

**B-07 : AN INVESTIGATION OF SALINITY IN SOILS AND WATERS
OF THE KIRINDI OYA IRRIGATION AND SETTLEMENT PROJECT**

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Salinity is a common problem in the rice growing areas of the Kirindi Oya Settlement and Irrigation Project. An investigation was conducted to identify the cause of salinity and to evaluate the irrigation waters of six major tanks in the scheme. Soil samples taken from areas showing salinity symptoms, irrigation water and groundwater were tested for the electrical conductivity and pH. The concentration of Na, Mg, K and Ca in the groundwater were also measured.

Soils were highly saline and water of the major irrigation tanks in the scheme are medium saline. The collected groundwaters were also saline. Salinity of soils in that area could be attributed to the saline groundwater and to the seepage of salt containing waters, from the sides that deposit their salts in the valley floors.