



Irrigation equipment — Automatic irrigation systems — Hydraulic control

Matériel d'irrigation — Systèmes d'irrigation automatiques — Régulation hydraulique

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The reasons which led to the decision to publish this document in the form of a Technical Report type 3 are explained in the Introduction.

0 Introduction

Automatic irrigation systems are a relatively new concept that began to develop in the second half of the 20th century. A brief review of the background of this development is therefore in order.

Food production by world agriculture depends primarily on the availability of water : food consumption increases with the increase in world population. Available resources of water that can be used by agriculture are limited. Consequently, they have become a restricting factor which demands that new water resources be developed and that strict control be exercised over existing resources. An in-depth study of plant growth requirements has repeatedly shown that improved and increased plant yields are not necessarily achieved by the application of greater quantities of water. In fact, water quantities may in many cases be reduced, provided that the water is applied in a scientific and controlled way.

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