

## *Handout Nr. 4*

# **FAO Irrigation and Drainage paper N° 56 Crop Evapotranspiration Guidelines for computing crop water requirements**

Allen R., L. Pereira, D. Raes, and M. Smith. 1998. Crop Evapotranspiration – Guidelines for computing crop water requirements. Irrigation and Drainage Paper Nr. 56, FAO, Rome, Italy. 300 pages.

This publication presents an updated procedure for calculating reference and crop evapotranspiration from meteorological data and crop coefficients. The procedure, first presented in FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper N° 24, Crop Water Requirements, in 1977, allows estimation of the amount of water used by a crop, taking into account the effect of the climate and the crop characteristics.

The publication incorporates advances in research and more accurate procedures for determining crop water use as recommended by a panel of high-level experts organized by FAO in May 1990. The first part of the guidelines includes procedures for determining reference crop evapotranspiration according to the FAO Penman-Monteith method. These are followed by updated procedures for estimating the evapotranspiration of different crops for different growth stages and ecological conditions.

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