



Hi all, good to see you again.

The agricultural seasons keep moving in their natural, reasonable way, unlike some unreasonable political changes in the neighborhood.

The first good rains in Israel have germinated the sown winter crops, painting the fields in a fresh green color, creating brown-green square plots.

It's quite a dry winter, not enough rain. It's cold, and we had some snow. Everybody loves the white, fresh, clean snow, it gives an amazing feeling.

This Agronet is dedicated to another white crust on the soil: salt, and salinity problems.

We speak a lot about food security. The fact that every year we have 1.5 M ha less land to cultivate due to salinity issues, does not create enough noise and awareness.

We, at Netafim, are experiencing salinity and fighting it at many different locations in the world. Drip irrigation + good cultivation and drainage practices, are the best solution to deal with it.

Let's deep dive into this Agronet, and this is what you'll see:

1. Dr. Itamar Nadav, our Agronomic Research & Innovation leader, will give us an overview on the threat of salinity to food security.
2. Boaz Guy, our Americas regional agronomist will share with us the double success story of Lala: one side is the Services model, but not less important is the agronomic success in fighting the salinity problem there.
3. Guy Reshef, our R&D agronomist (among other titles), will take us 2.5 meters below the soil surface, into the root zone of date trees. A very

exciting and simple way (but a lot of work!!! taking hundreds of soil samples in 20X20 cm pixels) to see the salt distribution under different irrigation regimes and emitters.

4. Besides the surprising results, it was very nice to see the whole Agronomy unit (including the writer 😊 + the POD team, working like ants underground to extract the soil samples.
5. Yoram Krontal will take us to Tanzania, to the TPC sugarcane project. Yoram has succeeded in a very long and hard journey, to grow an amazing yield under salty conditions that nothing but drip & Yoram could overcome... 😊 This project became a Mecca for sugarcane growers, who came to see the "miracle". As we always say – seeing is believing.
6. Michi Uner, our legendary Latin America agronomist, will share with us his vast experience with salinity, from his kibbutz close to the Gaza strip, and all through South America. There is a nice saying that says: No one is wiser than the one who has rich experience. In some cases – it's not true... 😊, but Michi is the exact confirmation of this saying. Let's learn from him how to avoid common mistakes.
7. Orian Shalev, our greenhouse agronomist will take us to another direction of salinity: in soilless media. Although it is protected agriculture, the plants are not protected from mistakes in the irrigation & fertigation regimes. It's a very small volume and could easily become too saline for the plants. Let's learn how to do it right.
8. Udi Bar, a capsicum/bell pepper grower from Moshav Paran in the Negev desert, will take us

into their local practical solution, to overcome soil and water salinity. Udi is definitely a partner for success, and a true believer in drip irrigation. His yield results are the proof of concept of the local solution. (Thanks to Adaia & Shahar Dayan for the interview).

9. Eran Rave, head of Gilat Research Center, in the Negev desert, Israel, will bring us the story of an applied research. In his article he brings an overview on the results of desalination in Israel and the long-term influence of irrigating soils with water that has high salinity levels. From the interview (thanks to Itamar Nadav), I would like to pick a few important lessons and share them with you, it will summarize this long introduction:

We can live with and manage soil and water salinity.

But – it should be monitored **frequently** and not once a year.

It's true that each region has different problems and solutions, but these practices are always best:

- Frequent monitoring to avoid salt build-up
- Soil flushing when needed – don't reach irreversible situations.
- Use salt resistant rootstock, if available.

Many thanks to the Agronet team headed by Adaia Shibolet.

Enjoy your reading
and

A happy, healthy year to you and your families.

Yours,

Dubi