

# **TECHNOLOGY OF SOIL AMENDMENTS APPLICATION**

*By*

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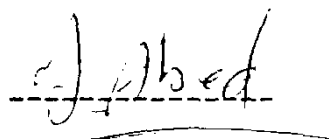
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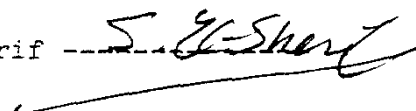
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## Abstract

This work aims to study the technology of soil amendments application and leaching process of representative saline-alkali soil sample taken from Tamia Research Farm, Fayoum Governorate.

Data showed that the changes in the leachate  $p^H$ , EC-values, SAR, and  $SO_4^{2-}:Cl^-$  ratio are seen to be closely related to the amount of recovery ions from soil column. The effect of  $H_2SO_4$  treatments was superior to that of either hydro- or gypseous amelioration ones. Data proved also that leaching could be set after 3 and 5 PV of LR leached out the drainage system related to  $H_2SO_4$  and gypsum treatments, resp. The best results were eminent from the water app. technique of  $SR_2$  treatment.

The relationship between the leachate volume " $X_c$ "  $cm^3$  as PV of LR an liberated ions from soil column " $Y_c$ " under the effect of different rates G and S (g/kg. soil) of gypsum and  $H_2SO_4$  , resp. could be assessed with the second order equation as follows :

$$Y_c = (0.575 - 0.002 G) X_c - (0.180 - 0.001 G) X_c^2 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ -----(1)}$$

$$Y_c = (0.540 - 0.003 S) X_c - (0.150 - 0.001 S) X_c^2 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ -----(2)}$$

The second order equations indicated that acidity amelioration was superior to that of gypseous did. This superiority concurs with a short time of reclamation, reducing application rates of soil amendment and

(i)

saving more quantity of leaching water, and hence reduced the total cost of reclamation process.

Furthermore, a gradual increase in sand content was observed as gypsum and  $H_2SO_4$  application rates increased. This increase in sand fraction was much more under the effect of  $H_2SO_4$  treatments than that of gypsum ones. However, water app. SR technique resulted in an increase in sand fraction with 8.4 - 9.75 % more than the initial soil sample. The mean values of  $CaCO_3$  % reached to about 15 % and 12.4 - 14.7 % related to gypsum and  $H_2SO_4$  treatments, respectively. The changes in  $CaCO_3$  contents were eminent  $H_2SO_4$  application technique and took the descending order of : after leaching app. water app. soil app. treatments. Moreover, high  $CaSO_4$  contents were eminent  $H_2SO_4$  treatments and superior to that of gypsum ones. This may be attributed to the generated  $CaSO_4$  by the reaction of  $H_2SO_4$  with the existing  $CaCO_3$ .

Data obtained showed that addition of  $H_2SO_4$  and gypsum followed by 3 PV of LR, changed the final pattern of EC-values of the studied soil to be less and more than 4 mmhos/cm., respectively. Further, the soil pH-values changed from 8.3 to about 8.1 - 7.8 and 8.0 - 7.5 related to gypsum and acidity treatments. resp. The ESP - values exceeded 20 % and less than 15 % related to gypsum and acidity treatments. resp.

Accordingly, it could be stated that diagnostic features of the tested soil could be prescribed at the end of 3 PV of LR and turned out normal soil under the effect of acidity amelioration process of water app.  $SR_1$ , after leaching app.  $SR_1$ , and soil app.  $SR_2$  treatments. Meanwhile, it remained moderately saline-alkali soil related to gypsumous amelioration process of  $GR_2$  treatments. Whereas, the tested soil was still highly saline-alkali soil under the effect of hydromelioration process.

(ii)

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## CONTENTS

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	Page
1 - INTRODUCTION:.....	1
2 - REVIEW OF LITERATURE:.....	3
2.1. Salt affected soil and its formation factors :...	3
2.1.1. Topography and aridity conditions : .....	3
2.1.2. Groundwater table : .....	4
2.1.3. Irrigation water quality and management : ...	5
2.1.4. Biological anaerobic conditions : .....	6
2.2. Diagnostic features and properties of salt-affected soils : .....	7
2.2.1. Categories of salt-affected soils : .....	7
2.2.2. Chemical properties of salt-affected soils :.	8
2.2.3. Physical properties of salt-affected soils :.	11
2.3. Requirements and chemistry of soil amendments application to salt-affected soils : .....	12
2.4. Water leaching requirements of salt-affected soils : .....	16
2.4.1. Quantity of water leaching : .....	16
2.4.2. Quality of water leaching :.....	18
2.4.3. Technique of water leaching methods : .....	20
2.5. Soil amendments application and leaching processes of salt-affected soils : .....	21
2.5.1. Hydro-melioration process : .....	21
2.5.2. Gypseous-amelioration process : .....	23
2.5.3. Acidity-amelioration process : .....	24
3 - MATERIALS AND METHODS : .....	27
3.1. Analytical methods : .....	27
3.2. Diagnostic features of soil : .....	28

	<u>Page</u> -----
3.3. Laboratory experiment : .....	28
4 - RESULTS AND DISCUSSION : .....	35
4.1. Formation and salinization factors of the studied soil : .....	35
4.2. Effect of soil amendments application on the leachate chemical composition : .....	37
4.2.1. $p^H$ - values : .....	37
4.2.2. Electrical conductivity : .....	40
4.2.3. Ions recovery : .....	42
4.3. Effectiveness of soil amendments application on liberated ions from soil : .....	50
4.4. Effect of soil amendments application on hydraulic properties of soil : .....	57
4.5. Effect of soil amendments application on some physical properties of soil : .....	62
4.5.1. Particle-size distribution : .....	62
4.5.2. Soil saturation percentage, gypsum and calcium carbonate contents : .....	68
4.6. Effect of soil amendments application on some chemical properties of soil : .....	69
4.6.1. Soluble sales : .....	69
4.6.2. Soil $p^H$ - values : .....	79
4.6.3. Cation exchange capacity and exchangeable cations : .....	81
5 - SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION : .....	91
6 - REFERENCES : .....	101
7 - APPENDIX : .....	114
8 - ARABIC SUMMARY : .....	135



## LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page ----
1 -	Some physical analyses of the studied soil sample: .....	29
2 -	Some chemical analyses of the studied soil sample and groundwater table : .....	30
3 -	Simple correlation of statistical analyses between leachate volume and some parameters under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	51
4 -	Effect of soil amendments application on leaching time of the studied soil : .....	59
5 -	Effect of soil amendments application on some physical properties of the studied soil sample : .....	63
6 -	Chemical analyses of the studied soil under the effect of soil amendments application : .....	71
7 -	L.S.D. of some chemical analyses of the studied soil as affected by the soil amendment treatments : .....	78
8 -	Cations exchange capacity and exchangeable cations under the effect of soil amendments application : .....	83
Appendix (1)		
	Leaching time, and chemical analysis of the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	114

.....

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Page ----
1 - Chemical triangle composition of anions sequence ( after, Florea 1958 ) .....	9
2 - Soil columns : .....	31
3 - Factorial design of the laboratory experiment : .....	33
4 - Changes in $p^H$ - values of the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	38
5 - Changes in the electrical conductivity of the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	41
6 - Relationship between leachate volume and ions recovery in the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	43
7 - Relationship between leachate volume and ions recovery in the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	44
8 - Relationship between leachate volume and ions recovery in the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	45
9 - Changes in $SO_4^{=}/Cl^{-}$ ratio of the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	47
10 - Changes in S.S.F. of the leachate under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	49
11 - Liberated ions from soil column under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	53
12 - Determination of the constants " a and b " of the second order equation versus leachate volume under the effect of soil amendment treatments : .....	54

Figure No.	Page
	----
13 - The indices of second order equation " a and b "	
as function of soil amendment treatments : .....	55
14 - General relation describing the liberated ions from	
soil column as a function of leachate volume and soil	
amendment treatments : .....	56
15 - Average of speed infiltration rate under the	
effect of soil amendment treatments :.....	60
16 - E.S.P. versus soil pore volumes under the effect	
of soil amendment treatments : .....	89

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# ***1-INTRODUCTION***

## INTRODUCTION

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In order to sustain the whole increase of Egyptian population, in which an annual increase is over a million, the agricultural area has to be expanded in a short time. It is well to mention that more than 1.8 million feddans are placed to the categories of salt-affected soils. The different types of salt-affected soils are seen to be related to the quantity and the quality of soluble salts and their distribution in the soil profile. All systems of these soil groups and classifications are based on various degrees and forms of their salinity and alkalinity .

Saline-alkali soils are known for their deteriorated physical condition due to high content of exchangeable sodium; a characteristic feature of these soils. However, leaching of soluble salts is a severe problem in these soils because of very low infiltration and water scarcity. Moreover, reduction of  $p^H$  values and displacement of sodium using chemical amendments is not only expensive but is also time consuming. However, the changes in soil  $p^H$ -values are pertinent not only to the type of soil amendments but also to their application rates and technique. Therefore, reclamation process of saline-alkali soil through gypsum and sulfuric acid followed by leaching is feasible in many cases. However, gypsum is the most common amendment used for reclamation due to its low relatively cost although it needs a long time for reclamation. But, sulfuric acid is often cheap enough for field application if it follows the modern technique of application. This advantage may be concurred with a short time of reclamation, reducing application rates of soil amendment and save more quantity of leaching water, and hence reduces the total cost of reclamation process. Understanding the technology of soil amendments application to saline-alkali soils besides the knowledge of different forms

of salt-affected soils in relation to formation and salinization factors could achieve the abovementioned advantages.

In order to reach such a decision, a representative saline-alkali soil sample taken from Tamia Research Farm, Tamia District, Fayoum Governorate and laboratory factorial experiment should be carried out to study the effectiveness of amelioration processes according to the findings obtained by the technology of soil amendments application.

## ***2-REVIEW OF LITERATURE***