

International scientific conference “State and prospects of drip irrigation use aimed at horticulture, viticulture and vegetable-growing intensification” held on March 30, 2012 on the base of Institute of water problems and land reclamation of NAAS of Ukraine

The need of organizing and holding this scientific event was caused primarily by the fact that for the last 10 years local irrigation methods have been spread widely in Ukraine and some countries of the former Soviet Union. For example, small-size irrigation areas in Ukraine since 2000 have increased tenfold and now they are over 55 thousand ha or 9.8% of the total irrigated land.

However, use of small-size irrigation often causes a number of technological, organizational, and, what is the most important - environmental problems. In particular these issues were the subject of consideration at the conference.

The main goals of the conference were the next:

- to familiarize the participants with the basic scientific and productive achievements in the field of drip irrigation;
- to illustrate and discuss problems of small-size irrigation and proposals for their solutions;
- to outline the promising directions and trends in the field of local methods of irrigation.

The conference was attended by scholars and professionals whose activity is directly connected with the design, installation and maintenance of drip irrigation systems for crops from many regions of Ukraine and such countries as Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova. In total there were over 80 participants.

The conference consisted of a plenary session and some workshops. The topics for the workshops were the next:

- research and development in drip irrigation;
- design in drip irrigation;
- operation and maintenance in drip irrigation ;
- protection and fertilization (fertigation) systems for crops associated with drip irrigation use;
- monitoring of drip irrigated land.

In all 22 scientific reports have been presented.

Among them it is worth noting the most interesting:

All reports stimulated a lively discussion and interesting debate.

Besides the particularly scientific part of the conference it has been organized a not large but very informative exhibition, where the manufacturers and suppliers of equipment for drip irrigation systems had a chance to exhibit and represent their novelties.

As a result of the conference it was voted an appeal of the conference participants to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Ukraine and the State Agency on Water Resources of Ukraine, which contained all the most pressing issues and their possible solutions in the field of drip irrigation development in Ukraine. Also it was carried a resolution about holding a conference devoted to drip irrigation every two years.

Areas under drip and sprinkler irrigation in participating countries

Country	Drip irrigated area	Sprinkle irrigated area
Ukraine	52 thousand ha	2.45 mil. ha
Russia	47 thousand ha	2.5 mil. ha
Kazakhstan	17 thousand ha	1.4 mil. ha
Azerbaijan	100 ha	610 thousand ha
Uzbekistan	2 thousand ha	4.3 mil. ha
Moldova	15 thousand ha	145 thousand ha

