

16 July 2020

**Survey on the Use of Water in the Agricultural Sector (SUWAS)
Year 2016**

**The volume of irrigation water used in the agricultural sector
increased by 3.7% in 2018 compared to 2016**

The volume of irrigation water used by agricultural holdings amounted to 15,495 cubic hectometers in 2018. This figure is an increase of 3.7% compared to that recorded in the previous survey, conducted for 2016.

The use of drip irrigation water (localized irrigation) increased by 6.4%, while gravity irrigation increased by 2.8% and spray irrigation by 0.7%.

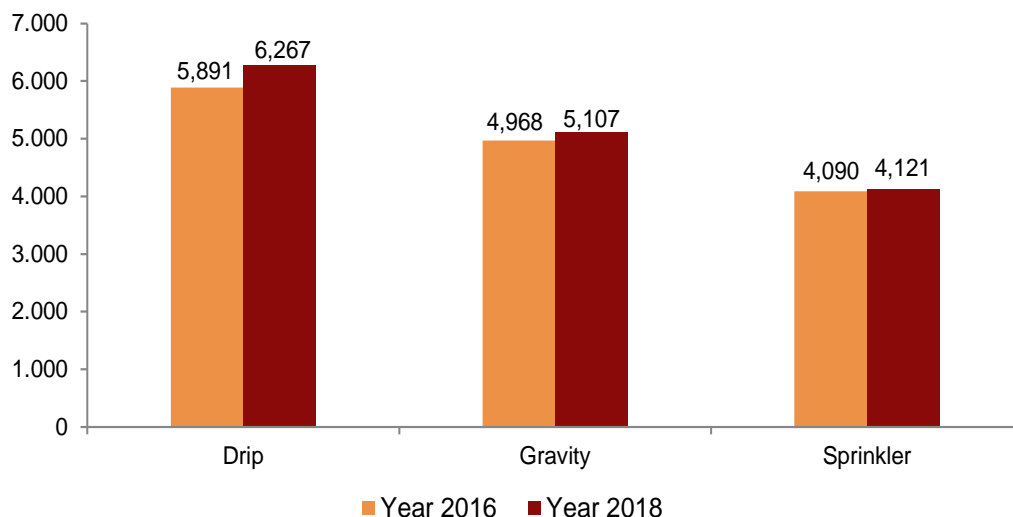
Water use volumes by irrigation technique. Year 2018

Unit: thousands of m³

	Year 2018	% of the total	% biennial variation
Drip	6,266,631	40.4	26.1
Gravity	5,107,395	33.0	24.9
Sprinkler	4,120,616	26.5	-30.0
National total	15,494,642	100	3.7

Water use volumes by irrigation technique. Year 2018

Unit: cubic hectometres



By type of crop, herbaceous crops (cereals, legumes, rice, maize and forage crops), which accounted for 54.6% of the total volume of irrigation water, used 1.7% more water than in 2016.

Other types of crops (industrial crops, flowers, ornamental plants, etc.) registered the highest increase in water use (15.4%). Water volumes increased by 5.7% in fruit trees, 3.4% in potatoes and vegetables and 0.3% in olive groves and vineyards.

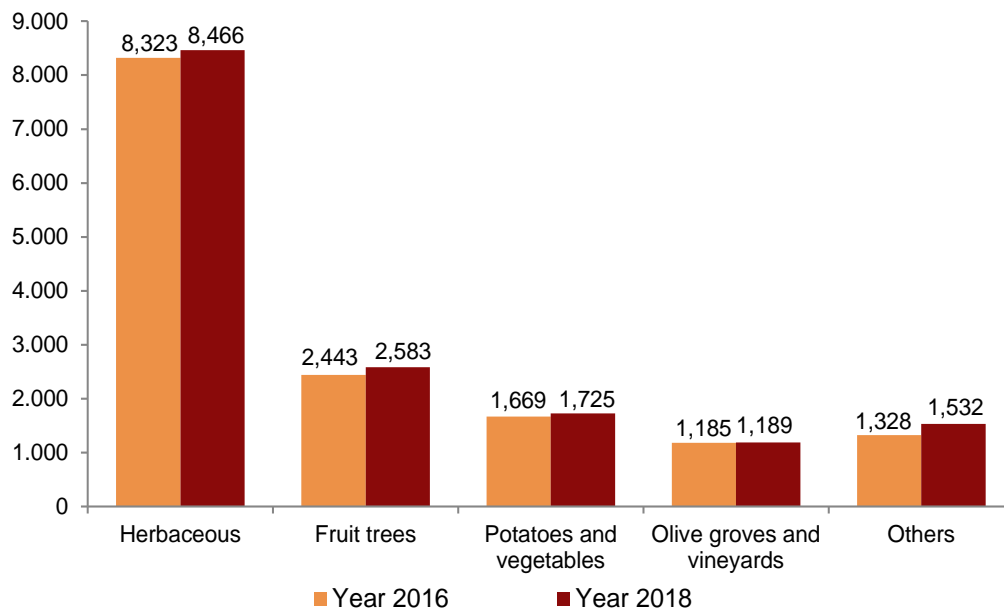
Water use volumes by type of crop. Year 2018

Unit: thousands of m³

	Year 2018	% of the total	% biennial variation
Herbaceous	8,465,920	54.6	1.7
Fruit trees	2,582,525	16.7	5.7
Potatoes and vegetables	1,725,225	11.1	3.4
Olive groves and vineyards	1,189,450	7.7	0.3
Others	1,531,522	9.9	15.4
National total	15,494,642	100	3.7

Water use volumes by type of crop. Year 2018

Unit: cubic hectometres



Water availability

74.3% of the volume of water available for irrigation in 2018 was of surface source. On the other hand, 23.9% came from underground sources and 1.8% from other water resources, such as desalinated water (marine or brackish) or reclaimed water (from wastewater treatment plants).

Volumes of water available by water source. Year 2018

Unit: thousands of m³

	Year 2018	% of the total
Surface water	12,870,064	74.3
Groundwater	4,142,241	23.9
Other water resources	314,269	1.8
National total	17,326,575	100

Results by Autonomous Communities

Among the communities that exceeded 1.0% of the total irrigated areas, those that used the most irrigation water in 2018 were Andalucía (26.9% of the total), Castilla y León (14.4%) and Aragón (13.4%). And those with the least were La Rioja (1.0%), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (2.8%) and Región de Murcia (3.2%).

The three communities where the use of irrigation water increased the most were Extremadura (12.7%), Castilla y León (10.9%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (10.7%).

On the other hand, Castilla La Mancha (-7.9%), La Rioja (-6.3%) and Región de Murcia (-5.8%) were the Autonomous Communities where irrigation water use decreased the most.

Water use volumes by Autonomous Community. Year 2018

Unit: thousands of m³

	Year 2018	% of the total	% biennial variation
National total	15,494,642	100	3.7
Andalucía	4,175,562	26.9	2.2
Aragón	2,072,461	13.4	2.0
Castilla y León	2,226,904	14.4	10.9
Castilla-La Mancha	1,523,746	9.8	-7.9
Cataluña	1,005,576	6.5	1.2
Comunitat Valenciana	1,337,413	8.6	8.3
Extremadura	1,777,957	11.5	12.7
Murcia, Región de	500,569	3.2	-5.8
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	435,073	2.8	10.7
Rioja, La	156,855	1.0	-6.3
Remaining Autonomous Communities ¹	282,526	1.8	5.3

¹ All the Autonomous Communities with an irrigated area of less than 1.0% of the national total are grouped under the heading "Rest of Autonomous Communities".

By irrigation techniques, the Autonomous Community that used the most drip irrigation water was Andalucía. Aragón used the largest volume of water for gravity irrigation, and Castilla y León for sprinkler irrigation.

Volumes of water by Autonomous Community and irrigation technique. Year 2018

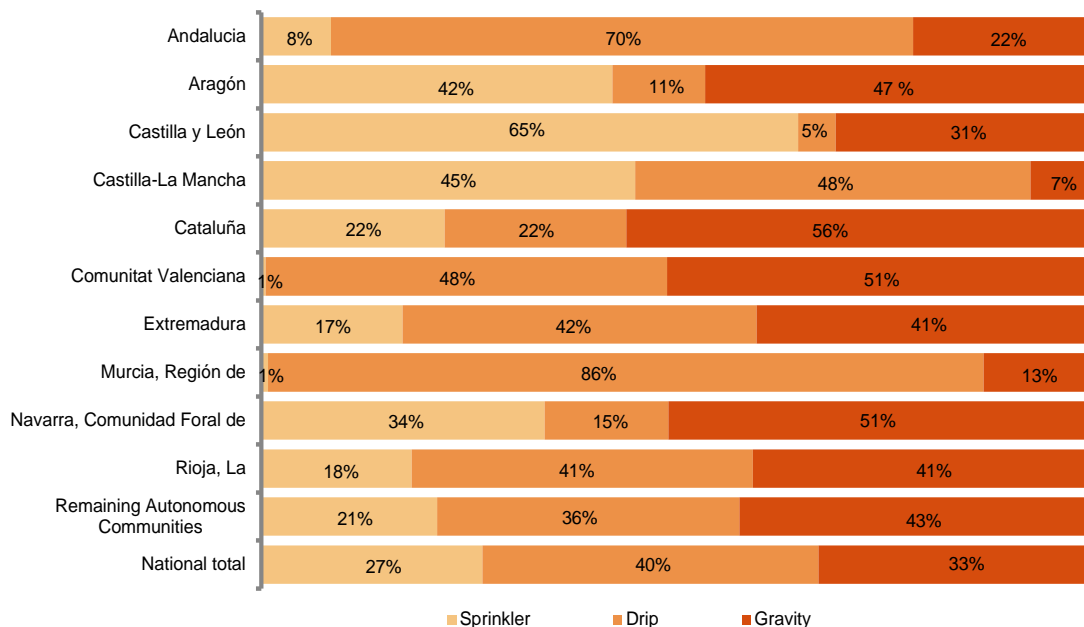
Unit: thousands of m³

	Sprinkler	Drip	Gravity	Total
National total	4,120,616	6,266,631	5,107,395	15,494,642
Andalucía	350,075	2,923,974	901,513	4,175,562
Aragón	875,460	230,924	966,077	2,072,461
Castilla y León	1,438,115	100,946	687,843	2,226,904
Castilla-La Mancha	685,480	724,888	113,378	1,523,746
Cataluña	221,825	219,875	563,876	1,005,576
Comunitat Valenciana	6,986	645,914	684,513	1,337,413
Extremadura	302,251	757,193	718,513	1,777,957
Murcia, Región de	4,004	430,990	65,575	500,569
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	148,278	64,784	222,011	435,073
Rioja, La	28,352	64,435	64,069	156,855
Remaining Autonomous Communities	59,790	102,707	120,028	282,526

Regarding water use for each irrigation technique, by autonomous communities, the community that used drip irrigation the most was Región de Murcia (86%), for sprinkler use, it was Castilla y León (65%) and for gravity irrigation, Cataluña (56%).

Volumes of water used by irrigation technique, by autonomous community. Year 2018.

Percentage



Data Review and Updates

The data published today is final. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The INE conducts the *Survey on the Use of Water in the Agricultural Sector* every other year in order to estimate the volume of irrigated water used by agricultural holdings. The sample of the 2018 survey was made up of 557 irrigation communities.

The Central Business Register (CBR) was used as a reference framework, as well as other complementary information from the administrative registers of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

The selection of the sample is comprehensive for those irrigation communities that group together agricultural holdings with a total surface area of more than 2,000 hectares. Communities with a surface area less than this magnitude are investigated by sampling, selecting a quota of entities previously stratified by size, using an allocation with a compromise between uniform and proportional.

For further information see **INEbase**: www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: @es_ine

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