

4 Field evaluation of system performance

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Introduction

On-site evaluation of an irrigation system utilises selected measurements to describe performance of the system, and to identify causes of poor performance and how these may be addressed. Actual measurements are used wherever possible. This ensures that the generated results describe what is happening, not what is supposed to happen.

Schedules 4.1 through 4.7 present guidelines for measuring irrigation system performance on-site under prevailing crop and weather conditions. Their primary focus is to determine distribution uniformity and application rates, and identify the proportional contribution key factors make to non-uniformity. A number of other key performance indicators can readily be assessed with minimal additional effort.

Additional procedures are presented in some cases. The option(s) selected by an evaluator will depend upon the purpose of the evaluation. This should always be discussed with the system owner or person requesting the evaluation be undertaken.

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