



Food and Agriculture
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**International Network
of Salt-Affected
Soils
(INSAS)**

lessons learned from agricultural R&D projects in salt-affected areas

Ahmed H. ELNAGGAR, Ph.D.

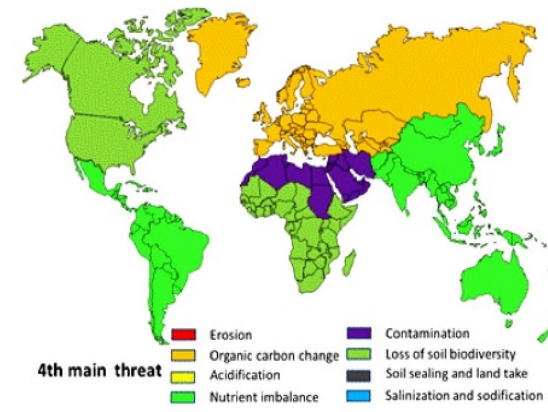
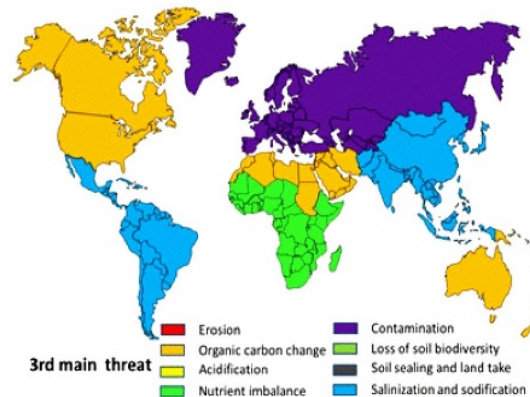
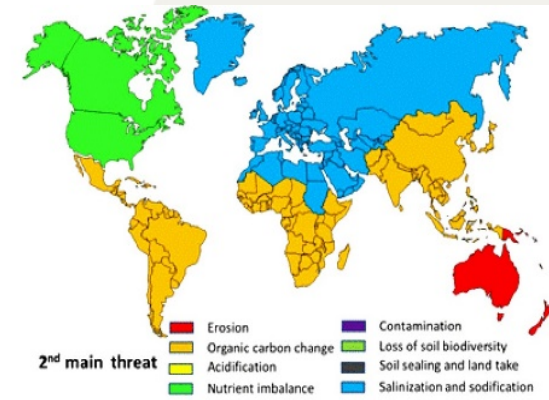
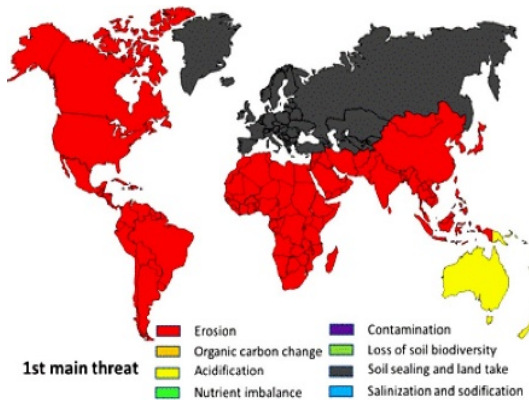
Soil Management Scientist, ICBA

a.naggar@biosaline.org.ae



Salinization is Global potential soil threat

- Erosion
- Loss of organic carbon
- Nutrient imbalance
- Salinization



World's soils are under threat

Montanarella L. et al 2016

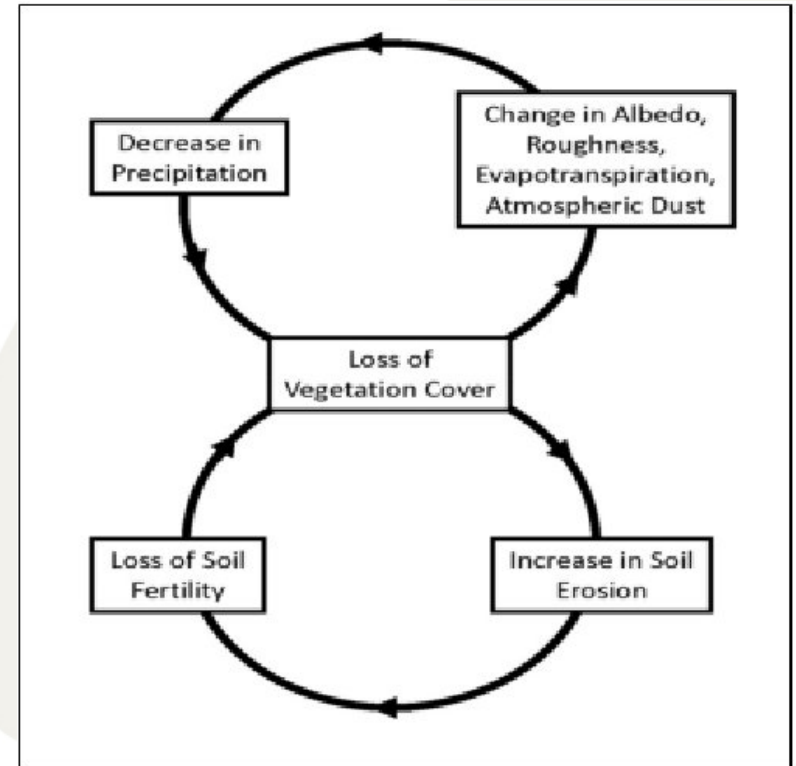


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Soil salinization -climate change interactions

- Cycle of subsidiary processes of desertification such as soil erosion

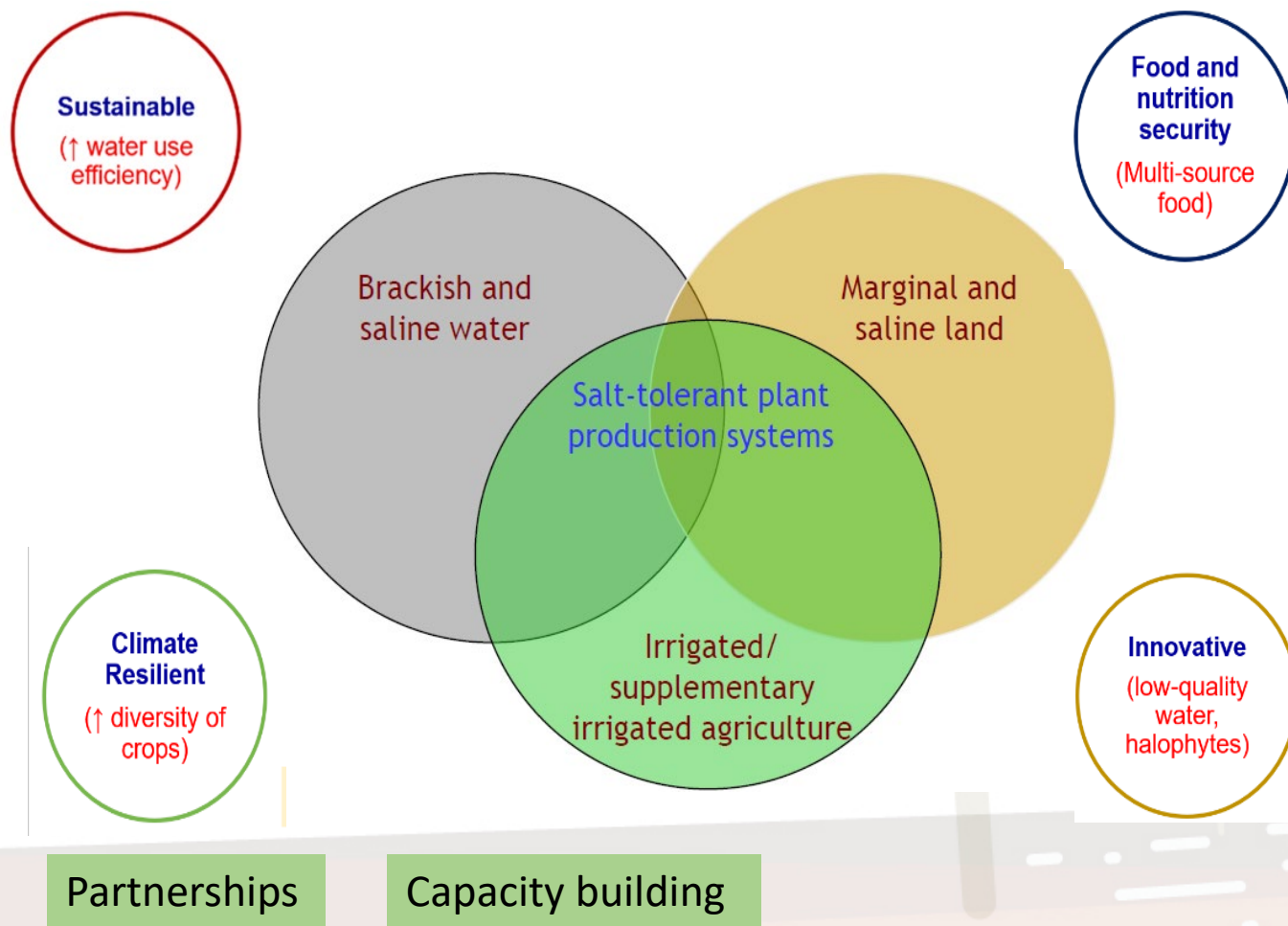
[Boloorani et al. 2014](#)





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Biosaline agriculture approach



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Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands in UAE

- Farms abandoned due to high irrigation water salinity (15-18 dS/m)
- ICBA introduced four salt-tolerant perennial grasses:
 - ✓ *Distichlis spicata*,
 - ✓ *Sporobolus virginicus*
 - ✓ *Sporobolus arabicus*
 - ✓ *Paspalum vaginatum*
- Fresh biomass yields ranged 75-150 t/ha/yr → 66% higher than Rhodes grass (low salinity 2 dS/m)
- 44% less water use than traditional forages



Biosaline agriculture in Pakistan

Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) in PAKISTAN adapted the saline agriculture approach in salt affected areas in Shorkot and Lodhran

- livestock number and aquaculture enterprises rose sharply, promoting high-value agriculture.
- plant production and, thus, farmer income increased
- Chemical properties of soils also improved

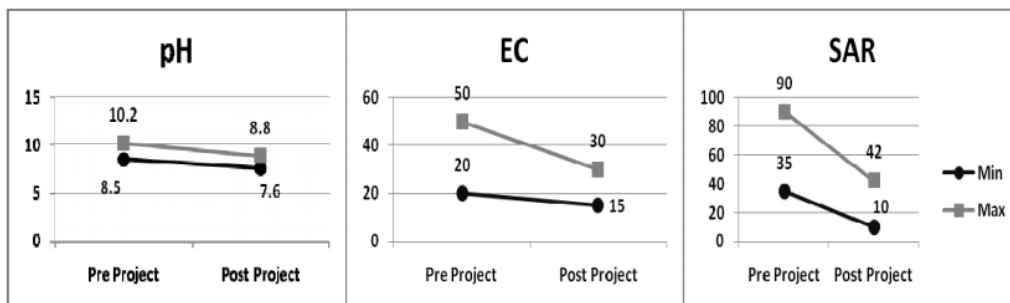
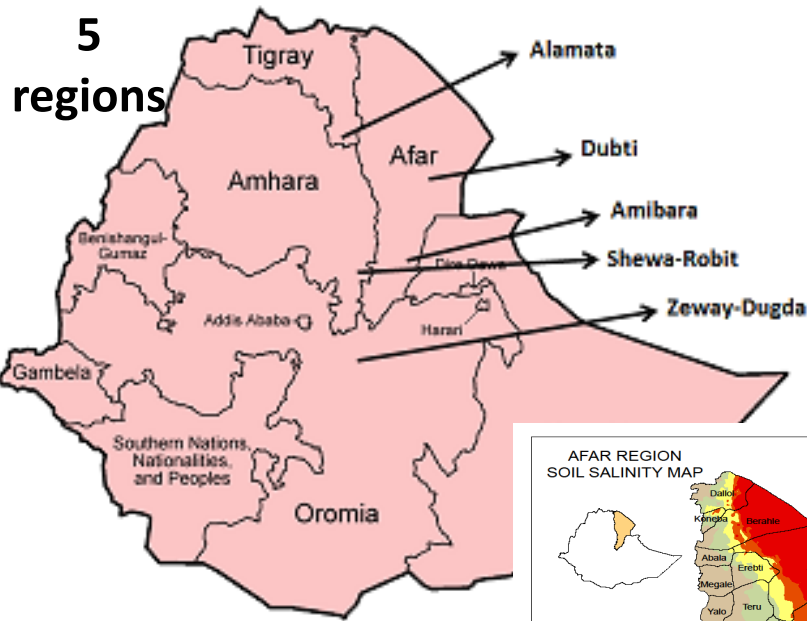


Fig. 14. Pre- and post-planting range of soil properties of a Kallar grass field.



Fig. 36. Scientists from International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE.

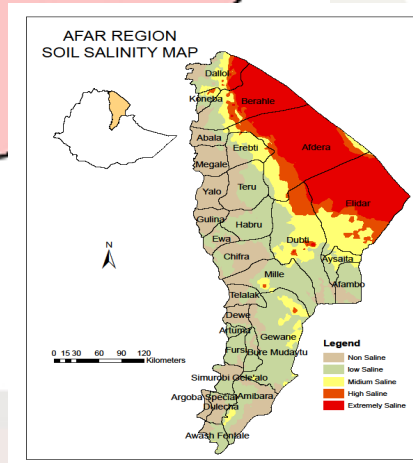
Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands in Ethiopia



Demonstrate how to recover 11 M/ha of degraded land

Improve food security and income of marginalized communities.

- *salt-tolerant crops and forages*
- *Crop-livestock value-chain systems.*



Biosaline Agriculture

- ❖ Releases pressure on good quality water and land resources
- ❖ Utilizes wastelands and poor quality water resources
- ❖ Provides new sources of food, feed, biofuels and fiber
- ❖ Generates employability particularly youth and women;
- ❖ Climate change mitigation: *rehabilitation of degraded lands, Carbon sequestration.*
- ❖ Climate change adaptation: improves resilience of local communities.



Improved food and nutrition security. Improved livelihoods.



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Acknowledgment

- Dr Fatma Rekik, ICBA
- Prof. Dr. Shabbir Shahid, Senior fellow, ICBA

A stylized illustration of a landscape with a light blue sky, a dark brown ground line, and several olive-green trees of varying sizes. The ground is decorated with white horizontal and oval shapes. Below the ground line is a solid orange-brown band.

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