

Characterization of Saline Soils of Uppugunduru Region, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out by collecting 100 representative soil samples from Uppugunduru region of Prakasam district. Texture of the soils varied from clay to sandy clay. WHC ranged from 32.98 to 70.81 per cent with a mean value of 51.94 per cent and relatively high values were observed in clay soils. Higher bulk density values were recorded in sandy clays than clay soils. The soils were found to be neutral to moderately alkaline in reaction. The electrical conductivity of saturation extract (EC_e) of soil samples varied from 0.74 (non saline) to 40.02 dS m⁻¹ (very strongly saline) with a mean value of 13.61 dS m⁻¹. The soils of the region were low to medium in organic carbon. Cation exchange capacity of the soils ranged from 30.80 to 53.71 cmol (p⁺) kg⁻¹. The most dominant exchangeable cation was calcium followed by magnesium, sodium and potassium.

Key words : Exchangeable bases, Physico-chemical properties and Saline soils.