

## WATER SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The quality of irrigation water plays an important and significant role in the successful production of agricultural crops. The quality of irrigation water can vary substantially between areas and also from one farm well to another. It is essential that growers have a knowledge of the chemistry of their water as well as an understanding of potential problems that may be associated with its use for irrigation.

To accurately evaluate a specific water source, it is important to collect samples in a proper manner. The following guidelines are suggested for proper sample collection:

- Collect samples at the appropriate time. Ground water samples should be collected only after the well has pumped for a period of 15 to 30 min. A longer time period is desirable if the well has not been used on a regular basis. Surface water samples should be taken during the period of time when the water is used for irrigation.
- Collect an adequate amount of sample. Generally a 0.5 to 1 liter sample of water is adequate for most quality assays.
- Use a proper sample container. Clean glass or plastic stoppered containers preferably in a transparent one. It should be rinsed 3 to 4 times with the water which is to be sampled. Samples to be analyzed for organic residues, such as pesticides, should be collected in glass containers.
- Samples must be labeled on the side of the container and never solely on the container lid. The label includes source, name of the owner, crops to be raised with water (purpose for which the water is going to be used), nature of soil and any other information like depth, problem encountered if any, in earlier seasons (or uses) etc.
- Deliver water samples to the laboratory as soon as possible. Samples should be delivered within 24 hours. Samples may be refrigerated or kept in a portable cooler for short periods. Do not store samples at room temperature or expose them to heat or direct sunlight.