

# Evaluation of Watering Water Productivity in Three Cotton Varieties

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## Abstract

Drought can have different strengths and further effects after a number of crops, one of which is cotton. The formation of a highly efficient visit of cotton by adding technology for viewing to specific soil and climatic conditions, including control of nitrogen fertilization and feeding, is the main way to obtain stable profits.

The productivity of cotton varies greatly depending on the moisture conditions during the growing season. Under optimal temperature conditions, humidity dominates over other factors. The correlation coefficient between yields and moisture supply for the period May-August is  $r = 0.76$  [1]. In years with lower temperature supply, the best results were obtained at an irrigation rate of 74.0 mm. Under these conditions, an increase in the yield of unpinned cotton by 41% was found, Saldjiev & Nikolov [2] found.

By reducing the irrigation rate to 60 mm, irrigation costs are reduced to 62%, the net income of 100 m<sup>3</sup> of irrigation water is higher, and the effect of 1 m<sup>3</sup> of water is the greatest. With deficient irrigation, crops are intentionally exposed to water stress, leading to reduced yields [3,4].

Trends in the impact of drought on crops are also analyzed using various dependencies and models and serve to predict crop productivity [5,6].

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of irrigation and the productivity of irrigation water in three varieties of cotton grown under conditions of natural moisture and irrigation. To study the nature of the dependences between the productivity of cotton and the irrigation rate, the productivity of irrigation water and the additional yield during different years of rainfall.

## Material and Methods

The field experiment was conducted in the period 2018-2020 in the experimental base of the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, on a soil type of typical meadow-cinnamon soil in a fertilizer experiment under non-irrigated and irrigated conditions. The object of the study are three varieties of cotton - Helius, Darmi and Isabel. The varieties are a product of the Bulgarian selection, developed under different selection programs.

The study was conducted with four levels of nitrogen fertilization. Nitrogen fertilization rates for cotton are 0; 8; 16 and 24 kg / da. Nitrogen such as NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> for cotton was applied once before sowing. Irrigation was carried out with a drip irrigation system with built-in drippers at 0.15 m, with an irrigation rate of 15 mm when

reaching 75% FC (Field Capacity) for the layer 0-50 cm. Soil moisture dynamics was measured periodically with a soil moisture probe.

## Results and Discussion

The analysis shows that the cotton is grown in conditions of optimal temperature resources and unstable moisture. Although cotton is a relatively drought-resistant crop, the results show its responsiveness in optimizing the water factor. The uneven distribution of precipitation determines the need for irrigation for soil moisture supply.

The provision with precipitation for the period May-October in the first year is 29.2%, which defines the period as average, but with values close to moderately humid. With 42.3% and

52.2% security, the second and third years are characterized as averages in terms of the vegetation period (Table 1). For the period characterized by higher average daily temperatures in June-August, the provision with precipitation in the first year characterizes the period with values close to moderately humid (27.0%). Regardless of the registered precipitation in the second year of the Polish

survey, the period is characterized by an average coverage of precipitation (31.4%). The lower amount of precipitation in the third experimental year defines it as the average in terms of rainfall (50.0%). The uneven distribution of precipitation determines the need for irrigation for soil moisture supply.

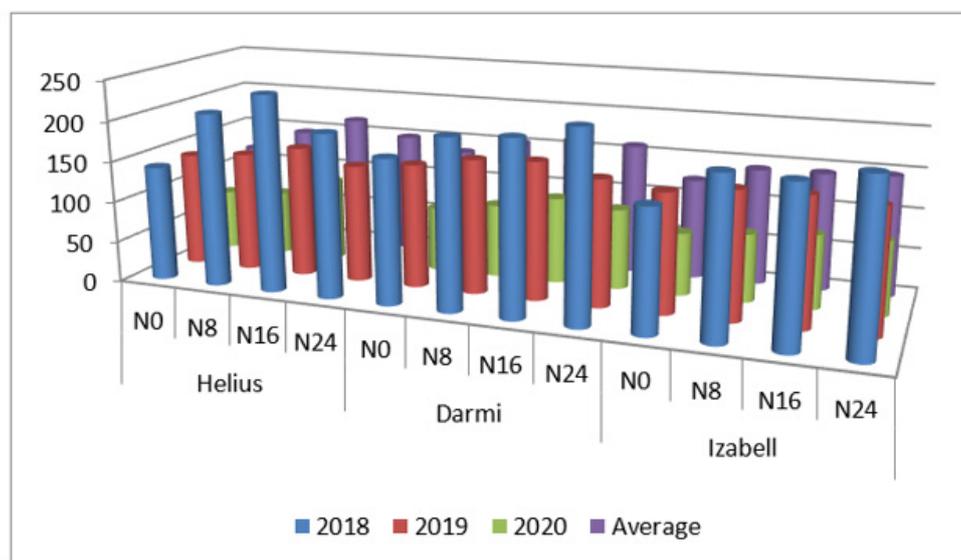
**Table 1:** Provision with precipitation and temperatures during the cotton growing season.

Factor		Average for the Period 1930-2020	2018	2019	2020
N	mm	Average (V-X) 299,67 mm	347,4	274,2	293,9
	P %		29,2	52,2	42,3
T°	°C	Average total value for the period (V-X) 1178,7 °C	1245,0	1246,0	1258,0
	P %		10,6	9,5	5,1
N	mm	Average (VI-VIII) 156,72 mm	187,4	171,8	144,9
	P %		27,0	31,4	50,0
T°	°C	Average total value for the period (VI-VIII) 682,0 °C	713,0	724,0	714,0
	P %		21,5	12,8	19,4

During the three years of the field study, a different number of irrigations were realized to maintain the soil moisture above 75% FC for the layer 0-50 cm. In the first year, two irrigations with an irrigation rate of 300 mm were realized. In the experimental year 2019, four irrigations were submitted, with an irrigation rate of 600 mm, and in the last five irrigations with a size of 750 mm were

registered. Additionally, the fed water is fed through the budding and flowering phenophases.

Figure 1 shows the dynamics of the additional yield by years. The analysis shows how at different irrigation rates an additional yield is obtained in a wide range. The years of research are characterized by different volumes of precipitation.



**Figure 1:** Additional yield of unopened cotton varieties and by years under irrigated conditions.

In the present study, an analysis was made of how efficiently the water resource is used to increase cotton yields. The productivity of irrigation water varies widely from -2.18 to 2.01 kg.ha-1.mm. From the attached table (Table 2) it can be seen that the Isabel variety is characterized by the highest productivity of irrigation water 0.84 kg.ha-1.mm, on average for the studied period. It is followed by Darmi variety with 0.71 kg.ha-1.mm and Helius variety

with 0.30 kg.ha-1.mm. The analysis of the results shows that at zero fertilization the highest productivity of irrigation water was registered 0.87 kg.ha-1.mm, on average for the three varieties. The different moisture supply over the years shows the efficient use of irrigation water. In the first year, the fallen precipitation contributed to the optimization of the water factor, and the additionally realized irrigations in some variants formed a negative productivity.

**Table 2:** Irrigation rate, productivity of cotton and irrigation water.

Variety of Cotton	Fertilization Levels	Irrigation Norm	Yield	Additional Yield	Yield non Irrigation	Productivity of Irrigation Water
		mm	kg/ha	kg/ha	kg/ha	kg.ha <sup>-1</sup> .mm
<b>2018</b>						
Helius	N <sub>0</sub>	300	1541,8	133,5	1408,3	0,45
	N <sub>8</sub>	300	1496,7	-625	2121,7	-2,08
	N <sub>16</sub>	300	1745,1	-653,4	2398,4	-2,18
	N <sub>24</sub>	300	1533,4	-458,3	1991,7	-1,53
Darmi	N <sub>0</sub>	300	1891,8	133,4	1758,4	0,44
	N <sub>8</sub>	300	1996,7	-65	2061,7	-0,22
	N <sub>16</sub>	300	2220,1	111,7	2108,4	0,37
	N <sub>24</sub>	300	1965,1	-318,4	2283,4	-1,06
Izabell	N <sub>0</sub>	300	1790,1	313,4	1476,7	1,04
	N <sub>8</sub>	300	2171,8	265	1906,7	0,88
	N <sub>16</sub>	300	1901,7	56,7	1845,0	0,19
	N <sub>24</sub>	300	1795,1	-224,8	2019,8	-0,75
<b>2019</b>						
Helius	N <sub>0</sub>	600	1668,7	267,9	1400,8	0,45
	N <sub>8</sub>	600	1870	400,8	1469,2	0,67
	N <sub>16</sub>	600	1817	212,3	1604,7	0,35
	N <sub>24</sub>	600	1758,9	320,4	1438,5	0,53
Darmi	N <sub>0</sub>	600	1793	277,3	1515,7	0,46
	N <sub>8</sub>	600	1590,4	200,9	1639,5	0,33
	N <sub>16</sub>	600	1954,6	276,1	1678,5	0,46
	N <sub>24</sub>	600	1828,9	272,2	1536,7	0,45
Izabell	N <sub>0</sub>	600	1597,6	146,8	1450,8	0,24
	N <sub>8</sub>	600	1892,6	347,7	1544,9	0,58
	N <sub>16</sub>	600	1869,4	320,4	1549,0	0,53
	N <sub>24</sub>	600	1765,2	266,2	1499,0	0,44
<b>2020</b>						
Helius	N <sub>0</sub>	750	1911,5	1164,7	746,8	1,55
	N <sub>8</sub>	750	2132,8	1345,8	787,0	1,79
	N <sub>16</sub>	750	2327	1312	1015,0	1,75
	N <sub>24</sub>	750	2453	1389,8	1063,2	1,85
Darmi	N <sub>0</sub>	750	2041	1248,2	792,8	1,66
	N <sub>8</sub>	750	2269,5	1369,7	899,8	1,83
	N <sub>16</sub>	750	2362,5	1309	1053,5	1,75
	N <sub>24</sub>	750	2490,2	1506,9	983,3	2,01
Izabell	N <sub>0</sub>	750	1893	1126,5	766,5	1,50
	N <sub>8</sub>	750	2048	1216,7	831,3	1,62
	N <sub>16</sub>	750	2299,5	1401	898,5	1,87
	N <sub>24</sub>	750	2318,5	1414,2	904,3	1,89

In the third year of the field experiment, the applied irrigations contributed to obtaining an additional yield in all variants. This year the highest results of irrigation water productivity were registered.

Statistical analysis of the data establishes the nature of the dependences between the individual studied factors additional yield and productivity of the irrigation rate.

The analysis of the data shows that there is a strong positive linear relationship between the additional yield and the productivity of the irrigation rate. The correlation coefficient was determined,  $r = 0.943$ . Correlation analysis of the data shows that there is a strong positive linear relationship between the additional yield and productivity of the irrigation rate, or the dependence is linear (Figure 2). As a result of the applied analysis of variance, the coefficient of

determination was established (Figure 3). In the present study, it has a value ( $R^2 = 0.731$ ), which shows that approximately 77% of the variation in the dependent trait (productivity of the irrigation rate) is explained by regression. The linear regression shows a high degree of correlation between the independent variable irrigation rate and the dependent variable additional yield.

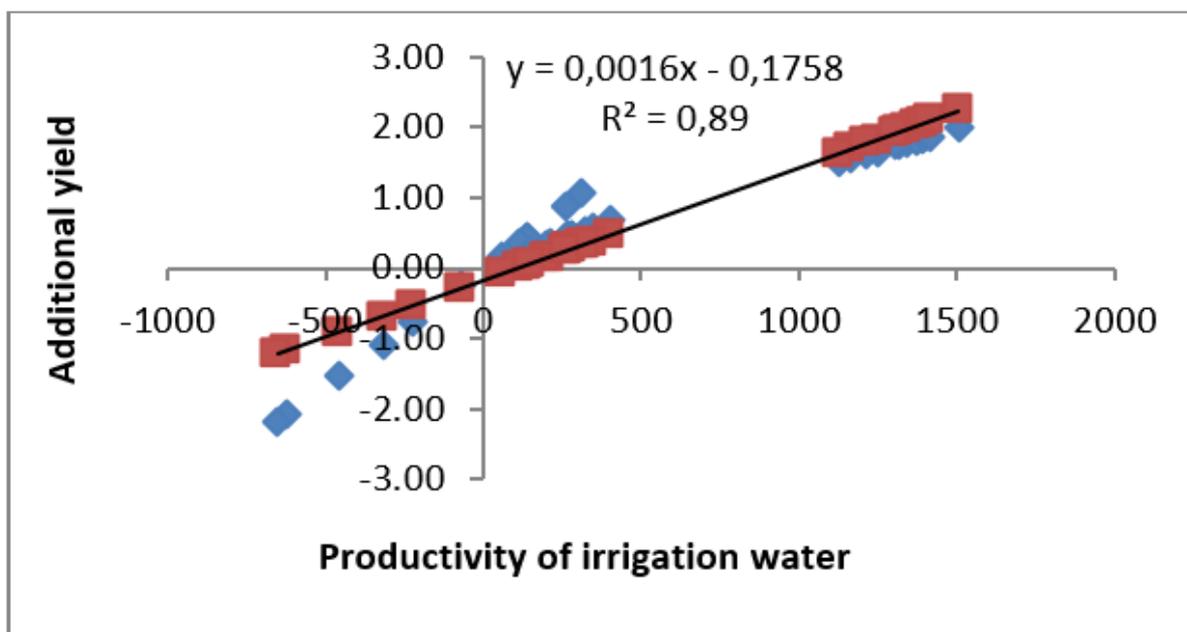


Figure 2: Relationship between the additional yield and productivity of irrigation water in cotton, in the period 2018-2020.

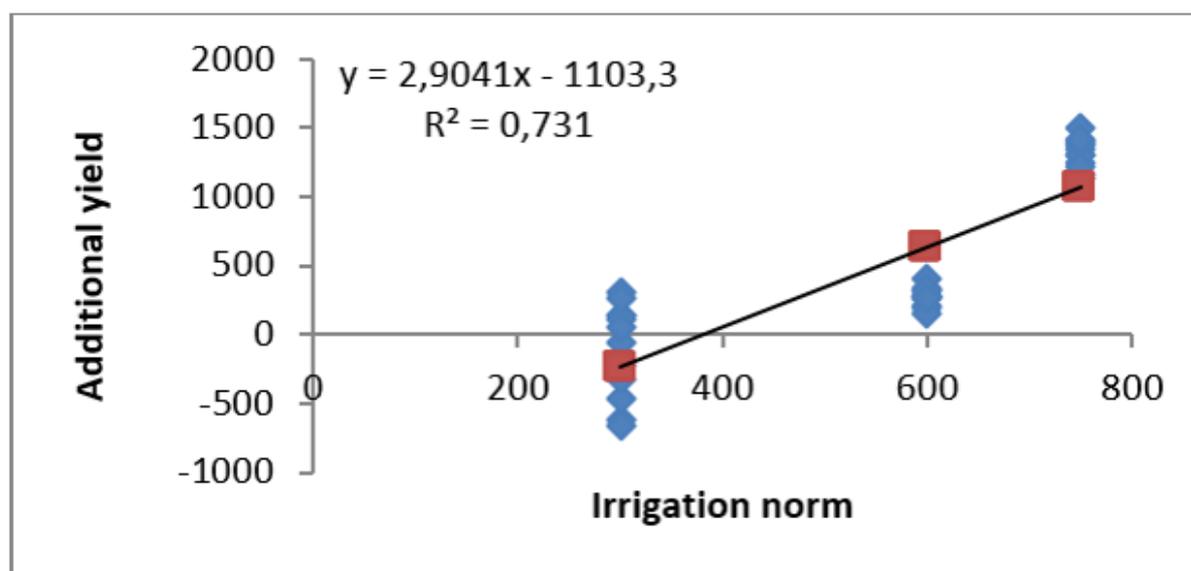
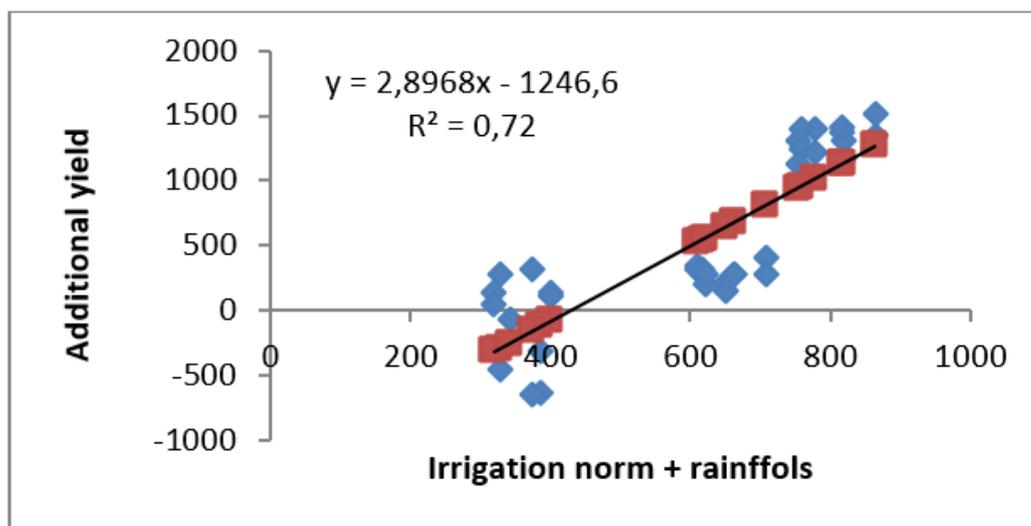


Figure 3: Relation between the irrigation norm and the additional yield of cotton, in the period 2018-2020.



**Figure 4:** Relation between the irrigation norm and rainfalls and the additional yield of cotton, in the period 2018-2020.

There is a strong positive linear relationship between additional yield and irrigation rate and rainfall ( $R^2 = 0.72$ ) (Figure 4).

Knowledge of the nature of dependencies is a prerequisite for the efficient use of water resources. The tendency to reduce water resources worldwide is a prerequisite for refining irrigation technologies, for developing a strategy for reducing inefficient water consumption.

Therefore, an in-depth study of the relationship between the factors determining the productivity of irrigation water is needed.

### Conclusion

The productivity of the irrigation water is calculated, which from -2.18 to 2.01 kg.ha-1.mm, during the years with different precipitation provision.

The existence of a strong positive linear relationship between the additional yield and the productivity of the irrigation rate has been established. The correlation coefficient was determined ( $r = 0.943$ ).

### Acknowledgement

None.

### Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.

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