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FAO56 – "Crop Evapotranspiration. Guidelines to Compute Crop Water Requirements," published in 1998 and quoted in nearly 35,000 studies, proposed to the irrigation and academic world a comprehensive methodology for computing crop water and irrigation requirements. The objectives of FAO56 were: to ease and add clarity to the calculation of crop water requirements, to expand information for users aiming to optimize water use and management and to improve crop yields, to produce water consumption information usable in collective irrigation systems, and to support measures to control impacts of irrigation on environment and responses to climate change. Science and technology have evolved during the 20 years since FAO56 was published and a number of novelties have furthered the progress on evolving irrigation practices and management. Updating and advancing the domain of crop water requirements responds to the need to incorporate results and practices of innovative science and technology into the FAO56 method, including data handling and data upgrades, more effective use of available research, and use of newer technology tools, including remote sensing or the Internet of Things (IoT). Updates and advances can bring more accuracy into the calculation of crop water requirements, providing better support to precision agriculture, and improving our responses to climate change. The updates and advances to FAO56 methodology and application that have been presented and discussed in the 2020-2021 Special Issue (SI) of Agricultural Water Management (https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/agricultural-water-management/special-issue/10ZP66J8B2P) are guite relevant to modernizing management in irrigated agriculture, to the variety of facets involved in environmental upgrades and water demands and supply under climate change, and to increasing water savings in agriculture. These updates and enhancements are expected to improve and expand the application of FAO56 methodologies by a range of users and, in general, by researchers in the domains of land and water management.

Updates and advances presented in the SI and other associated articles that will be discussed in the Webinar refer to: (a) the recommended computation of ETo when weather data are impacted by site aridity and when only reduced weather data sets are available; (b) the expanded availability of standardized crop coefficients (Kc) and basal Kc of vegetables, field crops and trees and vine crops, including additional crops and new approaches for Kc of vines and trees; (c) the estimation of Kc from the fraction of ground cover and height as extended to vegetable, field, and vine and tree crops; (d) expanded use of remote sensing in water and energy balance approaches and for assessing vegetation amount to determine crop ET and Kc; and (e) using water balance models and other management tools.

MODERATOR

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President ICID - Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab also serving as a Fellow Principal Hydrologist and Water Resources Management Specialist at UK Centre for Hydrology, Wallingford, UK; Editor, Journal of Agricultural Science, he contributes to Cambridge University Press (2013-present). He is also serving as an Adjunct Professor at Soil and Water Sciences Dept., the University of Alexandria, Egypt since 2006.

SPEAKERS

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Prof. Em. Dr. Luis Santos Pereira Professor Emeritus, Institute of Agronomy, University of Lisbon. Invited Professor at CIHEAM/IAM-Bari, Italy, University of Porto and University of Azores, Portugal. Research adviser at Universities in China and Brazil. Doctor honoris causa, University of Rousse, Bulgaria. Hon. President of CIGR, and Hon. Vice-President of the ICID.



Dr. Richard G. Allen

Dr. Allen is a researcher at the University of Idaho's Kimberly Research and Extension Center and leads their Water Resources Research Program with the Department of Soil and Water Systems. He specializes in determining irrigation water requirements, evapotranspiration, and characteristics of hydrologic systems.



Dr. Paula Paredes Dr. Paredes is an Assistant Professor at the School of Agriculture (ISA), University of Lisbon (UL), Portugal and researcher at LEAF - Landscape, Environment, Agricultural and Food, ISA-UL. Received the Ph.D. degree on Biosystems Engineering from ISA-UL, Portugal in 2014.



Dr. Ramón López-Urrea

Dr. Ramón López-Urrea received the B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Castilla-La Mancha University (UCLM), Spain, in 1997, 1999, and 2004, respectively. He is currently a Research Scientist with the Water Management Research Unit, Technical Institute of Agronomy for Albacete province (ITAP), Spain. His expertise includes irrigation water management, crop evapotranspiration determination and modeling, strategies of deficit irrigation, irrigation scheduling, systems to detect water stress in plants, models for simulating growth and water balance of crops, and UAVs.



Prof. Nebo Jovanovic

Prof. Nebo Jovanovic (njovanovic@csir.co.za) holds a BSc in Land and Water Management (University of Belgrade, Serbia), an MSc in Irrigation (CIHEAM, Bari, Italy) and a PhD in Agronomy (University Pretoria, South Africa). He is currently an Associate Professor in the field of Water Resources Management at the University of the Western Cape (South Africa). He has over 20 years of experience in the water sector having conducted, led and published research in crop and hydrological modelling, dryland salinity, food security and drought impacts in small-holder irrigated farming systems, and applications of remote sensing in water management.



Welcome by Secretary General Er. Ashwin B. Pandya. Er. Pandya has over 40 years of professional experience in water resources and irrigation planning, design, implementation, and financing.

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