



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the **International Network of Salt-Affected Soils** (INSAS)



# Managing salt-affected soils for sustainable future

**Hybrid meeting**  
Tashkent/Nukus, **Uzbekistan**  
**May 22-26, 2023**



# Putting Salt-Affected Soils on the EU Policy Agenda



Pim van Tongeren, Annabel van Holst, Pier Vellinga & Kate Negacz

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# Introduction

- Salt-affected soils are becoming an increasingly critical environmental issue in the European Union (EU)
- EU policy documents scarcely address this issue and legal instruments are only adopted nationally in some EU member states (FAO SoiLEX Portal, 2023).
- This study examines existing supranational policies, frameworks, and legal instruments and presents a way forward based.

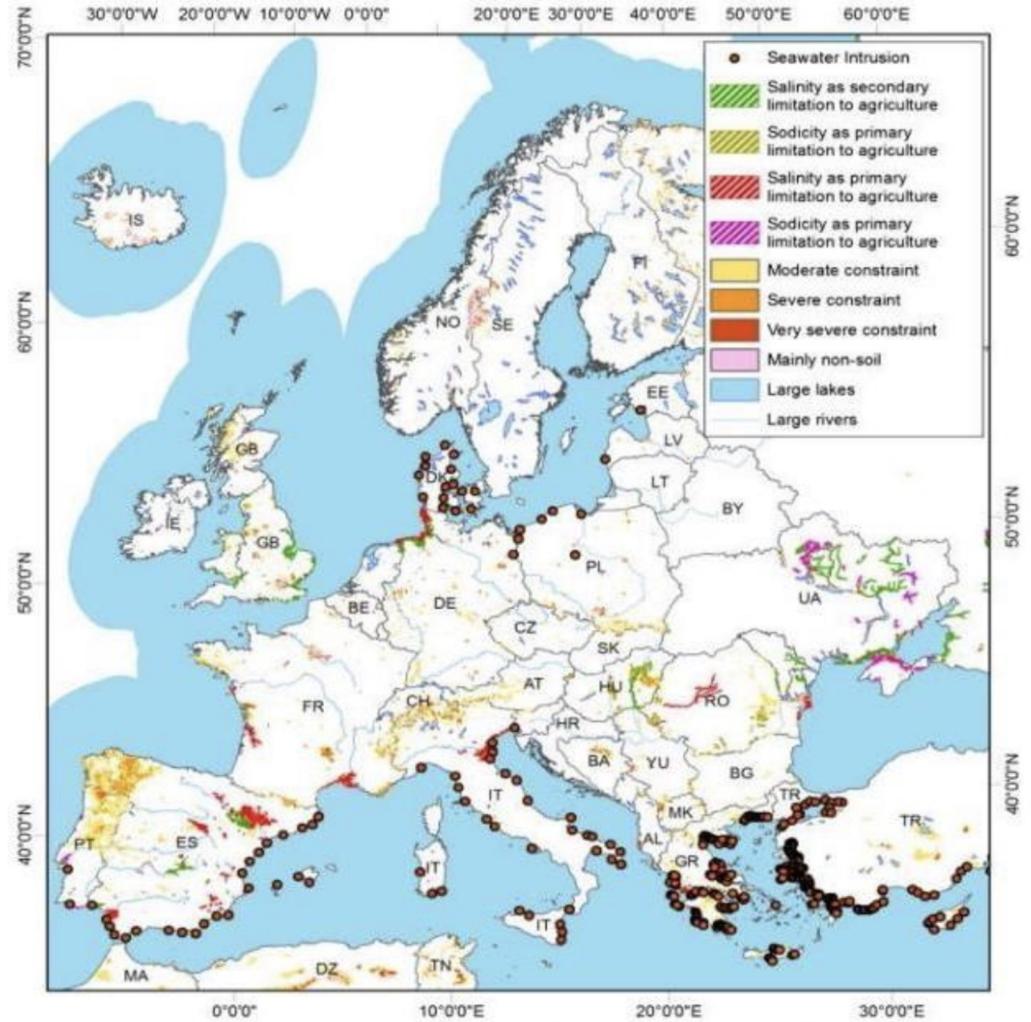
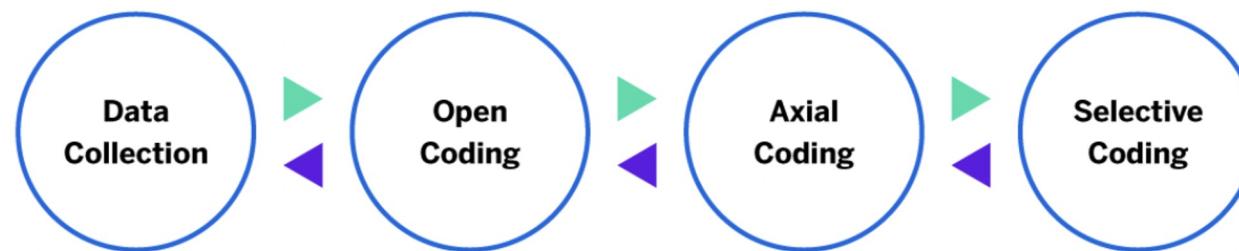


Figure 1. Saline ( $EC > 4 \text{ dS m}^{-1}$  within 100 cm of the soil surface) and sodic ( $ESP > 6\%$  within 100 cm of the soil surface) soils as agricultural constraint and as primary and secondary limitations to agricultural use, and areas of seawater intrusion in Europe. (Daliakopoulos et al., 2016)

# Methods

- Content analysis of policy documents
- 17 semi-structured interviews with experts in agriculture, policy, academia, and public affairs
- Grounded theory for data analysis with open coding, axial coding, and selective coding
- Based on emerging themes, recommendations for future pathways were formulated



# Policy Documents



# Results

Policy Strategies	Position of Salt-Affected Soils and Saline Agriculture
European Green Deal & Farm to Fork Strategy	Non existent
Common Agricultural Policy	2 of 10 strategy documents,
EU Soil Strategy 2030	Mentioned, but limited to restorative action
EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030	Mentioned, but limited to restorative action



# Conclusion

- 1) There is a policy gap at the EU level regarding salt-affected soils
- 1) Putting saline agriculture on the EU policy agenda (CAP, EGD, EU Strategies 2030) will contribute to a coherent long-term vision
- 1) Salinity issues and solutions should be framed in a broader context, and include a wide range of stakeholder.

## Discussion

- 1) Policy formulation at the EU level should include:
  - a. Contextuality
  - b. Farmer unions and co-op consultation
  - c. Holistic and transdisciplinary focus
- 1) “Key policy impediments needed to address for technology dissemination issue in order to reach targeted communities in salt-affected areas” (Mandal et al., 2018)
- 1) **The role of supranational policies for salt-affected soils and saline agriculture in EU and beyond?**



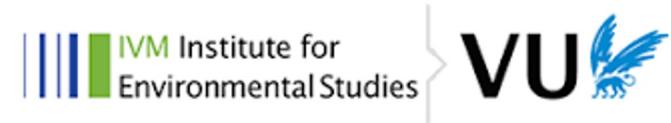
# Saodat Ismailova

## *18.000 Worlds*



“Two Horizons” (2017), by Saodat Ismailova.

# Any Questions?



Please feel free to reach out!

Mr. Pim van Tongeren

[p.van.tongeren@vu.nl](mailto:p.van.tongeren@vu.nl)



Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) -  
Department of Environmental Policy Analysis

Dr. Kate Negacz  
[k.e.negacz@vu.nl](mailto:k.e.negacz@vu.nl)



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