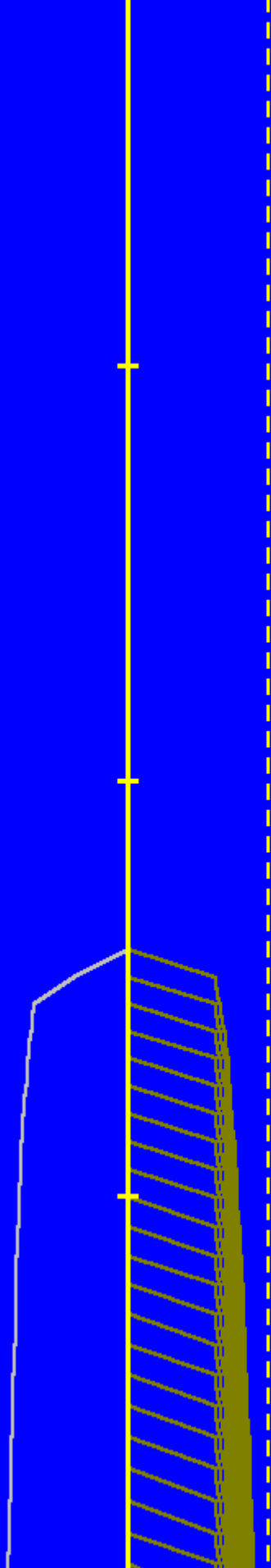
Run Simulation

Model Parameters

Field Characteristics

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles



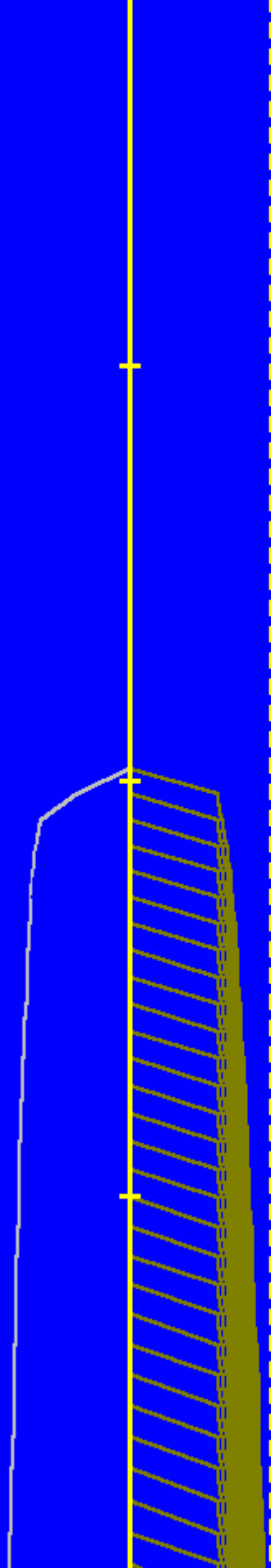
ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltration	0.0
Error, %	0.00



## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

English  
español

Run Design

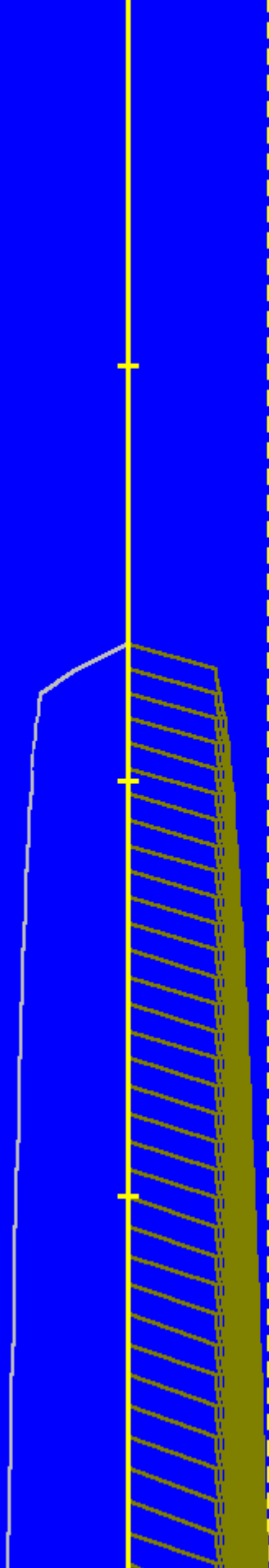
Run Simulation

Model Parameters

Field Characteristics

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles



ke

flow

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltration	0.0
Error, %	0.00

## Runoff Hydrograph

English  
español

Run Design



Run Simulation

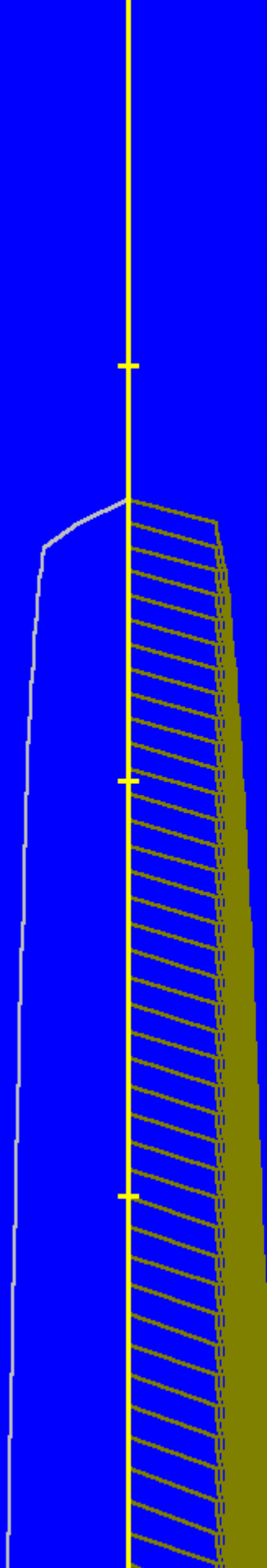
Model Parameters

Field Characteristics



Flow Depth

Surface & Subsurface Flow Profiles



ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

### Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

English  
español

Run Design

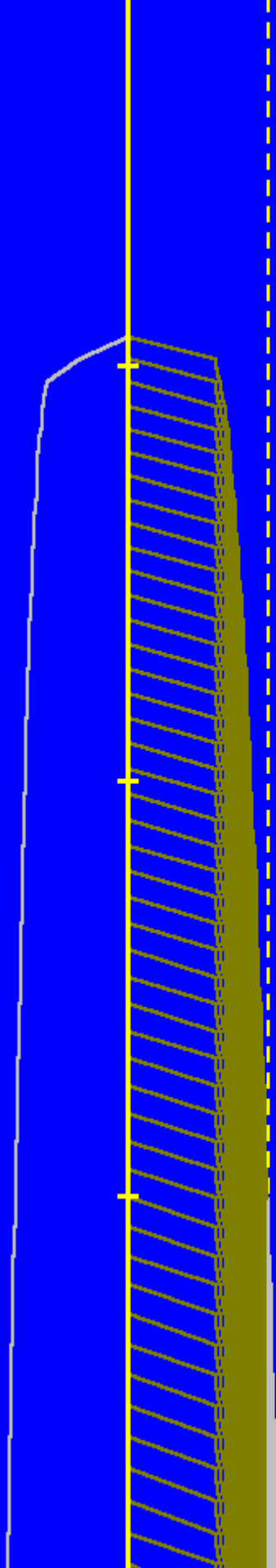
Run Simulation

Model Parameters

Field Characteristics

Flow Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles



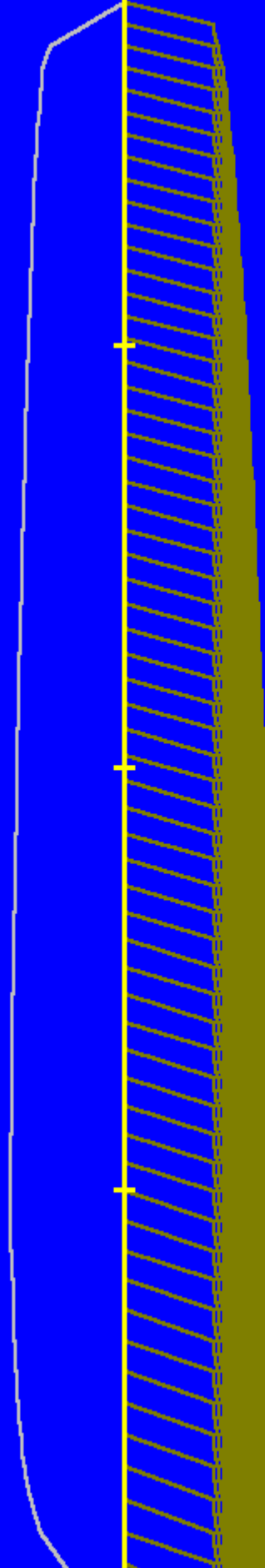
ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00

## Runoff Hydrograph

## Simulation Results

Advance Time, min	0.0
Application Efficiency, %	0.00
Require'mt Efficiency, %	0.00
Distribution Uniformity, %	0.00
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	0.00
Volume Balance in Cubic Meters	
Inflow	0.0
Outflow	0.0
Infiltr	0.0
Error, %	0.00



[Field Characteristics](#)[Model Parameters](#)[Run Simulation](#)[Run Design](#)

English



español

w Depth

Surface &amp; Subsurface Flow Profiles

Reduced Deep Drainage

82mm

More Uniform Irrigation

65mm

ke

flow

Runoff Hydrograph

Reduced Tailwater

**Simulation Results**

Advance Time, min	323.4
Application Efficiency, %	88.06
Require'mt Efficiency, %	97.60
Distribution Uniformity, %	86.74
Abs. Dist. Uniformity, %	79.86

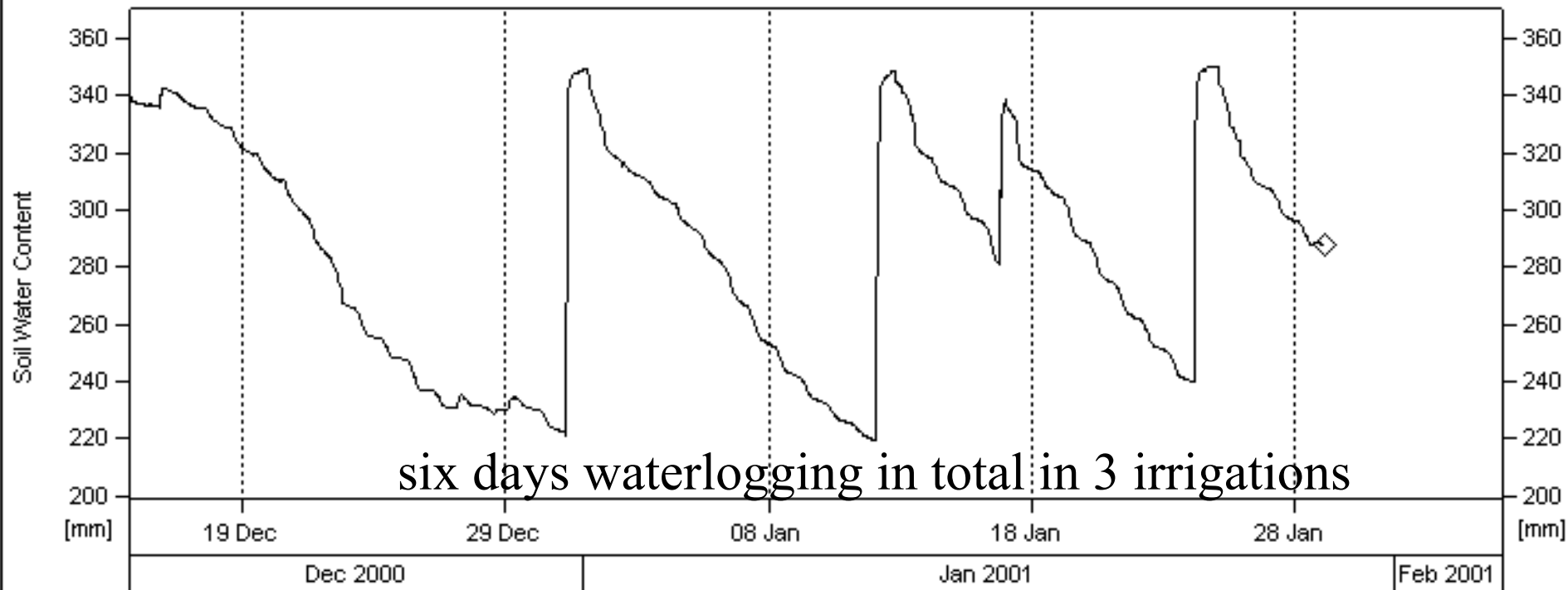
**Volume Balance in Cubic Meters**

Inflow	Outflow	Infiltr	Error, %
180.0	10.2	170.1	-0.18

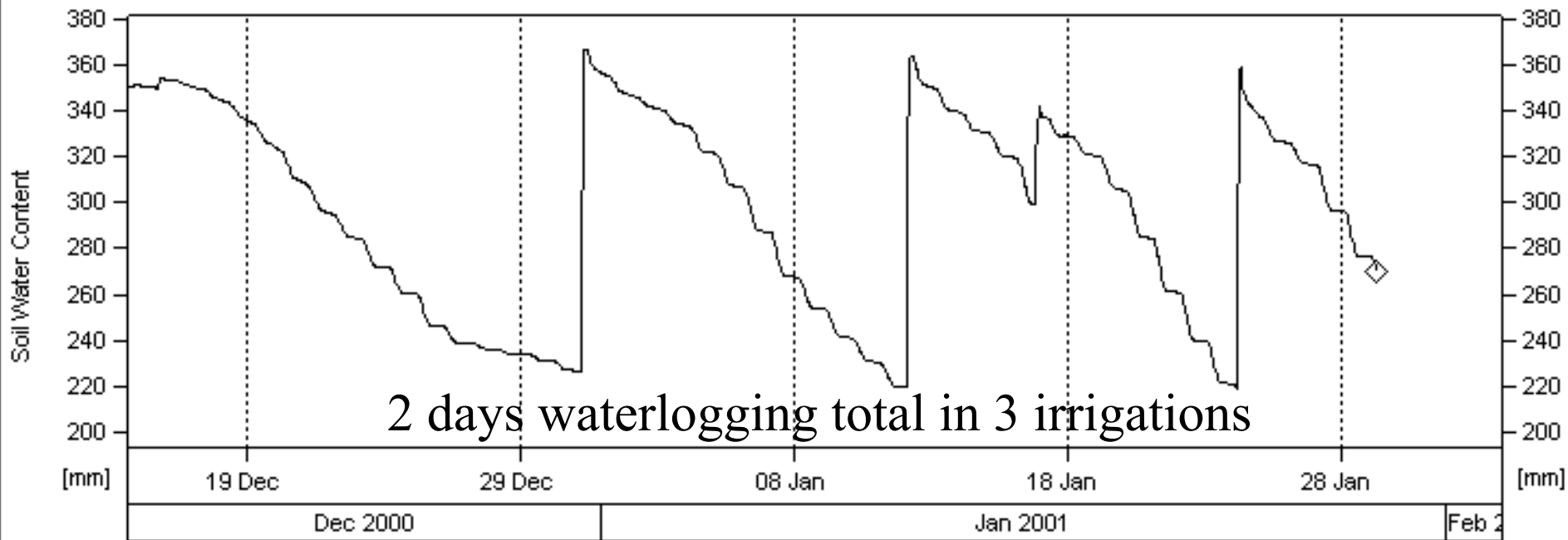
# Comparison

Practice	Deficit (req'd) (mm)	Applied (mm)	Tailwater (mm)	Deep Drainage (mm)	Efficiency (%)
Current	70	113	10	33	62%
Optimise flowrate and time	70	82	4	8	85%

# Normal Siphon Flow and Time



# Optimised Flow and Time



# What Has Been Achieved?

- Water Saving = 1-2ML/ha per season
- equivalent 10-20% water saving
- Improved water security for greater production
- Reduced water logging
- Reduced nutrient leaching
- Reduced salinity risk

# Where is Industry with Measuring Water On Farm?

- Currently through the pump and at the soil
- Beginning to promote evaluation of application
  - Surface irrigation evaluation
  - Dairy, sugar and horticulture are doing evaluations of spray and drip systems
- Impetus is coming from RWUE - will it continue after that?

# Importance of measurement and record keeping?

- Overland flow (and other unregulated) irrigators are installing meters for “evidence”
- Benchmarking and improvement
- Measure it to manage it

# **“Simple tools” - Feedback and Usefulness?**

- Measure water applied
  - buckets
  - stopwatches
  - catch cans
  - pressure gauges
- Usefulness - irrigators must recognise the benefits

# Key Areas for Improved WUE

- Storage Evaporation - upto 50% (less if deep and used regularly!!)
- Storage and channel seepage - not 10 - 20% gains
- Deep drainage in fields - 10-30% gains

# Thoughts on Farm Water Measurement and STCF

- All decisions are “Risk” based!
- Must understand quantities to evaluate risk
- Scheduling / soil moisture - must know how full the bucket is
- Application volumes - how much is being applied - matching applied volume to deficit - RDI (not easy in surface systems)
- The “ideal” STCF must say when and how much.