

Indicator name	Extent of land salinized by irrigation
Prepared by	FAO
Example	<b>None given</b>
Rationale	Salinization, the process by which water-soluble salts accumulate in the soil, is a resource concern because excess salts impede crop growth and thus threaten agricultural production.
Position in DPSIR chain	State
Definition of indicator	Area of soil salinized by irrigation as a percentage of total irrigated land
Underlying definitions and concepts	The area salinized by irrigation refers to the total irrigated area affected by salinization. This does not include naturally saline areas. Area of land under irrigation refers to the area equipped to provide water to crops, including areas equipped for full and partial control systems (surface, sprinkler, localized), equipped lowlands (wetlands, inland valley bottoms, mangroves, plains, etc.), and areas equipped for spate irrigation (diverted seasonal flood waters).
Specification of determinants needed	Area salinized by irrigation (AIS) Area under irrigation (AI)
Computation	100 (AIS/AI)
Units of measurements	Percent
Data sources, availability and quality	FAO AQUASTAT; National and local areas affected.
Scale of application	Mostly local; conceptual difficulty in up-scaling to national, regional or global level
Geographical coverage	Global, with some limitations
Interpretation	This indicator provides a measure of the negative impacts of irrigation and especially the poor management of irrigation water resources.
Linkage with other indicators	Relative importance of agricultural water withdrawal
Alternative methods and definitions	In general, each country has its own definition of an area salinized. Select the most appropriate method to compute salinized areas.
Related indicator sets	FAOSTAT, GEO
Sources of further information	<a href="http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm">http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm</a> (Accessed 02 March 2009) <a href="http://www.fao.org/faostat/">www.fao.org/faostat/</a> (Accessed 02 March 2009) <a href="http://www.unep.org/">www.unep.org/</a> (Accessed 02 March 2009)
Other institutions involved	IWMI, UNEP, IUCN