



Food and Agriculture  
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Importance of soil sampling and result  
interpretation for the farmers  
presented By Miss Noujoud Awatleh  
Ministry of agriculture  
Palestine



**NENALAB**  
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK



# Importance of soil sampling for proper soil Management

- To insure and to maintain the soil fertility status for better production and sustainability for the next generation.
- Conduct land and soil classification according to used classification systems ( soil classification, land capability, land suitability.....etc .

# Soil samplings fertility status

- Compost soil samples are the main sample used to ensure that the sample is represents the target field or the tested soil.
- Samples must taken randomly or in set pattern to ensure statistically representative sample is collected as we are collecting small amount of soil to represent a large area.

- Each representative sample consist of 5 – 6 soil samples, mixed together to get a representative sample
- The representative soil sample is labeled and send directly to laboratory.

# Depth of soil samples

- In general and to monitor soil fertility under vegetable farms, one depth 0 – 30 cm is the main depth used to take soil sample because more than 90% of the roots are located under this depth.
- But in some cases two depths are preferable, so another soil depth from 30 – 60 cm will give a clear picture of soil fertility under specific farm condition.
- In case of soil sampling under orchards, the depth of soil sampling could reach 90 cm and it divided for 3 soil depths

# Tool of soil samplings

- Soil Auger
- Shovel
- Soil containers

# Main requested parameters for soil managements

- All soil physical, chemical and biological Parameters are very important to be tested and monitored periodically.
- But for monitoring the soil fertility and the crop production, macro and micro elements are the most important parameters should tested in addition to pH, EC, OM.
- Physical properties such as texture, bulk density are also important to under stand the soil, water and plant relation ship.

# Timing and frequently of soil samplings

- Time of soil samples are quit important to ensure that the soil conditions and fertility is ready for planting the new crop season,
- So soil sampling before the season in order to set the appropriate fertilization program and determine fertilizer recommendations is the most important issue
- The second soil sampling used to be during the crop season to monitor the elements to give secondary fertilizer recomendations



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### نتائج فحص عينات تربة

.Sample No	PH	O.M %	EC dS/m	CO3 ppm	HCO3 ppm	CL- ppm	Na ppm	K ppm	Ca meq./L	NO3 ppm	P2O5 ppm	Mg+Ca Meq/l
1 نور ابو الرب عنب قباطية	6.56	1.52	2.9	Nil	274.5	212.7	190	58	35	43.5	7.9	55
2 نور ابو الرب عنب قباطية	6.85	1.49	1.2	Nil	250.1	567.2	86	30	10.5	18.3	6.48	20
3 جميل براغثة خيار عراقية	6.78	1.4	5.0	Nil	335.5	992.6	235	17	70	41.3	5.98	95
4 زياد احمد عراية زيتون	7.78	1.2	0.3	Nil	237.9	602.7	37	5	4	6.4	3.13	7.5

مع الاحترام،

رئيس قسم التربة

نهى القدومي

مدير دائرة  
المختبرات  
م. عبد الرحمن  
الطيباوي



# Interpretation of the results

- Generally, In Palestine, we used Icarda soil analysis manual for interpretation the soil results especially for nutrient contents and soil organic mater, because the of same soil conditions and soil forming factors.

## Appendix 9. Generalized Guidelines for Interpretation of Soil Analysis Data

Nutrient /Organic Matter	Soil Test	Low	Marginal	Adequate
		----- % -----		
Organic matter	Walkley- Black	<0.86%	0.86 – 1.29%	>1.29
		-----ppm-----		
Nitrate	AB-DTPA	<11	11 – 20	>20
Phosphate	NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	<8	8 – 15	>15
	AB-DTPA	<4	4 – 7	>7
Potassium	NH <sub>4</sub> OAc	<100	100-150	>150
	AB-DTPA	<60	60 – 120	>120
Zinc	DTPA	<0.5	0.5 – 1.0	>1.0
	AB-DTPA	<1.0	1.0 – 1.5	>1.5
Copper	DTPA	<0.2	0.2 – 0.5	>0.5
	AB-DTPA	<0.2		>0.5
Iron	DTPA	<4.5		>4.5
	AB-DTPA	<2.0	2.1 – 4.0	>4.0
Manganese	DTPA	<1.0	1.0 – 2.0	>2.0
	AB-DTPA	<1.8		>1.8
Boron	Hot water	<0.5	0.5 – 1.0	>1.0
	HCl	<0.45	0.45 – 1.0	>1.0

DTPA= diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid. AB = ammonium bicarbonate.

NaHCO<sub>3</sub> = Sodium bicarbonate.

**Sources:** FAO (1980); Soltanpour (1985); Ludwick (1995); Martens and Lindsay (1990); Johnson and Fixen (1990); Soil and Plant Analysis Council (1992); Matar *et al.* (1988).



- For salinity monitoring we usually we use USDA salinity classification

<b>Salinity level</b>	<b>Degree of crops sensitivity</b>	<b>Electro-conductivity of soil saturated extract ECe at t = 25°C (dS/m)</b>
<b>non saline</b>	<b>very sensitive crops</b>	<b>0–2</b>
<b>low salinity</b>	<b>sensitive crops</b>	<b>2–4</b>
<b>mild salinity</b>	<b>mildly sensitive crops</b>	<b>4–8</b>
<b>high salinity</b>	<b>mildly resistant crops</b>	<b>8–16</b>
<b>severe salinity</b>	<b>resistant crops</b>	<b>&gt; 16</b>

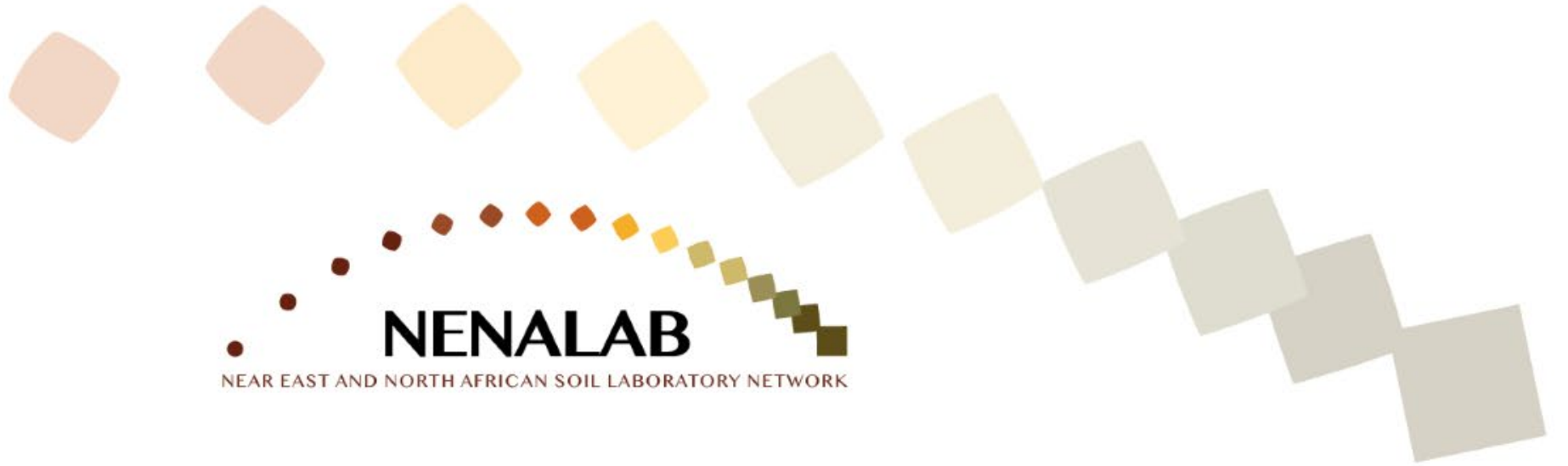
FAO (USDA) classification used for soil salinity assessment.

# Recommendations for the farmers

- Set the amount of chemical fertilizers mainly (N,P K) and organic matter based on soil results especially during the preparation of the land for the new crop season.
- Improving soil physical properties to increase the leaching in irrigated area.
- Considering the leaching fraction in irrigation scheduling depending on salinity concentration.
- Reducing the chemical fertilizers and increasing the organic one.



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# Thank you

