

# **Irrigation Water Conservation in Saudi Arabia**

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## **Abstract**

The Government of Saudi Arabia paid a good attention to its water resources by giving the utmost importance to water preservation and its best use, keeping in view that water is source of life and the most vital in developing its agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors. Saudi Arabia is one of the largest country in the world in meeting its needs for portable water by desalinization. Its annual production from sea reaches to 746 million cubic meter. One of the other steps taken in conserving water was building a number of small dams all over the kingdom. In last two decades, new efficient water management techniques such as drip and sprinkler system were introduced in irrigating soils. By 1999, the modern irrigation expanded to 47.7% of the irrigated area while surface irrigation occupied only 30.3%. The other practice used to conserve irrigation water was introduction of natural clay deposits and synthetic soil conditioners which improved physical soil properties by reducing evaporation, infiltration and irrigation frequency.