

***Interactive comment on “The use of GIS and remote sensing for the assessment of waterlogging in the dryland irrigated catchments of Farafra Oasis in Egypt” by M. El Bastawesy and R. Ramadan Ali***

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This is a courageous and scientifically important paper and should be published after the language has been cleaned up. As is my practice, I am attaching my annotated version of the HESSD paper to my review, indicating the detail of the corrections I think are needed.

What I liked about the paper were the following things:

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\* the authors tackle a very important problem - salinity - which has been with us since the dawn of agriculture and which is likely to cause more famine than climate change, even in technically rich nations

\* the images are especially eloquent

It is enlightening (and humbling) to read that, yet again, the ancients had solved the drainage problem of salinity by using intelligent twin irrigation and drainage channels which followed the course of the natural drainage in a very flat environment. In contrast, fast-track agro-technology blindly over-rode the landscape's message and tried to drain across, not down, the corrugations in the terrain. Paradoxically, it takes a piercing, dainty, non-destructive satellite's eye to find out what the trouble is.

More power to this foresighted team to exploit the good technology to define the problem created by the bad and provide a solution. I think they should make more of the message, after restructuring the paper and writing it more understandably.

Geoff Pegram

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Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/8/C6117/2012/hessd-8-C6117-2012-supplement.pdf>

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