

## ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY INDEX FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSE: CASE STUDY NORTHWEST OF NILE DELTA, EGYPT

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**ABSTRACT:** Shortness and contamination of water become one of the most hazards facing Egypt nowadays. The irrigation water quality index (IWQI) was calculated in this research to classify surface water of some irrigation canals northwest of Nile delta, Egypt. For this purpose, 14 sites distributed within study area were selected to take water samples during October 2019. ArcGIS (10.4.1) spatial Analyst extension was used to produce high accuracy maps. The IWQI spatial distribution within the study area shows that, samples fell into four classes, low restriction (LR) moderate restriction (MR) High restriction (HR) severe restriction (SR) with an area 178,138, 92 and 249, Km<sup>2</sup> respectively. The area of SR water quality would be sited in the northeast and southwest in resultant of increase the EC, SAR, (Na<sup>+</sup>) and (Cl<sup>-</sup>) ions in this direction. The descending order of water restriction use in the study area is SR> LR> MR > HR. Thus, most of surface water in the study area (73%) may avoided its use for irrigation under ordinary conditions. It should be used with high permeability soil and with plants that appear high resistance for salinity with special salinity control practices.

**Key words:** Irrigation Water Quality Index; High accuracy maps; GIS; Nile Delta; Egypt

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### INTRODUCTION

A lot of major problems facing humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century associated with quantity and/or water quality issues (UNESCO, 2009). These problems will be worse in the future due to climate change which will cause higher water temperatures, melting glaciers, and an intensification of the water cycle (Huntington, 2006). Most of the drainage canals are likely polluted by discharges of untreated domestic and industrial wastewater while approximately 55% of agricultural drainage water (ADW) is officially reused for irrigation purposes (Hafez,2005). In Egypt, more than 17 billion cubic meters (BCM) of agricultural water per year represents a potential backbone for non-conventional water resources in this country (Assar et al., 2018). Egyptians consider drainage water

as a resource for irrigation in the face of water shortage thus, it makes the quality of the water in the canals become progressively worse (Khater et al., 2014). The major consumer of water in the world is agriculture that uses more than 63% of the World's available freshwater resources for irrigation (Aliyu et al. 2017). In Egypt, the agriculture sector consumes about 80 - 85% of all available water resources (Negm et al., 2019). The quality of water is defined as the normal, physical, and compound condition of the water in addition any adjustment that may have been initiated by human impacts (Venkateswaran et al. 2011; Jafar et al. 2013; Khan et al. 2012 and Salahat et al. 2014). Assessment of Irrigation Water Quality index(IWQI) is very essential to avoid or, at least, to decrease impacts on agriculture (Mohammed,

2011). Also, IWQI is one of the most vital factors which effect on human health and other living organisms (Bhuyan et al. 2018). It defines irrigation water quality by single value, thus avoiding water quality evaluations involving complex data intervals (Ghazaryan and Chen, 2016) and is based on the recommended limitations for continues water usage for all soil types (Stoner, 1978). Although spatial and temporal variations in water quality, which are often difficult to interpret, a monitoring program of surface waters quality can provide a representative and reliable estimation (Noori et al., 2012). Using of Geographic information system (GIS) and WQI methods could provide a monitoring report data to decision makes to understand the quality of surface water and to reach to the optimum use in the future as well (Rasul and Waqed, 2013). Many researches used irrigation water quality index (IWQI) as a management tool to measure water quality (Jerome and Pius 2010; Rokbani et al. 2011). The main aim of this research is to provide spatial distribution maps for irrigation water quality index (IWQI) parameters to help decision makers to identify the water quality status of study area and reach to optimum use of water resources. Even though many researchers were worked on determining IWQI, very few researchers were mapped it in their studies area. As for as our knowledge, no spatial distribution maps for the IWQI has been carried out for the study area, in Northwest of Nile delta, Egypt.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

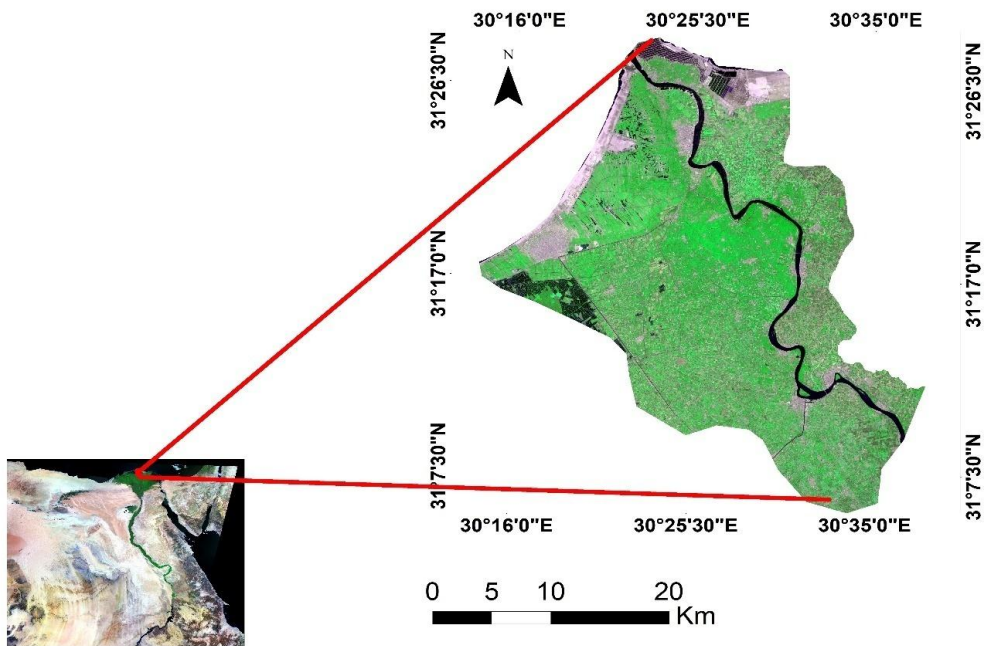
### **1. Description of study area**

The study area is situated in the Northwest of the Nile Delta, and extended between longitudes 29° 51'30" & 30° 31' 08" E, and latitudes 30° 59'15" & 30° 26' 45" N, with total area 767 km<sup>2</sup> (Fig, 1). The area is characterized by Mediterranean Sea climate. The maximum temperature is relatively high in dry season as it

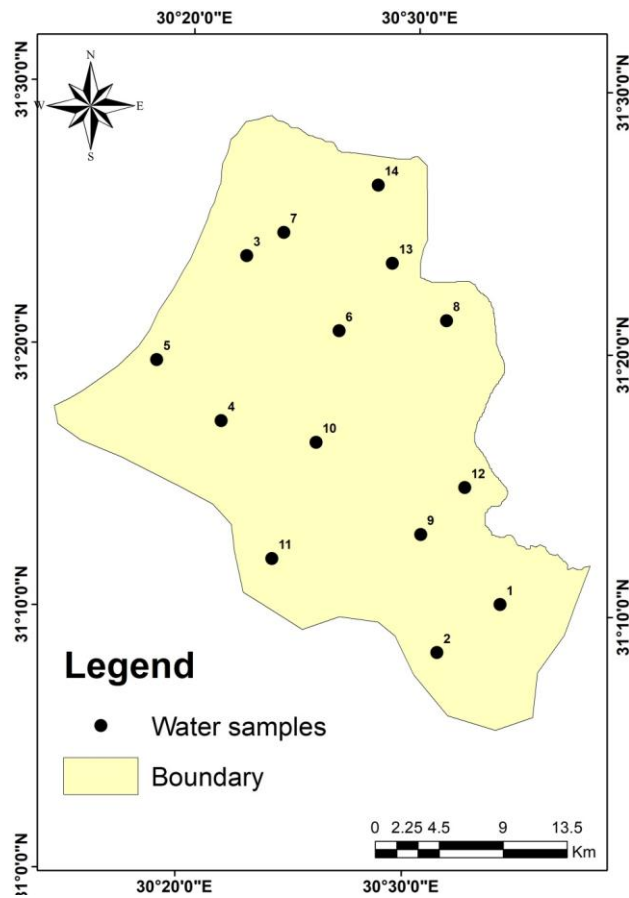
recorded 30.0°C, where the average minimum temperature was 13.0°C in January. Little rain occurred in winter from November to February as in Egypt, rainfall is light and shower while, the maximum rainfall was in January (59.20 mm). The lowest value of evaporation was recorded in January and December due to low temperature, whereas the highest value observed in June and September which temperature is comparatively high. The annual average of evaporation is 4.25 mm/day. The lowest proportion of relative humidity was observed in April (51%) while the highest was in December with 58.4% (Climatological Normal for Egypt, 2011). The soil temperature regime is "Thermic" and the soil moisture regime could be defined as "Torric". The studied area is formed by Holocene deposits (Said, 1993). The irrigation system is mostly surface irrigation, in which water is pumped from irrigation canals using furrow and basin irrigation.

### **2. Collecting samples**

After a detailed survey, 14 water samples were collected from all irrigation canals in the study area on October 2019 (Fig, 2.) using plastic containers (each with a capacity of 1 liter). Before using of plastic containers, they were rinsed thoroughly with sampling water and sealed, then kept in ice-boxes and transferred to laboratory for analysis of the soil reaction (pH), Electrical Conductivity (EC), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Sodium (Na), Potassium (K), Chloride (Cl), Bicarbonates (HCO<sub>3</sub>) and Sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>). Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) and irrigation water quality index (IWQI) were calculated for surface water quality evaluation of in the study area. The analysis was carried out according to APHA (2012). Descriptive statistics including minimum, maximum, average and standard deviation were calculated.



**Fig (1): Location of the study area, relative to Egypt Map.**



**Fig (2): Distribution of samples sites.**

### 3. Assessment of water quality

#### 3.1. Guidelines for water quality

Many researches have been proposed a lot of water quality classification schemes. Permissible limits for irrigation which recommend by Scofield (1936). In addition, water quality standards for agriculture use by FAO (1985) were used as a guide to show water quality of study area (Tables 1 and 2).

#### 3.2. Irrigation Water Quality Index (IWQI) modeling:

The developed irrigation water quality index by Meireles et al. (2010) was used to calculate IWQI of study area, which reflects soil salinity, soditiy hazards and

water toxicity to plants. The parameters of this specified model are EC, Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, SAR and HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. The process of quality evaluation is based on WQI (Meireles et al. 2010). This model is depending on two steps, first one is to determine the parameters which more related to the irrigation use and the second step are establish of a quality measurement values (qi) and aggregation weights (wi). Irrigation water quality parameters recommended by the California University Committee of Consultant (UCCC) and by the criteria recognized by Ayers and Westcot (1999) were used to determine value of each parameter (Table, 3). The higher the value represent better water quality.

Table (1): Allowable limits for irrigation water classes (Scofield, 1936).

Class of water		EC ( $\mu\text{mhos cm}^{-1}$ )	Gravimetric Sodium ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) (%)		Chloride ( $\text{meq L}^{-1}$ )	Sulfate ( $\text{meq L}^{-1}$ )
Class 1	Excellent	< 250	< 175	< 20	< 4	< 4
Class 2	Good	250 – 750	175 – 525	20 – 40	4-7	4-7
Class 3	Permissible	750 – 2000	525 – 1400	40 – 60	7-12	7-12
Class 4	Doubtful	2000 – 3000	1400 – 2100	60 – 80	12 – 20	12 – 20
Class 5	Unsuitable	> 3000	> 2100	> 80	> 20	> 20

Table (2): Guidelines of water quality Interpretation for Irrigation (FAO,1985).

Potential irrigation problems	Units	Degree of restriction		
		None	Slight-moderate	Severe
<b>Salinity (affects crop water availability)</b>				
EC <sub>w</sub> <sup>1</sup>	dS/m	< 0.7	0.7 - 3.0	> 3.0
Or				
TDS	mg/L	< 450	450 – 2000	> 2000
<b>Infiltration (affects infiltration rate of water into the soil.</b>				
<b>Evaluate using EC<sub>w</sub> and SAR together)<sup>2</sup></b>				
SAR		> 0.7	0.7 - 0.2	< 0.2
= 3 – 6		> 1.2	1.2 – 0.3	< 0.3
= 6 – 12		> 1.9	1.9 – 0.5	< 0.5
= 12 – 20		> 2.9	2.9 – 1.3	< 1.3
= 20 – 40		> 5.0	5.0 – 2.9	< 2.9
<b>Specific Ion Toxicity (affects sensitive crops)</b>				
Sodium (Na)	SAR	< 3	3 - 9	> 9
Chloride (Cl)	meq/l	< 4	4 - 10	> 10
<b>Miscellaneous effects</b>				
Bicarbonate (HCO <sub>3</sub> )	meq/l	< 1.5	1.5 – 8.5	> 8.5
pH		Normal range = 6.5 – 8.4		

<sup>1</sup> EC<sub>w</sub> means Electrical conductivity of irrigation water at 25°C (dS/m) or in units millimhos per centimetre (mmhos/cm). TDS means total dissolved solids, reported in milligrams per litre (mg/l).

<sup>2</sup>SAR means sodium adsorption ratio.

**Table (3): Parameter Limiting Values for Quality Measurement (qi) Calculation (Ayres and Westcot, 1999).**

qi	EC (µS/cm)	SAR	Na <sup>+</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
			meq/l		
85-100	200≤EC<750	2≤SAR<3	2≤Na<3	1≤Cl<4	1≤HCO3<1.5
60-85	750≤EC<1500	3≤SAR<6	3≤Na<6	4≤Cl<7	1.5≤HCO3<4.5
35-60	1500≤EC<3000	6≤SAR<12	6≤Na<9	7≤Cl<10	4.5≤HCO3<8.5
0-35	EC<200 or EC≥3000	SAR<2 or SAR≥12	Na<2 or Na ≥9	Cl<1 or Cl≥10	HCO3<1 or HCO3≥8.5

The following equation was used to calculate values of qi depending on the tolerance limits in Table (3).

$$q_i = q_{imax} - \left\{ \frac{[(x_{ij} - x_{inf}) \times q_{iamp}]}{x_{amp}} \right\} \quad (1)$$

Where  $q_{imax}$  is the maximum value of qi for the class;  $X_{ij}$  is the detected value for the parameter;  $x_{inf}$  is the corresponding value to the lower limit of the class to which the parameter belongs;  $q_{iamp}$  is class amplitude;  $x_{amp}$  is class amplitude to which the parameter belongs.

To evaluate  $x_{amp}$ , of the last class for each parameter, the upper limit which determined in the water analysis was considered to be the highest value. Weight used in the IWQI of each parameter shows in Table (4).

The irrigation water quality index (IWQI) was calculated as:

$$IWQI = \sum_{i=1}^n q_i w_i \quad (2)$$

IWQI is non- dimension parameter ranging from (0 -100);  $q_i$  is the quality of the  $i^{th}$  parameter, a number from (0 – 100), function of its concentration or measurement;  $w_i$  is the normalized weight of the  $i^{th}$  parameter, function of its relative importance to water quality (Table 4). Division in classes was based

on current water quality indexes. Definition of classes was considering the hazards of salinity problems, reduction of soil water infiltration and toxicity to plants which presented by Bernardo (1995) and Holanda and Amorim (1997). Water use restrictions as developed by Meireles et al (2010) are shown in (Table 5).

#### 4. Spatial interpolation of water properties

Spatial distribution of water properties in the study area is widely used due to samples are collected at distinct locations for producing constant information (Ali and Moghanm, 2013). The method of interpolation was Inverse Distance Weighted (IDW) which uses measured values adjacent the estimate location. The closest measured values to the expectation location have more affection on the expected value than those further away, thus giving greater weight to points closest to the prediction. To interpolate water properties concentrations in the study area, the geostatistical relationships among points by GIS 10.4.1 software (spatial interpolation method (IDW) extension) were used.

Table (4): Weights for the IWQI parameters (Meireles et al., 2010).

Parameter	Weight (w <sub>i</sub> )
EC	0.211
Na	0.204
HCO <sub>3</sub>	0.202
Cl	0.194
SAR	0.189
Total	1.0

Table (5): Water Quality Index Characteristics (Meireles et al., 2010).

IWQI	Water Use Restrictions	Recommendation	
		Soil	Plant
85-100	No Restriction (NR)	May be used for the majority of soils with low probability of causing salinity and sodicity problems, being recommended leaching within irrigation practices, except for in soils with extremely low permeability.	No toxicity risk for most plants
70-85	Low Restriction (LR)	Recommended for use in irrigated soils with light texture or moderate permeability, being recommended salt leaching. Soil sodicity in heavy texture soils may occur, being recommended to avoid its use in soils with high clay.	Avoid salt sensitive plants
55-70	Moderate Restriction (MR)	May be used in soils with moderate to high permeability values, being suggested moderate leaching of salts.	Plants with moderate tolerance to salts may be grown
40-55	High Restriction (HR)	May be used in soils with high permeability without compact layers. High frequency irrigation schedule should be adopted for water with EC above 2000 $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ and SAR above 7.0.	Should be used for irrigation of plants with moderate to high tolerance to salts with special salinity control practices, except water with low Na, Cl and HCO <sub>3</sub> values
0-40	Severe Restriction (SR)	Should be avoided its use for irrigation under normal conditions. In special cases, may be used occasionally. Water with low salt levels and high SAR require gypsum application. In high saline content water soils must have high permeability, and excess water should be applied to avoid salt accumulation.	Only plants with high salt tolerance, except for waters with extremely low values of Na, Cl and HCO <sub>3</sub> .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Water properties distribution

#### 1.1. Hazards of salinity

Increasing of salts in the crop root zone cause salinity hazard due to

reducing the water availability. Without, leaching the soil by low salt content water, the salinization of the soil is permanent process that makes agricultural lands inappropriate for cultivation (Khalaf and Hassan 2013).

Salinity hazard take place when salts start to raise in the crop root zone reducing the amount of water available to the roots. As shown in (Figs 3 and 4) and (Tables 6-9), the salinity of water samples in the study area is ranged between 492 and 4720  $\mu\text{S/cm}$  with average value of (1648.57)  $\mu\text{S/cm}$ . The salinity values increase to east. This might be due to a lot of drains discharge to irrigation canals and farmers use these canals for irrigation without any treatments. The data reveal that, the EC values vary widely as Standard Division (STD) equal to (1205.69). According to Scofield (1936) values, six water resources are good for irrigation and the rest of resources are differed between permissible and doubtful classes except sample from canal 2 is unsuitable for irrigation (Table 8). Considering that, the irrigation water standard based on FAO (1985), the results of study area vary from none to

slight moderate but have dropped in canal No 2 to severe degree of restriction (Table 9).

### 1.2. Specific Ion Toxicity

A common toxicity symptom of the sodium ion is Leaf burn, scurvy and dead fabric on the exterior edges of the leaves (Khalaf and Hassan, 2013). The  $\text{Na}^+$  concentrations of water samples Tables (6 and 7) ranged from 5.62 meq/l to 36.5 meq/l with mean concentration of 15.22 meq/l. High variation of  $\text{Na}^+$  was noticed (STD=9.17) as shown in Table (7). The spatial trends showed that, concentrations increased from north west to east (Fig, 5). The data of ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) concentrations indicate that, based on Scofield, (1936) most of water resources of study area are under class 2 except for canals 2, 3 and 14 which are in C3 and C1, respectively (Table 8 and Fig 6).

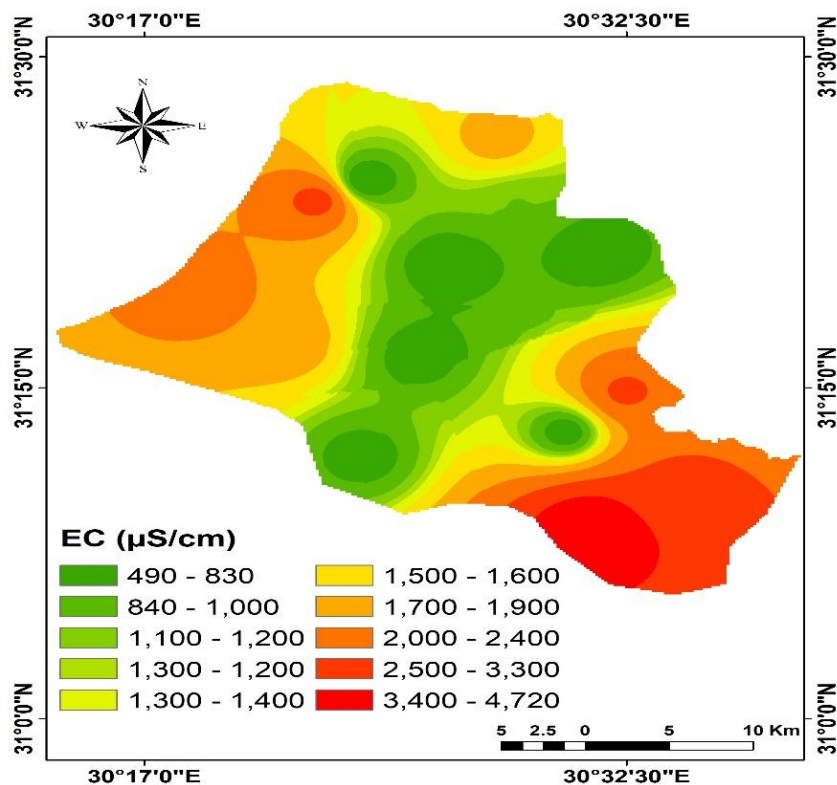


Fig (3): Interpolated map of EC in study area.



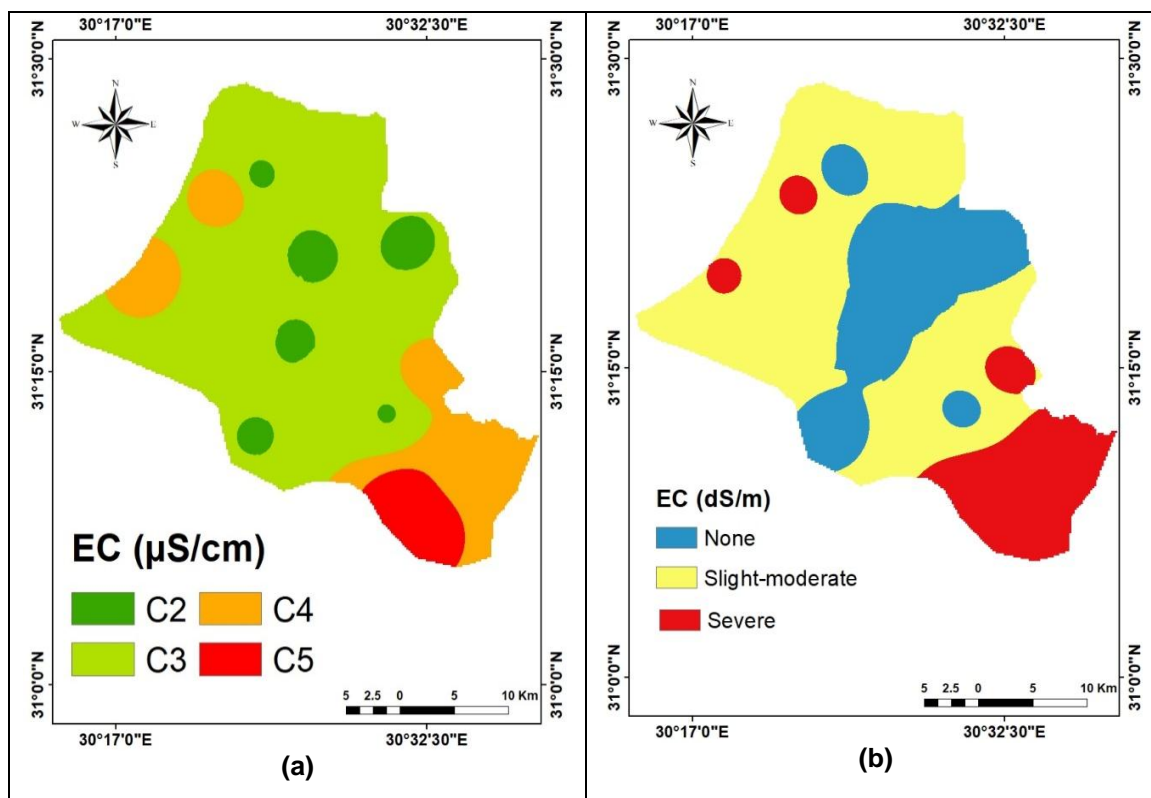


Fig (4): Classes of water EC according to (a) Scofield (1936) and (b) FAO (1985).

Table (6): Parameters of Water Quality analysis in the Study Area.

Sample No.	pH	EC $\mu\text{S/cm}$	$\text{Na}^+$ mg / L	Cations (meq / L)				Anions (meq/L)			SAR
				$\text{Na}^+$	$\text{K}^+$	$\text{Ca}^{+2}$	$\text{Mg}^{+2}$	$\text{HCO}_3^-$	$\text{CL}^-$	$\text{SO}_4^{-2}$	
1	6.95	2630	484.38	21.06	0.54	3.2	7.2	7.6	11.2	13.2	9.24
2	7.33	4720	839.5	36.5	0.82	7	11.2	6.4	30	19.12	12.1
3	7.14	2720	549.01	23.87	0.59	3.8	6.4	8.2	14.4	12.06	10.57
4	7.17	1905	355.35	15.45	0.52	3.2	4.4	5.2	10.4	7.97	7.93
5	7.02	2330	452.18	19.66	0.61	3.4	5.4	7.4	13.8	7.87	9.37
6	7.17	492	149.73	6.51	0.23	2	2.6	3.6	1.8	5.94	4.29
7	7.02	500	149.73	6.51	0.21	2.6	1.4	3.8	1.8	5.12	4.60
8	6.82	540	149.73	6.51	0.19	2.6	1.8	3.6	1.8	5.7	4.39
9	7.78	637	187.91	8.17	0.21	3	2.2	4	1.8	7.78	5.07
10	7.46	624	226.09	9.83	0.23	2.6	3	4.2	1.8	9.66	5.87
11	7.45	621	187.91	8.17	0.23	2.6	2.6	4	2.4	7.2	5.07
12	7.15	2580	419.75	18.25	2.07	4.2	4.8	4.2	13.6	11.52	8.60
13	8.13	1029	129.26	5.62	0.28	2.8	2.8	4.4	4.6	2.5	3.35
14	8.09	1752	621.46	27.02	0.47	3.2	4.6	5.8	16.2	13.29	13.68



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**Table (7): The statistical properties of the water properties in the study area.**

Parameters	Unit	Maximum	Minimum	Average	Standard Deviation
pH	–	8.13	6.82	7.33	0.39
EC	µS/cm	4720	492	1648.57	1205.69
Na	mg/L	839.5	129.26	350.14	210.99
	meq/L	36.5	5.62	15.22	9.17
K	meq/L	2.07	0.19	0.51	0.47
Ca	meq/L	7	2	3.3	1.16
Mg	meq/L	11.2	1.4	4.31	2.55
Hco <sub>3</sub>	meq/L	5	3.6	4.14	0.44
Cl	meq/L	30	1.8	8.97	7.99
SO <sub>4</sub>	meq/L	19.12	2.5	9.21	4.13
SAR	–	13.68	3.36	7.44	3.12

**Table (8): Irrigation Water Quality Classes according to Scofield, (1936) in the Study Area.**

Sample No.	EC µs/cm	Classification	Na <sup>+</sup> mg/l	Classification	Cl <sup>-</sup> meq/l	Classification	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> meq/l	Classification
1	2630	C4	484.38	C2	11.2	C3	13.2	C4
2	4720	C5	839.5	C3	30	C5	19.12	C4
3	2720	C4	549.01	C3	14.4	C4	12.06	C4
4	1905	C3	355.35	C2	10.4	C3	7.97	C3
5	2330	C4	452.18	C2	13.8	C4	7.87	C3
6	492	C2	149.73	C1	1.8	C1	5.94	C2
7	500	C2	149.73	C1	1.8	C1	5.12	C2
8	540	C2	149.73	C1	1.8	C1	5.7	C2
9	637	C2	187.91	C2	1.8	C1	7.78	C3
10	624	C2	226.09	C2	1.8	C1	9.66	C3
11	621	C2	187.91	C2	2.4	C1	7.2	C3
12	2580	C4	419.75	C2	13.6	C4	11.52	C3
13	1029	C3	129.26	C1	4.6	C2	2.5	C1
14	1752	C3	621.46	C3	16.2	C4	13.29	C4

The interpolation of chloride ion (Cl<sup>-</sup>) shows high spatial variability, with the lowest values (1.8 meq/l) in canals (6-10) and the highest concentration (30 meq/l) in canal 2 (Fig. 5). In view of the standard deviation, in Table (7) it is observed that, the variation of Cl is very wide (STD= 7.99). Chloride can have absorbed by

plants easily and if its concentration in the leaves exceeds the tolerance of plant, signs of injury such as leaf burns or leaf tissue drying occur (Ayers and Westco, 1985). The Cl concentrations in Table (8) and Fig (6) showed that, water samples were in five classes from C1 to C5 Scofield, (1936).

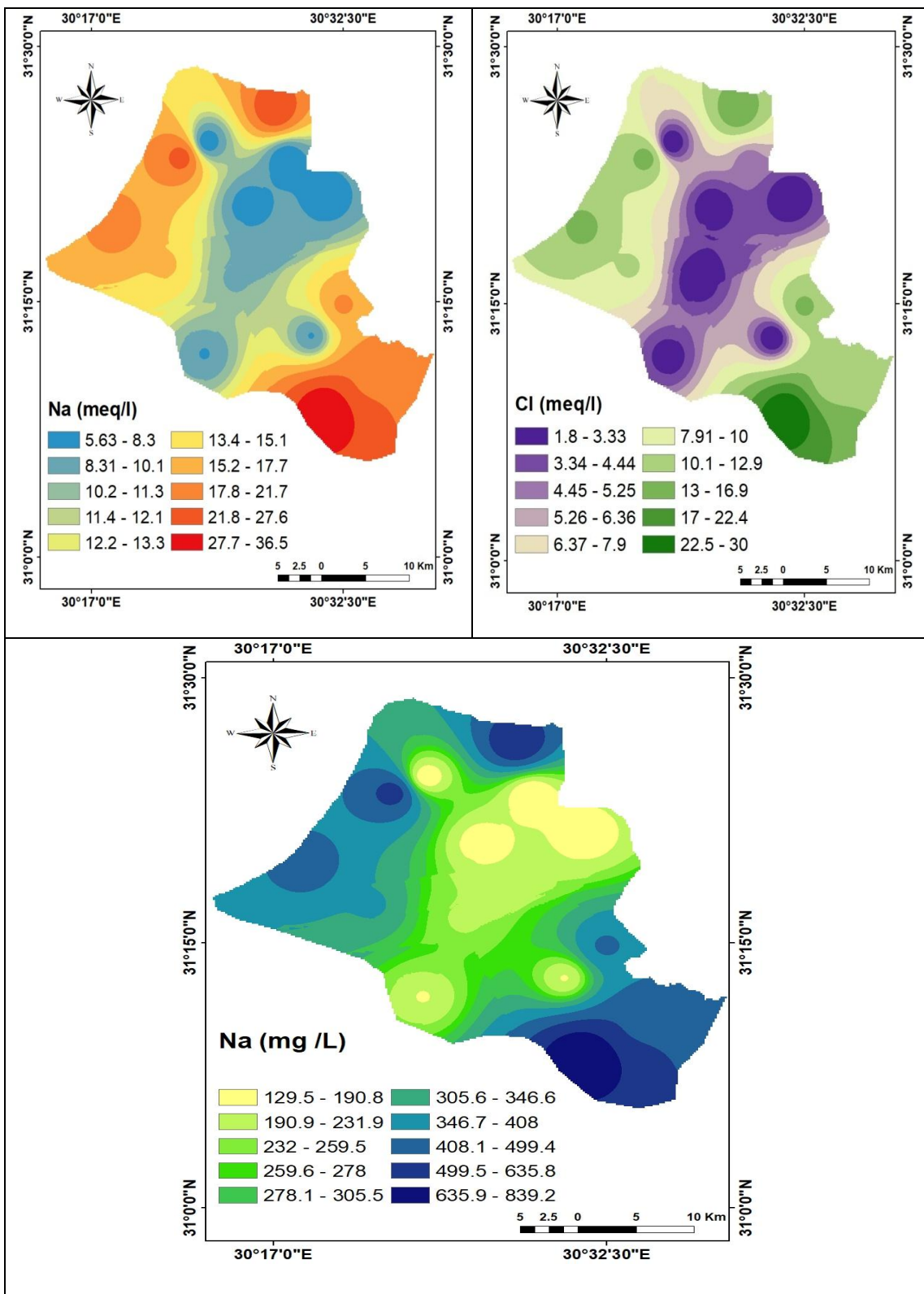
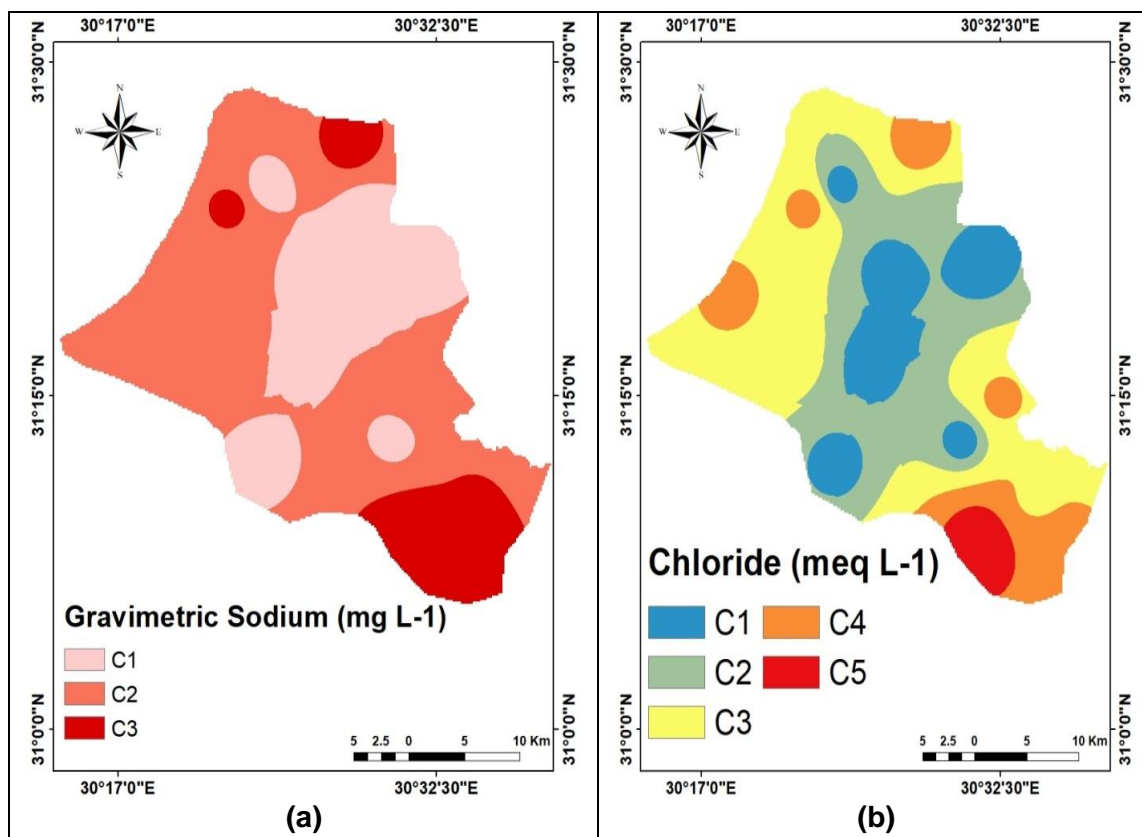


Fig (5): Interpolated map of Specific Ion Toxicity in study area.

**Assessment and mapping of surface water quality index for irrigation .....**



**Fig (6):** Classes of water Specific Ion Toxicity according to (a) Scofield (1936) and (b)FAO (1985).

**Table (9):** Irrigation Water Quality Classes according to FAO (1985) in the Study Area.

Sample No	EC dS/m	Degree of restriction	SAR	EC (dS/m)	Degree of restriction	SAR	Degree of restriction (meq/L)	Cl <sup>-</sup> restriction (meq/L)	Degree of restriction	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> restriction (meq/L)	Degree of restriction	pH	Degree of restriction
1	2.63	SI – M	9.24	2.63	N	9.24	S	11.2	S	4.4	SI – M	6.95	Normal
2	4.72	S	12.1	4.72	N	12.1	S	30	S	4	SI – M	7.33	Normal
3	2.72	SI – M	10.57	2.72	N	10.57	S	14.4	S	5	SI – M	7.14	Normal
4	1.91	SI – M	7.93	1.91	SI – M	7.93	SI – M	10.4	S	3.6	SI – M	7.17	Normal
5	2.33	SI – M	9.37	2.33	N	9.37	S	13.8	S	5	SI – M	7.02	Normal
6	0.49	N	4.29	0.49	SI – M	4.29	SI – M	1.8	N	3.6	SI – M	7.17	Normal
7	0.5	N	4.60	0.5	SI – M	4.60	SI – M	1.8	N	3.8	SI – M	7.02	Normal
8	0.54	N	4.39	0.54	SI – M	4.39	SI – M	1.8	N	3.6	SI – M	6.82	Normal
9	0.64	N	5.07	0.64	SI – M	5.07	SI – M	1.8	N	4	SI – M	7.78	Normal
10	0.62	N	5.87	0.62	SI – M	5.87	SI – M	1.8	N		SI – M	7.46	Normal
11	0.62	N	5.07	0.62	SI – M	5.07	SI – M	2.4	N	4	SI – M	7.45	Normal
12	2.58	SI – M	8.60	2.58	N	8.60	SI – M	13.6	S	4.2	SI – M	7.15	Normal
13	1.03	SI – M	3.35	1.03	SI – M	3.35	SI – M	4.6	SI – M	4.4	SI – M	8.13	Normal
14	1.75	SI – M	13.68	1.75	SI – M	13.68	S	16.2	S	4.2	SI – M	8.09	Normal

\*SI-M = Slight -Moderate, SI= Slight, M= Moderate, S= Severe, N= None

### 1.3. Permeability and Infiltration Hazard

The sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) is the most common water quality factor that influences the normal rate of infiltration and it is used to evaluate Na<sup>+</sup> ions tendency for adsorption on soil. It evaluates the sodium hazard in relation to Ca<sup>2+</sup> plus Mg<sup>2+</sup> in irrigation water concentrations (Miller and Gardiner, 2007). Generally, the higher SAR values, the larger the risk of sodium hazard on plant growth. The high content of SAR in the irrigation water influences the soil restriction, reduces aeration and permeability, and also resulting in alkaline soil which can affect plant growth. The concept of it used for

dedication of probable sodium hazard (Almeida et al., 2008). Sodium adsorption ratio was calculated according to the following equation of Richards (1954) (All values in meq/L):

$$SAR = Na^+ / [(Ca^{+2} + Mg^{+2})/2]^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

The calculated value of SAR in the investigated area were within the usual range in the irrigation water (0 – 15 meq/L). It ranged from 3.36 to 13.68 (Tables 6 and 7 as well as Fig 7). Nine water samples are slight moderate for irrigation and the rest of samples are cause none problems for soils and plant if these samples used for irrigation according to FAO 1985 classification (Fig 8).

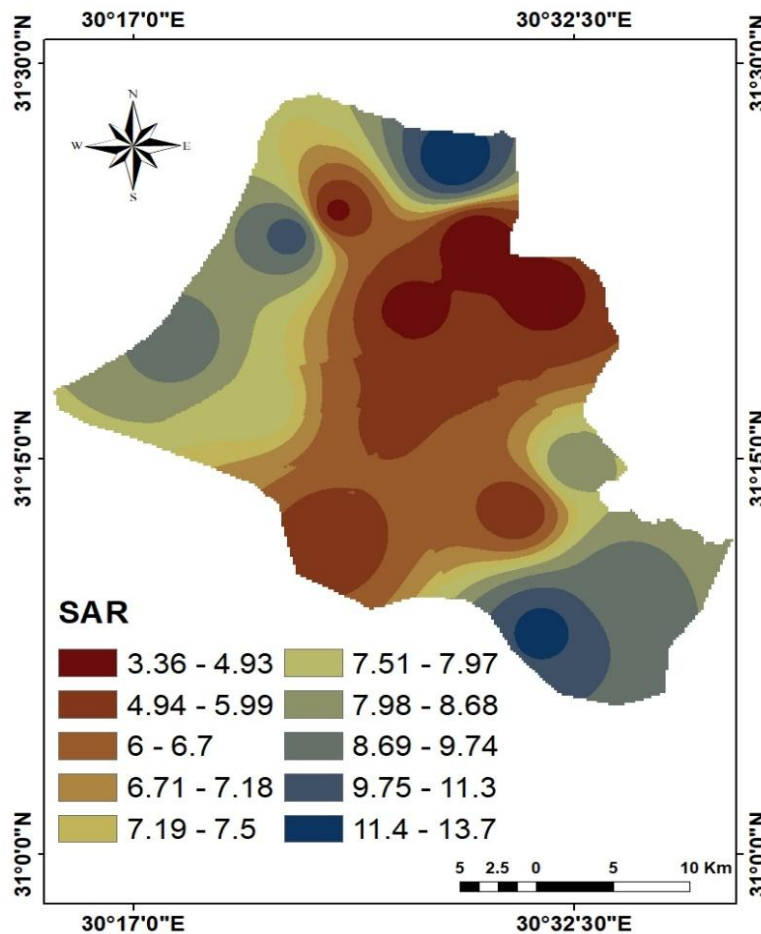
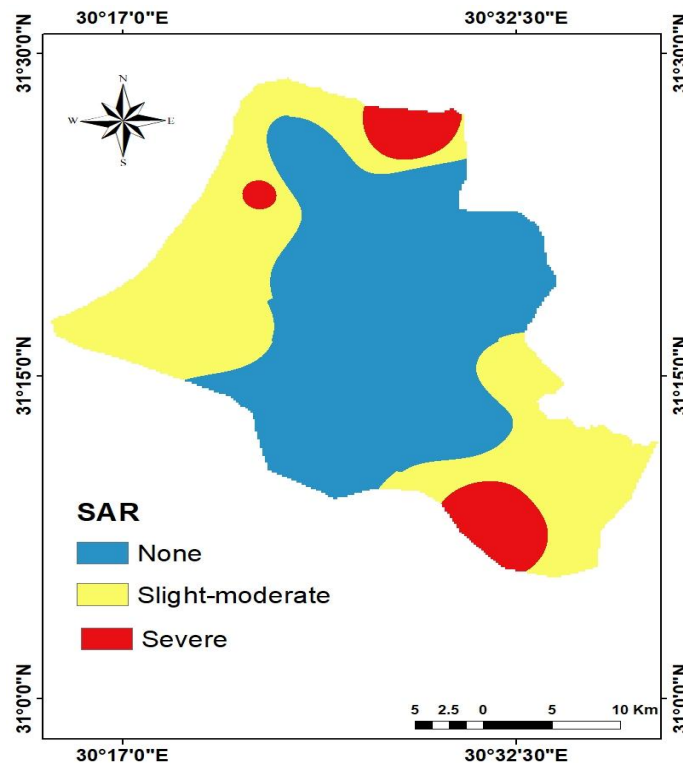


Fig (7): Interpolated map of SAR of study area.



**Fig (8): Classes of water SAR according to FAO (1985).**

**1.4. Miscellaneous Effects**

The bicarbonates ion ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) concentration of water samples ranged between 3.6 meq/l to 5.0 meq/l with mean value (4.14) meq/l. High concentrations of bicarbonates with high salinity together in the study area indicates a probable hydraulic connection with relatively un-mineralized surface water (Jassim and Goff, 2006). The pH values of the collected water samples are ranged from 6.82 to 8.13 (Tables, 6 and 7). For the ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) and pH values slight variations were observed in the studied area where the STD ranges between 0.39 and 0.44. All ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) concentrations were in the slight moderate restriction class for irrigation specified by FAO 1985, while pH values are in normal range (Fig, 9).

**1.5. Sulfate**

The Sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) concentration of water samples ranged between 2.5 meq/l to 19.12 meq/l with mean value of 9.21 meq/l (Table, 6 and 7). In view of the

standard deviation, it is observed that, the variation of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is very wide (STD= 4.13) Table (7). The potential sources of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ions in the irrigation canals of the study area may be derived from agricultural activities (fertilizer inputs) and/or domestic sewage. The spatial distribution of the sulfate concentration in the study area is shown in Fig (10). Where the figure showed that, the concentrations increased, then decreased, then increased again from the northeast to the south. The figure also showed that, the representative value of the water source (13) is the lowest and the representative value of the water source 2 is the highest. According to Scofield (1936) values, three water resources are located good for irrigation and the rest of resources are differing between permissible and doubtful classes except sample from canal 13 is excellent for irrigation (Table, 8 and Fig, 11).

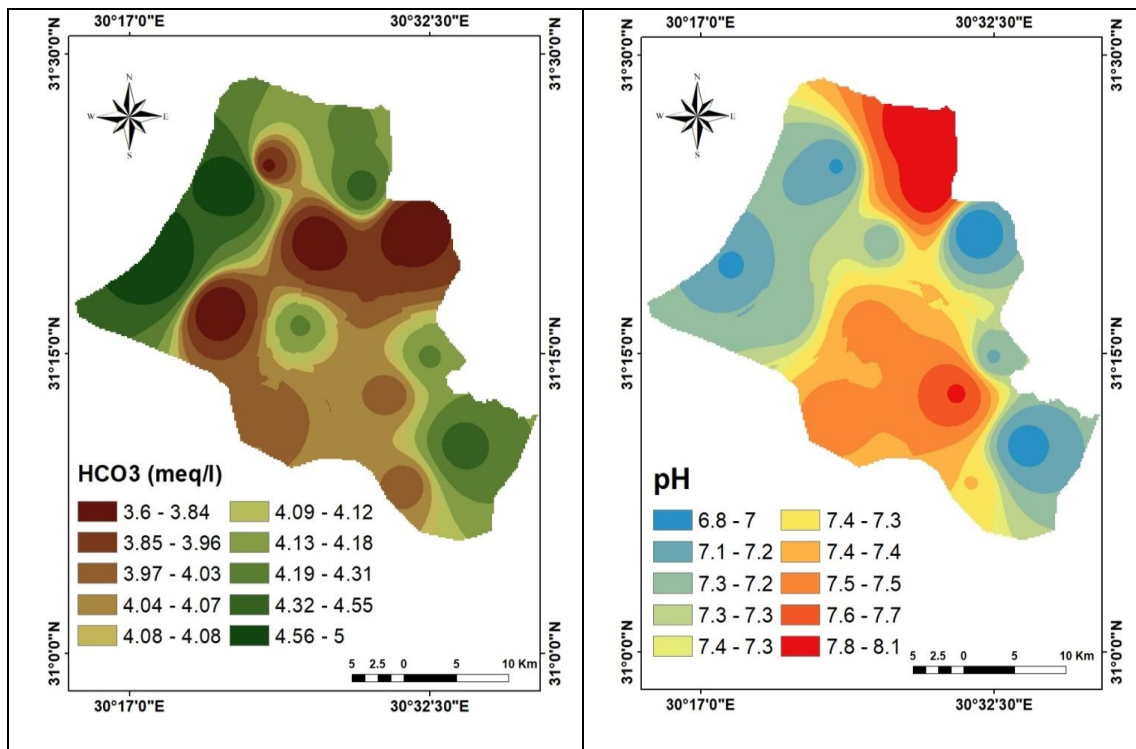


Fig (9): Interpolated maps of miscellaneous Effects.

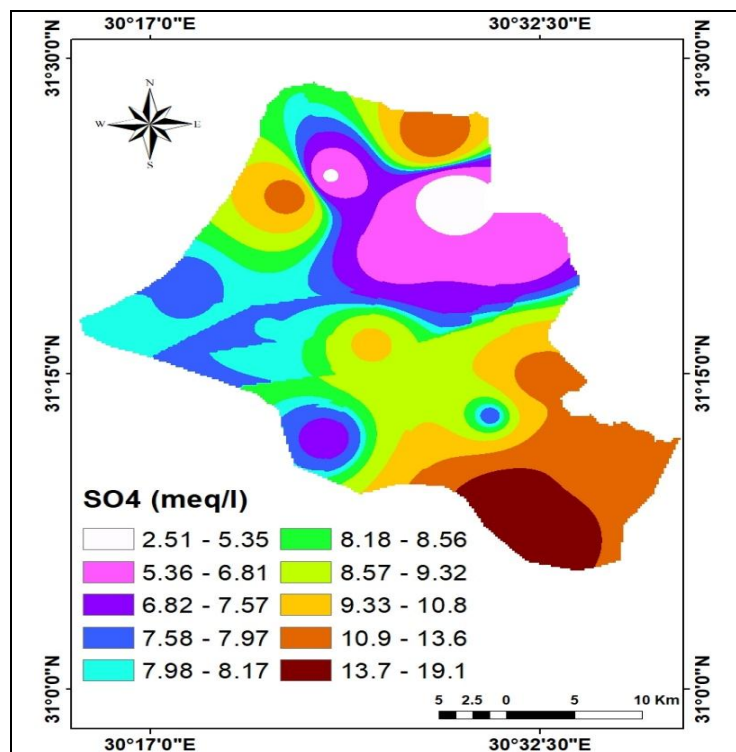
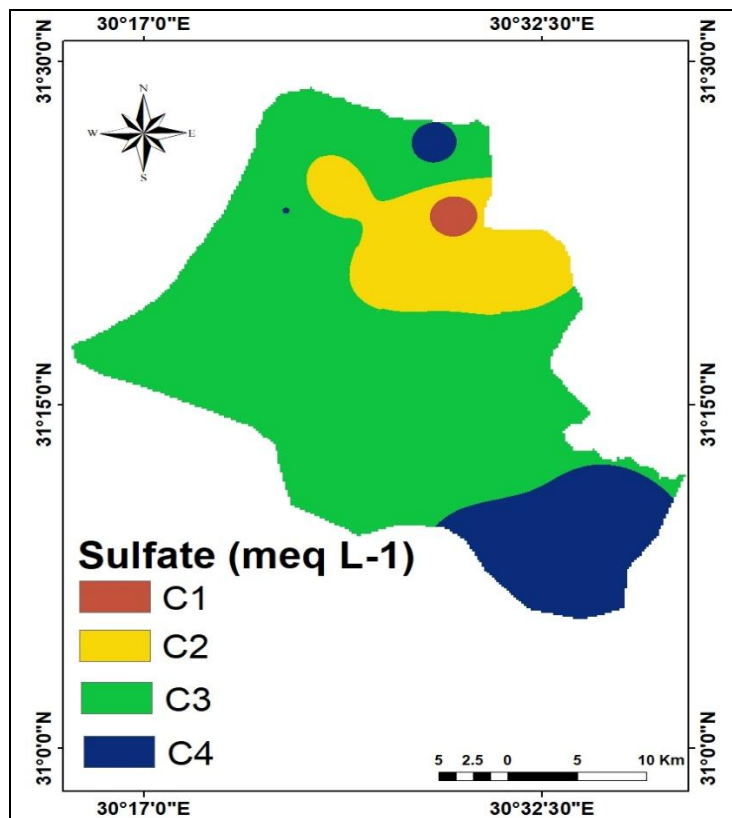


Fig (10): Interpolated map of Sulfate.





**Fig (11): Classes of Sulfate according to (Scofield, 1936).**

**2. Irrigation Water Quality Index**

ArcGIS (10.4.1) Spatial Analyst extension according to Equation (1, 2) was used for spatial integration of surface water quality mapping. This integration gives the IWQ index map which showed in (Fig, 12). The results reveal that, the IWQI values ranged from 1.07 to 76.43 (Table, 10). The IWQI spatial distribution in the study area shows that, samples fell into four classes, LR (178 km<sup>2</sup>), MR (138 km<sup>2</sup>), HR (92 Km<sup>2</sup>) and SR (249 km<sup>2</sup>). The area of Severe restriction water quality would be cited in the

southeast and northwest of study area due to increase the EC, SAR, (Na<sup>+</sup>) and (CL<sup>-</sup>) ion in this direction as shown in (Figs, 3 to 5) respectively. Water from these resources may causing adverse impact on soil properties and productivity. According to the recommendation in (Table, 5) most of surface water in the study area may avoided its use for irrigation under normal conditions, and should be used wealth high permeability soils, and with high salt tolerance plants with spatial salinity practises.



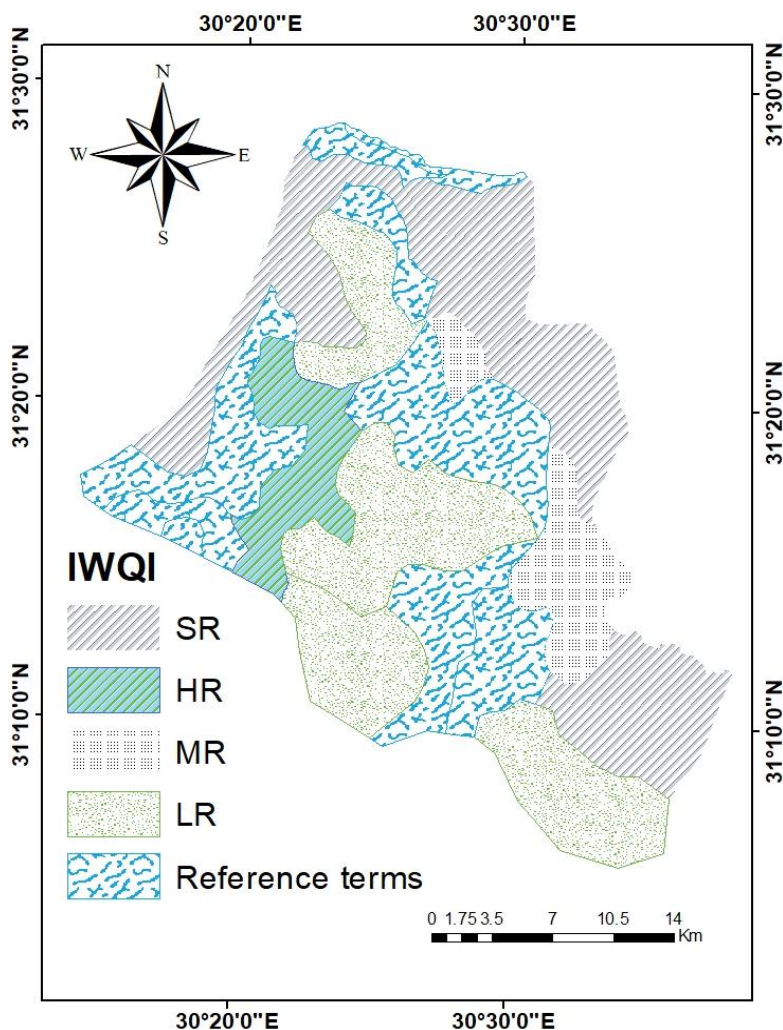


Fig (12): Map of Irrigation Water Quality Index (IWQI) in the study area.

Table (10): The Results of Irrigation Water Quality Index (IWQI) in the Study Area.

Sample No.	EC $\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$	$q_i^*w_i$	SAR	$q_i^*w_i$	$\text{Na}^+$ meq/L	$q_i^*w_i$	$\text{Cl}^-$ meq/L	$q_i^*w_i$	$\text{HCO}_3^-$ meq/L	$q_i^*w_i$	IWQI	Water Use Restrictions
1	2630	8.69	9.24	8.8	21.06	-2.43	11.2	5.97	4.4	12.12	33.15	SR
2	4720	3.15	12.09	6.57	36.5	-14.68	30	-6.79	4	12.82	1.07	SR
3	2720	8.37	10.57	7.74	23.87	-4.66	14.4	3.80	5	11.47	26.73	SR
4	1905	11.24	7.93	9.83	15.45	2.02	10.4	6.52	3.6	13.51	43.12	HR
5	2330	9.74	9.37	8.69	19.66	-1.32	13.8	4.21	5	11.47	32.79	SR
6	492	19.42	4.29	14.03	6.51	11.37	1.8	18.09	3.6	13.51	76.43	LR
7	500	19.37	4.60	13.55	6.51	11.37	1.8	18.09	3.8	13.17	75.55	LR
8	540	19.14	4.39	13.89	6.51	11.37	1.8	18.09	3.6	13.51	76.01	LR
9	637	18.59	5.07	12.82	8.17	8.55	1.8	18.09	4	12.82	70.86	LR
10	624	18.66	5.87	11.54	9.83	6.48	1.8	18.09	4.2	12.47	67.25	MR
11	621	18.68	5.07	12.82	8.17	8.55	2.4	17.65	4	12.82	70.52	LR
12	2580	8.86	8.60	9.29	18.25	-0.2	13.6	4.35	4.2	12.47	34.77	SR
13	1029	15.97	3.35	15.51	5.62	12.89	4.6	10.67	4.4	12.12	67.16	MR
14	1752	11.77	13.68	5.69	27.02	-7.16	16.2	2.58	4.2	12.47	25.36	SR

## **Conclusion**

Using of GIS and Water Quality Index (WQI) methods could provide precious and effective tool to can monitoring, summarize and report data to decision makers in order to help them to understand the quality of irrigation water within study area and have opportunity to reach to optimum using in the future. It could be concluded that, the descending order of water restriction use in the study area is SR > LR > MR > HR. Indeed, the (IWQI) reveals that, 27% of the region to be low restriction, 21% is moderate restriction, 14% is high restriction and around 38 % is severe restriction for irrigation. This indicate that, more than half (58%) of IWQI in the analysed surface water may avoided its use for irrigation under normal conditions. The low WQI values were particularly observed in the north east and south east where EC, SAR, Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> concertation to be high in this direction. It is worth mentioning that, there is no order of water restriction in the study area. This research recommends that, precise measures and efficient methods to improve water quality must be implemented.

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***Assessment and mapping of surface water quality index for irrigation .....***

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## تقييم ورسم الخرائط المكانية لمؤشر جودة المياه السطحية للرى بمنطقة شمال غرب دلتا النيل ، مصر

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### الملخص العربي

أصبح نقص المياه وتلوثها من أكثر المخاطر التي تواجه مصر في الوقت الحاضر. لذا فإن تقييم جودة المياه يعتبر ضرورة للتأكد من مدى ملاءمتها قبل إستخدامها في الري. حيث أن إنخفاض جودة المياه يؤدي إلى تدهور خصوبة التربة وإنخفاض إنتاجية المحاصيل. لذلك فإن الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو تقييم معايير مؤشر جودة مياه الري (IWQI) وتوفير خرائط التوزيع المكاني بإستخدام برنامج (ArcGIS 10.4.1) لمساعدة متخذى القرار في تحديد حالة جودة المياه للرى الزراعى بمنطقة شمال غرب دلتا النيل والوصول إلى الإستخدام الأمثل للموارد المائية. ولتحقيق هذه الدراسة، تم جمع عينات المياه من 14 مصدر لمياه الري السطحية داخل منطقة الدراسة خلال أكتوبر 2019. وتم تقدير الخواص الكيميائية ودلائل الجودة لعينات المياه. ومن النتائج المتحصل عليها أتضح أن المصادر المائية بمنطقة الدراسة تندرج في أربع فئات هي مياه ذات قيود منخفضة (Low Restriction) أى مياه ذات جودة عالية، ومياه ذات قيود معتدلة (Moderate Restriction) أى مياه متوسطة الجودة، ومياه ذات قيود مرتفعة (High Restriction) أى مياه منخفضة الجودة، ومياه ذات قيود شديدة الإرتفاع (Severe Restriction) أى مياه رديئة الجودة وتمثل هذه الفئات الأربعة مساحات قدرها 178، 138، 92، 249 كيلو متر مربع على التوالي. وأظهرت خرائط التوزيع المكاني أن المياه ذات القيود شديدة الإرتفاع (SR) تقع في الشمال الشرقى والجنوب الغربى لمنطقة شمال غرب دلتا النيل نتيجة لزيادة الملوحة (EC) و نسبة إدمصاص الصوديوم (SAR) وأيون الصوديوم الموجب ( $Na^+$ ) وأيون الكلوريد السالب ( $Cl^-$ ) في هذه الإتجاه. وأن الترتيب التنازلى لقيود إستخدام المياه بمنطقة الدراسة هي قيود شديدة الإرتفاع (SR) < قيود منخفضة (LR) < قيود معتدلة (MR) < قيود مرتفعة (HR). وبالتالي فإن معظم المياه السطحية في منطقة الدراسة (73%) قد يتجنب إستخدامها للرى في الأراضي العادية. ولكن يمكن إستخدامها مع تربة عالية النفاذية ومحاصيل ذات مقاومة عالية للملوحة مع إستخدام ممارسات خاصة للتحكم في الملوحة.

### أسماء السادة المحكمين

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