How Irrigation Water Quality and Crop Nutrition Impact Food Security in Developing Countries



Tom Crawford, Jr, PhD Bio Huma Netics, Inc. Washington, DC, October 23, 2013 Food Security

USAID Policies

Intensive vs. Extensive Agriculture

Agricultural Water Use Efficiency

Water Quality & Plant Nutrition

Innovative Technology

Sustainable & Profitable Value Chains

What is Food Security?

Food security is considered to exist when the following four components (pillars) have been attained:

- Availability: Families and individuals require a reliable and consistent source of quality food.
- Access: Sufficient resources (purchasing power) to purchase quality foods.
- **Utilization:** People need to have knowledge and basic sanitary conditions in order to choose, prepare and distribute the quality foods in a manner that results in good nutrition for all family members.
- Stability: A stable and sustainable environment (social, political and economy) must exist in order to ensure that families and individuals have the availability, access and utilization of quality and nutritious foods.

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USAID Policies Support Food Security and Improved Management of Water





USAID Policy Framework 2011-2015

"APPLY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION STRATEGICALLY."





"Scientific innovation and technology are critical to meeting the global challenges of producing more food with less **land** and **water** and helping farmers adapt to climatic, social and economic shocks."

USG's Feed the Future Policy Supports Application of Scientific Innovation and Technology for Intensification of Agriculture

Sub-Saharan Africa – 40 years of *extensive* cereal production Asia – 40 years of *intensive* cereal production



Source: Henao, Julio and Carlos Baanante. 2006. Agricultural Production and Soil Nutrient Mining in Africa: Implications for Resource Conservation and Policy Development, IFDC-An International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, USA

Intensification of Pearl Millet Production in Niger Using Irrigation & Fertilizer – No Increase in Area Cultivated



Yield of rainfed pearl millet increased with more rainfall and with N & P fertilization.



FIGURE 7. Pearl millet grain yield at two rainfall zones in Niger, and effect of supplementary irrigation in the low rainfall zone in 1998.



Yield of rainfed pearl millet increased with either greater rainfall or supplementary irrigation and fertilization.

Source: Pandey, R. K., Maranville, J. W. and Crawford Jr., T. W. 2001. Agriculture Intensification and Ecologically Sustainable Land Use Systems in Niger: Transition from Traditional to Technologically Sound Practices, Journal of Sustainable Agriculture, 19: 2, 5 – 24



USAID Water and Development Strategy 2013 - 2018

- Support for Feed the Future
- Strategic Objectives 2013 2018
 - SO 1 Improve health outcomes through the provision of sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
 - SO 2 Manage water in agriculture sustainably and more productively to enhance food security
 - Intermediate Result 2.1: Improve the efficiency and sustainability of food production from rainfed agricultural systems.
 - Intermediate Result 2.2: Improve the efficiency and sustainability of food production from irrigated agricultural systems.



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Water Use Efficiency, or Productivity, California, 1989 – 2009 WUE = tons/acre-foot applied (35.3% increase, or ~1.76% average increase per annum)





Source: Gleick, Peter H., Juliet Christian-Smith and Heather Cooley. 2011. Water-use efficiency and productivity: rethinking the basin approach. Water International 36:7, 784-798, DOI: 10.1080/02508060.2011.631873

Water Use Efficiency (WUE) and Transpirational Water Use Efficiency (TWUE)

- Evaporation (E) loss of water to the atmosphere.
- Transpiration (T) movement of water through a plant and loss to the atmosphere.
- WUE = Yield (Y)/EvapoTranspiration (ET) = Y/ET
 - If Y/T is constant and $E\downarrow$ (e.g. w/ mulch) then Y/ET \uparrow so WUE \uparrow
 - If Y¹ (w/ fertilizer, cultivar, water) and ET is constant, WUE¹
- TWUE
 - Transpirational WUE, TWUE = Y/T↑
 - If Y/T¹ (fertilizer, cultivar), TWUE¹

Constraints to Agricultural WUE

Social, political and economic

- Laws, regulations, cultural practices, beliefs.
 - Lack of access to inputs & facilities due to lack of investment, infrastructure and functioning value chains.
- Physical and chemical
 - Biotic stresses (e.g. pests, pathogens)
 - Abiotic stresses (e.g. deficiencies or excesses in moisture, temperature, water quality, essential plant nutrients, and other elements in the environment)

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Effects of Irrigation Water Quality on Water Use Efficiency

Irrigation Water Quality Characteristics

- 1. Concentration of soluble salts.*
- 2. Concentration of sodium and proportion of sodium to calcium plus magnesium.*
- 3. Concentration of bicarbonate.
- 4. Occurrence of minor elements, such as boron, in amounts that are toxic.

*The two water quality factors which have the greatest influence on water infiltration rate.

Source: Ayers, R.S. and .Westcot. 1985. Water Quality for Agriculture. FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper 29, rev 1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

Source: Fireman, Milton and H.E. Hayward. Irrigation Water and Saline and Alkali Soils *In* The Yearbook of Agriculture 1955. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Salinity- the Concentration of Soluble Salts

- Salts in irrigation water or soil reduce water availability to such an extent that yield is diminished.
- Salt, or salinity, in irrigation water is composed of cations and anions so that the sum of the positive (+) and negative (-) charges is electrically neutral.
- *Total concentration of salts* = sum of cations and anions.
- Important cations and anions in irrigation water:
 - Cations: H+, Na⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺
 - Anions: OH^- , HCO_3^- , CO_3^{2-} , SO_4^{2-} , CI^- , NO_3^{-} , HBO_3^{2-}
- Measurement of salinity
 - Weight per unit volume (ppm, lbs/acre-foot).
 - Electrical equivalents per unit volume (meq/L, μeq/ml)
 - Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm, μmhos/cm, dS/m).
 - Osmotic Potential (bar, atm, kPa).

Sodium, Calcium & Magnesium – Important to Soil Structure, Health and Crop Yield

- Sodium tends to disperse colloidal particles (<0.002 mm) in a soil, resulting in:
 - impaired gas exchange (particularly O_2 and CO_2).
 - reduced infiltration rates of water and slower water movement in all directions in the soil.
 - Reduced rates of uptake of water, mineral nutrients and oxygen by plants.
 - Diminished rates of crop growth and diminished crop yield.
- Calcium and magnesium tend to aggregate colloidal particles in a soil, resulting in:
 - Creation of pore space.
 - Freer movement of gases in the soil.
 - Greater oxygen content of soil pores.
 - Increased aerobic microbial activity.
 - Increased rates of uptake of oxygen, water and mineral nutrients by plant roots.
 - Increased crop growth rates and yield.

Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)

- Excessive Na in irrigation water (>3:1::Na:Ca)
- SAR is the most commonly used method to evaluate the infiltration rate problem.

• SAR = Na⁺/
$$\sqrt{Ca^{2+} + Mg^{2+}}/2$$

where Na⁺, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ represent the concentrations, in millequivalents per liter, of the respective ions.

Classification of Irrigation Waters Sodium (Alkali) and Salinity Hazards Based on Sodium Adsorption Ratio and Salinity



SAR and Salinity to Predict Infiltration Problems



Germination & Soil Salinity



Crop Selection & Soil Salinity



Bicarbonate

- Bicarbonate ions form as a result of the solution of carbon dioxide in water.
- CO₂ may be of atmospheric or biological origin.
- Relative proportions of carbonic acid, bicarbonate ions and carbonate ions depend upon pH of the water.
- Carbonate from irrigation water or from bicarbonate can form calcium carbonate, or lime, that can clog soil pores.
- In managing alkaline soils, it is important to reduce or eliminate bicarbonate and carbonate from irrigation water and from the soil solution.

Boron (B), an Essential, but Sometimes Toxic Element

- The principal source of B is the mineral, tourmaline, a widespread but minor constituent of primary rocks.
- Calcium borate can precipitate in alkaline soils, giving rise to boron deficiency.
- Boron exists as borate anions in the soil solution

Relative tolerance of plants to boron

[In each group, the plants first named are considered as being more tolerant and the last named more sensitive]

Tolerant	Semitolerant	Sensitive		
Athel (Tamarix aphylla) Asparagus Palm (Phoenix canariensis) Date palm (P. dac- tylifera) Sugar beet Mangel Garden beet Alfalfa Gladiolus Broadbean Onion Turnip Cabbage Lettuce Carrot	Sunflower (native) Potato Acala cotton Pima cotton Tomato Sweetpea Radish Field pea Ragged Robin rose Olive Barley Wheat Corn Milo Oat Zinnia Pumpkin Bell pepper Sweetpotato Lima bean	Pecan Black walnut Persian (English) walnut Jerusalem arti- choke Navy bean American elm Plum Pear Apple Grape (Sultanina and Malaga) Kadota fig Persimmon Cherry Peach Apricot Thornless black- berry Orange Avocado Grapefruit		

Permissible limits of boron for several classes of irrigation waters: <1.0 ->3.5 ppm |<0.67 ->2.5 ppm |<0.33 -> 1.25 ppm

Effects of Crop Nutrition on Water Use Efficiency

The 17 Essential Plant Nutrients in the Periodic Table of the Elements

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	ĸ	Ca					/In F	e		Ni C	u Z	'n					ter.	
		1	Sc	Ti	V	Cr			Ca				Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	NH	٨o	Тс	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	1	Xe
	Ca	Ba	Lantha nide Metals	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	TI	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
	Fr	Ra	Actin Ide Metals															

Concentrations of the 17 Essential Plant Nutrients for Maximum Yield





Sprengel-Liebig "Law of the Minimum"



- Theory of Kurt Sprengel (March 29, 1787 April 19, 1859) popularized by Justus von Liebig (May 12, 1803 – April 18, 1873)
- Sprengel's "Theory of the minimum"
- Plant growth is limited by the essential nutrient at the lowest concentration.
- Growth is controlled not by the total amount of resources available, but by the scarcest resource, or limiting factor.

Law of the Minimum



Reduction of Water Use Efficiency Due to **Deficiency of Essential Plant Nutrients**

Deficiencies of all plant nutrients reduce water use efficiency (WUE), because all nutrient deficiencies reduce the rates of metabolic processes, all of which are in some way connected to photosynthesis that assimilates atmospheric carbon from carbon dioxide and splits water molecules for assimilation of hydrogen and oxygen.

Deficiencies of Essential, Mineral Nutrients in Tomato

An element is essential if it fulfills either one or both of two criteria: (1) The element is part of a molecule that is an intrinsic component of the structure or metabolism of a plant; (2) the plant can be so severely deprived of the element that it exhibits abnormalities in its growth, development, or reproduction--that is, its "performance"--in comparison with plants not so deprived (Epstein and Bloom, 2005).

Epstein, Emanuel and Arnold Bloom, 2005, Mineral nutrition of plants: Principles and perspectives, Sinaue Associates, Inc. Sunderland, Massachusetts

The tomato plants labeled "control" received adequate amounts of 16 essential, mineral nutrients . The tomato plants showing nutrient deficiencies were grown under the same conditions as the control, except for the deficiency of the nutrient (or nutrients in the case of hydrogen and oxygen) indicated. Carbon, an essential element absorbed mainly through the leaves as a component of carbon dioxide, was equally available to all the plants shown. Deficiencies of nickel and molybdenum, the two other essential, mineral nutrients, are not shown.

Photos by T.W. Crawford, Jr

Hydrogen (H) & Oxygen (O)



Potassium (K)



Sulfur (S)



Manganese (Mn)



Chlorine (CI)







Calcium (Ca)



Copper (Cu)









Boron (B)



Phosphorus (P)





Iron (Fe)



Hydrogen & Oxygen (Water) Deficiency

	Chamical	Atomic	Concentration	Relative number		
Element	symbol	weight	μmol g ⁻¹	ppm or %	respect to nickel	
Micronutrients	s.h.good inter	n) diservice	salaring throat A	Rach in generation	an the contraction of a	
Nickel	Ni	58.69	0.001	0.05 ppm	1	
Molybdenum	Мо	95.95	0.001	0.1 ppm	1	
Cobalt	Со	58.94	0.002	0.1 ppm	2	
Copper	Cu	63.54	0.10	6 ppm	100	
Zinc	Zn	65.38	0.30	20 ppm	300	
Sodium	Na	22.91	0.40	10 ppm	400	
Manganese	Mn	54.94	1.0	50 ppm	1000	
Boron	В	10.82	2.0	20 ppm	2000	
Iron	Fe	55.85	2.0	100 ppm	2000	
Chlorine	Cl	35.46	3.0	100 ppm	3000	
Macronutrients						
Silicon	Si	28.09	30	0.1%	30,000	
Sulfur	S	32.07	30	0.1%	30,000	
Phosphorus	Р	30.98	60	0.2%	60,000	
Magnesium	Mg	24.32	80	0.2%	80,000	
Calcium	Ca	40.08	125	0.5%	125,000	
Potassium	K	39.10	250	1.0%	250,000	
Nitrogen	Ν	14.01	1000	1.5%	1,000,000	
- Oxygen	0	16.00	30,000	45%	30,000,000	
Carbon	С	12.01	40,000	45%	40,000,000	
 Hydrogen 	Н	1.01	60,000	6%	60,000,000	



Source: Modified from Stout 1961.

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Source: Emanuel Epstein and Arnold J. Bloom. 2005. Mineral Nutrition of Plants: Principles and Perspectives. Second Edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, Massachusetts

Water Deficiency in the Sahel

A climatic deficit of H and O $(H_2O) \dots$

FIGURE 2. Trends in grain yields of pearl millet and sorghum under conditions of rainfall and rainfall plus supplementary irrigation at Konni, 1980-1997.

FIGURE 1. Average monthly potential evapotranspiration (ETP) and rainfall at Konni and Maradi from 1980-1997.



Yields of irrigated sorghum and millet have historically been 3X to 4X higher than rainfed yields in the Konni area of Niger. . .



Pandey, R. K., Crawford Jr., T. W. and Maranville, J. W. 2002. Agriculture Intensification and Ecologically Sustainable Land Use in Niger: A Case Study of Evolution of Intensive Systems with Supplementary Irrigation. Journal of Sustainable Agriculture, 20: 3, 33 – 55

Drip Irrigation and Soil Sampling for Plant Nutrients in Afghanistan



Nitrogen Deficiency

TABLE 3.3 Adequate Concentrations of Elements in Plant Tissue

	Chemical	Atomic	Concentration	Relative number		
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Oxygen	0	16.00	30,000	45%	30,000,000	
Carbon	С	12.01	40,000	45%	40,000,000	
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Calcium Deficiency

	Chemical	Atomic	Concentration	Relative number	
Element	symbol	weight	μ mol g ⁻¹	ppm or %	respect to nickel
Micronutrients	a hogen hinter	el de centre de	valionalitere (d	And he what the ar	and brack to basis it.
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Zinc	Zn	65.38	0.30	20 ppm	300
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Oxygen	0	16.00	30,000	45%	30,000,000
Carbon	С	12.01	40,000	45%	40,000,000
Hydrogen	Н	1.01	60,000	6%	60,000,000



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Source: Emanuel Epstein and Arnold J. Bloom. 2005. Mineral Nutrition of Plants: Principles and Perspectives. Second Edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, Massachusetts
Iron Deficiency

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	Chamical	Atomic	Concentration	Relative number	
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USAID Promotes Scientific Innovation

USAID POLICY FRAMEWORK 3011 - 2015 "Science, technology, and innovation can produce particularly powerful outcomes when complemented by other investments."



"Scientific innovation and technology are critical to meeting the global challenges of producing more food with less **land** and **water** and helping farmers adapt to climatic, social and economic shocks."



Micro Carbon Technology®

An Innovative Technology of Bio Huma Netics, Inc. (BHN) for Fertilizers, Pesticides and Wastewater Treatment Products

Scientifically Engineered Technology

- Micro Carbon Technology[®]
 - Symbol
 - Carbon Ring (leonardite / carbon source)
 - Soil
 - Plants
 - Water



The Origins of Micro Carbon Technology®

- In 1973 scientists of Sunburst Mining Co., the predecessor of Bio Huma Netics, Inc., discovered a unique material in a company owned mine located in the state of Idaho.
- When applied to farmers' fields, this material improved both the soil's fertility and the plants' nutrient uptake.
- This material is mainly composed of leonardite, an oxygen-rich form of soft coal that is made up of decomposed plant matter and minerals.



Micro Carbon Technology[®] An Innovative Fertilizer Technology

Proprietary Extraction Process

A proprietary, time-tested biological & chemical extraction process.

- Decomposes humic substances of leonardite.

 Produces a mixture of organic molecules, many of which are small and more chemically active.



From Leonardite to Micro Carbon Technology®



Complexing with Nutrients

Functional Groups of Humic and Fulvic Acids that Contain Oxygen

Sr. and I	Tot Cati Excha Capa		-COOH Acid -OH		Weakly Acid and Alcolholic -OH	-C=O		
4		Normal Range, cmol(+) per kg						
	Humic Acids	500-870	150-300	250-570	270-350	90-300		
	Fulvic Acids	900-1,400	610-910	270-670	330-490	110-310		

Source: F. J. Stevenson and J. H. A. Butler. 1969. Chemistry of humic acids and related pigments. P. 534-577. In G. Englinton and Sister M. T. J. Murphy (eds.). Organic geochemistry. Springer-Verlag, Berlin.

Micro Carbon Technology[®] produces organic (carbon-containing) molecules more chemically active than humic and fulvic acids



The 17 Essential Plant Nutrients





Sources: Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 54th ed. and Epstein and Bloom, 2005

Clay-Metal-Organic Matter Complexes in Soil



Source: FJ Stevenson and MS Ardakani. 1972. Organic Matter Reactions Involving Micronutrients in Soils. *In* JJ Mordtvedt, PM Giordano and WL Lindsay (eds.) Micronutrients in Agriculture. Soil Science Society of America, Madison, Wisconsin.



Examples of the Interaction of Phosphate with Organic (Carbon-containing) Substances



*An ester is formed by condensation of an acid with an alcohol.



Increased availability of phosphorus from Super Phos[™] in comparison with fertilizers of conventional phosphoric acid.





Increased availability of micronutrient metals from Super Phos™

Micronutrient metals are protected by Micro Carbon Technology®of Super Phos™





Phosphorus Inefficiency & Efficiency

Phosphorus is very insoluble in the soil, so only a fraction from most P fertilizers is available to the crop.

Total phosphorus in soils (0 to 6 inches) ranges between 400-2,000 pounds/acre ... but only a fraction of that is available to the plant for the absorption each season.

Unavailable Phosphorus



Phosphorusavailable for plant uptake

Phosphorus Deficiency

TABLE 3.3 Adequate Concentrations of Elements in Plant Tissue

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Source: Modified from Stout 1961.

Source: Emanuel Epstein and Arnold J. Bloom. 2005. Mineral Nutrition of Plants: Principles and Perspectives. Second Edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, Massachusetts

Phosphorus Fertilizers Inefficient vs. Efficient

Addition of 10-34-0 to irrigation water resulted in formation of insoluble calcium phosphate



Calcium phosphate white precipitate - 10-34-0

Clear water

Inefficient Ammonium Polyphosphate (APP, or 10-34-0)



HUMA GRO® SUPER PHOS[™] product is so effective and efficient, it took 18.7 liters per hectare of SUPER PHOS[™] (50% P_Q) to get the above results of phosphorus petiole levels in the plants. The SUPER PHOS[™] amount used was only 10% of the control amount!



Advantages of Micro Carbon Technology[®] (MCT) in Liquid Huma Gro[®] Fertilizers

- In the soil, MCT protects applied nutrients from loss due to formation of insoluble compounds.
 - Increases essential plant nutrient efficiency and water use efficiency.
- Liquid Huma Gro[®] fertilizers with MCT can be applied directly to the leaves,
 - Placing needed, essential nutrients very close to the principal site of photosynthesis.
 - Avoiding losses of nutrients in the soil.
 - Increases essential plant nutrient efficiency and water use efficiency.



Bio Huma Netics, Inc. Global Value Chains Delivering Products with Micro Carbon Technology®



Probiotic

products



Manufacturing BHN Products

Fertilizers, pest control and wastewater treatment products





Some Huma Gro[®] Phosphorus Fertilizer Labels One BHN product – many markets

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Spanish

Turkish

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Greatest Benefits (Yield and WUE) in Areas with Access to Soil, Water and Plant Testing



Steps to Opening a New Country

- Initial Contact
- Face to face meetings

 Dist training, grower visits, infield work
- Send samples of key products
- Begin registration process (if necessary)
- Begin field demonstrations of products on key crops
- Products Registered
- First container ordered
- Commercial









Value Chains – Markup to include costs and profit

- Manufacturer suggests retail cost of 100 units of local currency where product is to be used/unit volume of product (MSRP).
- Master distributor buys from manufacturer at 40 units of local currency/unit volume delivered to distributor's port.
- Distributor pays between 10 units and 25 units of MSRP to import (duties, taxes).
- Distributor sells to sub-distributor for 65 units to 70 units of MSRP.
- Sub-distributor sells to retailer for 70 units to 75 units of MSRP.



BHN Value Chains in Spain



Regional Huma Gro® Supply Chains in Spain





Manufacturer

Crucial business relationship with master distributor

Exclusive, performance-based contracts with regional distributors

In each region, the regional distributor has business relationships with local distributors, commissioned agents, and/or end users



BHN Value Chains in China



Packaging BHN Products in Sizes Appropriate for Small-Scale Farmers in China





Mixing of Huma Gro® Fertilizers in China

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Application of Huma Gro® Fertilizers to Kiwifruit in China





BHN Value Chains in Nicaragua



Application of Huma Gro[®] Fertilizer to Coffee Seedlings in Nicaragua





Close-Up View of Application of Huma Gro[®] Fertilizer to Coffee Seedlings in Nicaragua







Wastewater Reuse from Small-Town Sewage, Dairy, and Abattoir Enhanced Treatment for Crop Irrigation

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Economic Benefits of Bio Energizer[®]-Reclaimed Small-Town Sewage in Texas

- **Raw sewage** ("municipal wastewater") passes through a bar screen at the headworks to capture rags, bags, wood and other large objects.
- The sewage proceeds through a series of 3 lagoons to decrease solids and increase available plant nutrients.
- After the water has been in the system for approximately 30 days, it is pumped from the last lagoon and applied to a hay field via sprinklers on a typical irrigation schedule.
- The treated water has been an economic boon to the farmer who bails the hay and sells it to the ranchers who no longer have to purchase hay produced elsewhere.

Simple bar screen







Headworks and bar screen

Lagoon treated with Bio Energizer®

Irrigation of forage with treated wastewater

Improvement of Forage Quality Using Dairy Wastewater Treated by Bio Energizer[®] in Australia



Qualitative and quantitative improvements in *Phalaris* pasture grasses irrigated with effluent pond water treated with Bio Energizer[®], compared to a control pasture irrigated with non-treated **diary wastewater**.
Treated Wastewater from Ovine Abattoir when Treated with Bio Energizer[®] Improves Wheat & Canola Production in Australia



Treated wastewater from a **ovine abattoir** is drawn off the last "polishing" treatment pond below and pumped to an adjacent field where crops are rotated annually. After using Bio Energizer® in the pond system for a year the abattoir won "Wheat Crop of the Year". And this, year 2013, the operator exclaimed "You should see my canola crop it is this high" – gesturing with his hand to about 3.5 feet high.

The operator of the abattoir's wastewater treatment facility was clearly excited about the growth of his latest crop, due to the addition of Bio Energizer[®] into the treatment pond system as compared to previous years without it.



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Thank you for your interest.

Additional information: <u>http://bhn.us</u> or tom@bhn.us

