

Effect of Drip Irrigation Circuits Design and Lateral Lines Length on: VI-Cost Analysis of Corn Crop Production

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Abstract: Irrigation system design and automation controller used like other factors have their impact on production amount, energy used in processing, exportation and importation of fertilizers. Field experiments were conducted in clay loam soil at the Experimental Farm, Faculty of Agricultural Science, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois, USA to study the effect of drip irrigation circuit design (DIC) and Lateral lines lengths (LLL) on cost analysis (CA) of corn crop production. Two circuits were used: closed circuits with one manifold for lateral lines (CM1DIS), closed circuits with two manifolds for lateral lines (CM2DIS), and traditional drip irrigation system as a control (TDIS). The lateral lines lengths were: LLL1, LLL2, LLL3 (40, 60; 80m, respectively). N, P2O5 and K2O were applied via irrigation water (Fertigation) at the rate of 60.71 and 69 kg fed-1 in doses according to growth stage. Based on Class A pan evaporation reading, the growth irrigation requirement was applied every 4 days. Crop growing season lasted 158 days, but the irrigation season was ended 10 days before. After harvesting the yield of both grains (g) and Stover (S), WUE, FUE and CA were calculated. Data obtained were subjected to statistical analysis. The results could be outlined in the following: Concerning the values of total cost (EL fed-1 season-1), total revenue (EL fed-1 season-1), physical income (kg m-3) and money income (EL m-3), the DIC and LLL treatments could be arranged in the following orders: (CM2DIS > CM1DIS > TDIS), (CM2DIS > CM1DIS > TDIS), (CM2DIS > CM1DIS > TDIS), and (CM2DIS > CM1DIS > TDIS), respectively and LLL3 < LLL2 < LLL1. Differences in parameters mentioned under item 7 between DIC and LLL were significant at 1% level except that between CM1DIS and CM2DIS in the 1st and 3rd orders and that between LLL1 and LLL2 in the physical income, the maximum and the minimum values of the total cost, total revenue, the physical income, and the money income from unit of irrigation water could be seen in the following interactions: (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL2), (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL3), (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL2) and (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL3), respectively, and finally, one can deduce that both DIC and LLL in addition to other factors affect WUE, FUE, CA and subsequently energy used in processing, exportation and importation of fertilizers.

Keywords: DIC, LLL, Cost Analysis of Corn Production.

1. Introduction

Drip irrigation offers many unique features of agricultural technologies and economic development (Nakayama and Bucks, 1986). Many authors studied the effect of irrigation method, irrigation levels, fertilizer treatment and plant species on the net income i.e. [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], and [13]. The net income had been over estimated in some of the previous studies. This can be attributed to missing one or more of the fixed costs i.e interest on the capital costs, land rent, and water is offered free to the farmers.

[7] found that the maximum and the minimum net profit obtained from grape crop were 3335 and 1414 LE fed -1

under trickle and gated pipe irrigation system, respectively. [6] indicated that depending on irrigation method, irrigation level and bean varieties, the maximum net income and the minimum one were 5751 and 2045 LE fed-1, respectively. [13] stated that the maximum and minimum net income obtained from garlic crop were 4521 and 709 LE fed-1, respectively depending on irrigation treatment, phosphorous treatment and fertilizer injector used.

The physical net income from the unit of irrigation water was in the range of 1.22-2.14 kg dry bean seeds m-3 of irrigation water [9] and [10]. They mentioned that the maximum and the minimum water price varied from 11.6 – 13.0 and from 2.5 – 3.5 LE m-3 of irrigation water used. They added that this price of irrigation under trickle

irrigation was affected by irrigation regime, phosphorous level and faba bean (*ViciaFaba*) varieties. In western Kansas, USA, surface trickle irrigation system had lower returns than in-canopy center pivot sprinkler systems for corn production. Initial investment, system longevity, and corn yield are affecting on economic returns rather than pumping costs and application efficiencies, [14]. Good irrigation managements, scheduling decisions and the appropriate evaluation of the economic impacts at farm level are the main constraints of the adoption of deficit irrigation strategies [15]. In comparison studies between different irrigation systems Mansour, (2006) found that the increases in both water use efficiency and water utilization efficiency at the 2nd season relative to the 1st one were the maximum under drip irrigation system (42; 43%, respectively), followed by the low head bubbler irrigation system (40.7; 37%), while the minimum ones were (30.6; 32%, respectively) under gated pipe irrigation system. Also he found that the increases in fertilizers use efficiency of N, P2O5, and K2O at 2nd season relative to the 1st one were (24, 23; 28 %), (22%, 21%; 27%) and (9%, 8%; 14%) under drip irrigation system, low head bubbler irrigation system and gated pipe irrigation system, respectively. [16], stated that the primary determinant of the cost of the irrigation system is the source of power or energy, while revenue in the amount of capital investment based on: dimension to be of use (target) to be achieved, differences in elevations of field, and the availability of water sources, type of crop and soil, the number of hectares to be irrigated and agricultural equipment required.

The aim of the work presented in this paper was to study the effect of drip irrigation circuits (DIC) used: 1- closed irrigation circuit with one manifold for lateral lines (CM1DIS) 2- closed irrigation circuit with two manifolds for lateral lines (CM2DIS), 3- traditional drip irrigation system (TDIS) as a control and lateral lines length (LLL): (LLL1 = 40m, LLL2 = 60m; LLL3 = 80m) on Cost analysis of Corn production.

2. Materials and Methods

Field experiment was conducted at the experimental farm, Faculty of Agricultural Science, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, USA using transgenic corn crop (*Zea mays*, L. GDH – LL3 – 272 x B73 genotype) grown in Silty clay loam soil through the growing season (2009/2010) to study the effect of drip irrigation circuits design (DIC) and lateral lines length (LLL) on cost analysis of corn production.

Drip irrigation system used included the following treatments:

Closed drip irrigation circuits with one manifold (CM1DIS), closed drip irrigation circuits with two manifolds (CM2DIS), and traditional drip irrigation system as a control (TDIS) Lateral lines length (LLL) were 40, 60; 80 m (LLL1, LLL2; LLL3). Fig. (1) Showed that the total experimental area was 4536 m² under each of the tested trickle irrigation circuits, plot areas were 168, 252 and 336 m² under LLL1=40 m, LLL2=60m and LLL3=80m, respectively.

The complete description of irrigation system was given by [17], [18], [19], [20] and [21].

The experiment design was split plot with three replicates. Corn grains were sown in rows 0.7 m apart and hills were 0.25 m apart along the rows on the 9th of April. Planting density was 24000 plant fed-1. Each row was drip irrigated by single straight lateral line according to the daily reading of Class A pan evaporation. Irrigation frequency was 4 days. The amount of irrigation water required per irrigation was calculated according to the following equation:

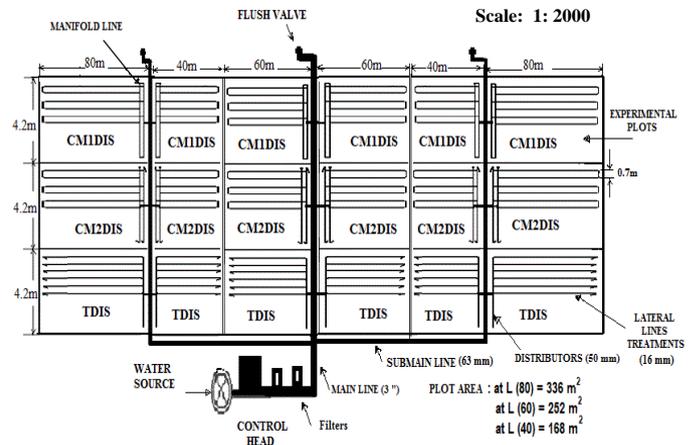


Figure 1: Layout of the field experimental plots: using DIC, (CM2DIS, CM1DIS and TDIS); and (LLL1=40m; LLL2=60m and LLL3=80m) treatments.

1-Fixed costs

The annual fixed costs of the irrigation systems were calculated using the following formula:

$$F.C = D + I + T \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Where:

F.C. = annual fixed cost (LE year⁻¹), D = depreciation rate, (LE year⁻¹) = (2.678 % from initial cost), I = interest (LE year⁻¹) = (4 % initial cost), and T = taxes and overhead ratio (LE year⁻¹).

Depreciation can be calculated from the following equation:

$$D = (I.C. - Sv) / E \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

Where:

I.C. = initial cost of irrigation system (LE), Sv = salvage value after depreciation (LE) and E = expectancy life, year.

The current interest is calculated as follows:

$$I = (I.C. + Sv) * I.R. / 2 \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

Where

I.R. = interest rate per year, 4% from initial cost.

Taxes and overhead ratios were taken as (1.5 - 2.0%) from the initial costs.

2-Operating costs

Operating costs were calculated from the following formula:

$$O.C. = L.C + E.C + (R\&M) \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

Where:

O.C. = annual operating costs (LE year⁻¹ feddan⁻¹), L.C = labor costs (LE⁻¹ year⁻¹ fed), E.C = energy costs (LE year⁻¹ feddan⁻¹), and R&M = repair and maintenance costs (LE year⁻¹ feddan⁻¹).

Labor to operate the system and to check the system components depend on irrigation operating time. This time would change from system to another according to

irrigation water application rate. Labor cost was estimated as follows:

$$L.C = T \cdot N \cdot P \dots\dots\dots (8)$$

Where:

L.C = annual Labor cost (LE year⁻¹), T = annual irrigation time (hr year⁻¹), N = number of labors per feddan, and P = labor cost (LE hr⁻¹).

[22] stated that energy costs were calculated by using the following formula:

$$E.C = Bp.T.Pr\dots\dots\dots (9)$$

Where:

E.C. = energy costs, LE year⁻¹, Bp = the brake power, kWh⁻¹,

T = annual operating time, h. and Pr = cost of electrical power, LE (kWh)⁻¹.

Repair and maintenance costs were taken as 3 % of the initial costs for trickle irrigation system.

Total annual irrigation costs = fixed costs + operating costs.

MSTATC program (Michigan State University) was used to carry out statistical analysis. Treatments mean were compared using the technique of analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the least significant difference (L.S.D) between systems at 1%, [23].

3. Results and Discussion

Total costs of agricultural operations are major capital inputs for most farms. The capital and annual costs (fixed and operating ons) of different DIC: CM2DIS (with two manifolds), CM1DIS (with one manifold) and traditional trickle irrigation (TDIS) and LLL: (LLL1 = 40m, LLL2 = 60m; LLL3 = 80m) on costs analysis of corn production (total cost, total revenue and both physical and money income per unit used of irrigation water were given in Tables (1 and 2).

Data on hand indicated that the studied parameters differed according to DIC and LLL used. Table (1) showed that the capital costs (LE fed⁻¹) ranged from (5008-5658), (5032-5632) and from (4962-5562) according to LLL under CM2DIS, CM1DIS and TDIS, respectively. It was obvious that the capital costs increased with decreasing LLL. This may due to the extra length of tubes used as manifolds and valves. Relative to the total costs, the fixed ones accounted to (40.35, 39.03; 37.46 %), (40.12, 38.83; 37.45 %) and (39.7, 35.69; 37.0 %) under (CM2DIS, CM1DIS; TDIS) and (LLL1, LLL2 ; LLL3), respectively. On the other hand, the operation costs reached: (10.04, 10.26; 10.53 %), (10.27, 10.5; 10.73 %) and (10.58, 11.29; 11.06 %) of the total ones in the same sequence mentioned before.

Table (1) illustrated grain yield, Stover yield, the net profit and both the physical and money income from the unit of irrigation water used. The obtained values of these parameters were: (5412, 5139; 5049 kg fed⁻¹), (5302, 5046; 4986 kg fed⁻¹), (5052, 4634; 4381 kg fed⁻¹), (3247,

3083; 3029 kg fed⁻¹), (3181, 3027; 2992 kg fed⁻¹) and (3031, 2780; 2629 kg fed⁻¹), (2.20, 2.12; 2.08 kg m⁻³), (2.17, 2.09; 2.06 kg m⁻³), (2.10, 1.98; 1.90 kg m⁻³), (0.43, 0.41; 0.40 LE m⁻³), (0.42, 0.40; 0.39 LE m⁻³) and (0.21, 0.19; 0.18 LE m⁻³) in the same sequence under (CM2DIS, CM1DIS; TDIS) and (LLL1, LLL2; LLL3), respectively.

Table (2) stated the effect of both DIC and LLL used on the total costs (LE fed⁻¹ season⁻¹), total revenue (LE fed⁻¹ season⁻¹), physical income (kg m⁻³) and the money income (LE m⁻³). Concerning the effect of DIC on the parameters under consideration, the DIC used could put in the following descending orders: (CM2DIS = CM1DIS > TDIS), (CM2DIS > CM1DIS > TDIS), (CM2DIS = CM1DIS > TDIS), (CM2DIS > CM1DIS > TDIS), in the same sequence, respectively. In other hand, differences in total costs and physical income between CM2DIS and CM1DIS from one side and TDIS system from the other side were significant at the 1 % level, whereas, the differences in both the total revenue and money income from unit of irrigation water used among DIC were significant at the 1% level.

In the case of the effect of LLL on all the studied parameters LLL could be ranked in the following ascending order: LLL3< LLL2< LLL1. Differences in data on hand among LLL were significant at the 1% level except that between LLL2 and LLL3 in the case of the physical income, net profit and net income from unit of irrigation

The effects of the interaction DIC x LLL were given in Table (2). The maximum values and the minimum ones of the total costs, total revenue, the physical income and the money income from irrigation water unit used were achieved in the following interactions: (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL2), (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL3), (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL3) and (CM2DIS X LLL1; TDIS X LLL3), respectively.

The data obtained could be explained on the basis that DIC and LLL effects on the investigated parameters were through their effect on some hydraulic characteristics i.e. emitter discharge, lateral discharge, pressure head, friction loss, flow velocity, velocity head, uniformity coefficient and coefficient of variation [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [23], [24], [25], [26] and [27]. The positive effect of CM2DIS and CM1DIS and the short LLL on these parameter led to better distribution of both water and fertilizers along the lateral lines. This was positively reflected on corn yield per feddan and subsequently on the physical and the money income from the unit used of both irrigation water and fertilizers. In the same time, the effect of DIC and LLL on the parameters under consideration through the fixed and operating costs was quite nil.

Table 1: Agricultural Cost analysis of corn production under different DIC and LLL (LE fed-1 season-1)

Cost items	CM ₂ DIS			CM ₁ DIS			TDIS		
	40	60	80	40	60	80	40	60	80
Capital cost (LE fed ⁻¹)	5658	5358	5008	5632	5332	5032	5562	5262	4962
Fixed costs (LE fed ⁻¹ season ⁻¹)									
1- Depreciation	396	375	351	394	373	352	389	368	347
2- Interest	226	214	200	225	213	201	222	138	198
3- Taxes and insurance	85	80	75	84	80	75	83	79	74
Sub-total	707	669	626	703	666	628	694	585	619
Operating costs (LE fed ⁻¹ season ⁻¹)									
1- Electricity for pump motor	76			80			85		
2- Maintenance and Repairing	100			100			100		
Sub-total	176			180			185		
Total annual irrigation cost (LE fed⁻¹ season⁻¹)	883	845	802	883	846	808	879	770	804
Total agricultural Costs	869			869			869		
Total costs (LE fed⁻¹ season⁻¹)	1752	1714	1671	1752	1715	1677	1748	1639	1673
Yield	Grain, (kg fed⁻¹)								
	5412	5139	5049	5302	5046	4986	5052	4634	4381
	Stover, (kg fed⁻¹)								
	3523	3467	3417	3497	3443	3400	3475	3404	3394
Price, (LE fed⁻¹)	Grain								
	3247	3083	3029	3181	3027	2992	3031	2780	2629
	Stover								
	234	222	218	229	218	216	218	200	189
Total revenue, (LE fed⁻¹ season⁻¹)	3481	3305	3247	3410	3245	3208	3249	2980	2818
Physical net income (kg m⁻³)	2.20	2.12	2.08	2.17	2.09	2.06	2.10	1.98	1.90
Net profit, (LE fed⁻¹ season⁻¹)	1740	1653	1624	1703	1621	1602	843	774	732
Net income LE m⁻³	0.43	0.41	0.40	0.42	0.40	0.39	0.21	0.19	0.18

Water requirements of DIC = 4060 m³fed-1season-1 & fed = 4200 m², CM₂DIS: Closed circuits with tow manifolds separated, CM₁DIS: Closed circuits with one manifold; TDIS: Traditional trickle irrigation system.

Table 2: Effect of DIC and LLL on cost parameters of corn production.

DIC	LLL	Total costs (LE fed ⁻¹ season ⁻¹)	Yield (kg fed ⁻¹)		Price, (LE fed ⁻¹)		Total revenue, (LE ⁻¹ fed ⁻¹ season)	Physical net income (kg m ⁻³)	Net profit, (LEfed ⁻¹ season ⁻¹)	Net income LE m ⁻³
			Grain	Stover	Grain	Stover				
CM ₂ DIS	40	1752a	5412a	3523a	3247a	234a	3481a	2.20a	1740a	0.43a
	60	1714ed	5139c	3467d	3083c	222c	3305c	2.12c	1653c	0.41c
	80	1671hf	5049ed	3417f	3029ec	218dc	3247ec	2.08fc	1624dc	0.40dc
CM ₁ DIS	40	1752ba	5302b	3497a	3181b	229ba	3410b	2.17ba	1703b	0.42ba
	60	1715d	5046fe	3443e	3027fc	218ec	3245fc	2.09ec	1621ed	0.40e
	80	1677f	4986g	3400h	2992g	216g	3208g	2.06gf	1602fd	0.39fe
TDIS	40	1748ca	5052d	3475c	3031dc	218fc	3249dc	2.10dc	843g	0.21g
	60	1639i	4634h	3404g	2780h	200h	2980h	1.98h	774h	0.19hg
	80	1673gf	4381i	3394i	2629i	189i	2818i	1.90i	732i	0.18ih
1X2 LSD_{0.01}		5	79	18	60	5	64	0.05	30	0.01
Means(1)	CM ₂ DIS	1712a	5200a	3469a	3120a	225a	3344a	2.13a	1672a	0.41a
	CM ₁ DIS	1715ba	5111b	3447b	3067ba	221ba	3288b	2.11ba	1642b	0.40ba
	TDIS	1687c	4689c	3424c	2813c	202c	3016c	1.99c	783c	0.19c
LSD_{0.01}		4	64	10	62	6	62	0.03	29	0.01
Means(2)	40	1751a	5255a	3498a	3153a	227a	3380a	2.16a	1429a	0.35a
	60	1689b	4940b	3438b	2963b	213b	3177b	2.06b	1349b	0.33b
	80	1674c	4805c	3404c	2883c	208cb	3091c	2.01cb	1319cb	0.32cb
LSD_{0.01}		6	89	25	65	8	67	0.06	34	0.01

DIC; Trickle irrigation circuits, LLL: Lateral line lengths, CM₂DIS: Closed circuits with tow manifolds separated, CM₁DIS: Closed circuits with one manifold; TDIS: Traditional trickle irrigation system.

4. Conclusion

The world today is facing ever-growing challenges of widespread food insecurity and malnutrition due to limited water resources, increasing population, negative impact of climate changes, environmental degradation, and dependence on fossil fuel energy. Drought is the number one limitation to crop productivity.

As climate changes, the incidence and duration of drought and heat stress on our major crops will increase in many regions, negatively affecting crop yield and food security. Agriculture must produce more crop per unit used of both irrigation water and fertilizers.

Data obtained indicated that the drip irrigation circuits and lateral line length selection can positively affect some

hydraulic characteristic of the irrigation system and subsequently water use efficiency and fertilizer use efficiency, physical and money income from unit of irrigation water and fertilizers used and cost analysis of corn

crop. Therefore, solution to the challenges mentioned before will be found in part through more researches on using this technique under our local conditions.

5. References

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