



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Crop Module 4

# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs

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(2023)



## **Day 1**

- How do crop models work?
- AquaCrop interface
- AquaCrop: climate, crop, management and soil modules (AquaCrop modules 1 and 2)
- Run simulations and interpret results

## **Day 2**

- Input requirements
- Create/import climatic files on AquaCrop
- Create a crop file
- Run simulations for wheat in Badin

## **Day 3**

- Interpreting the AquaCrop outputs for wheat in Badin
- Calibrating and validating the AquaCrop model



# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs: climate info.

**Step 1.** Open **AquaCrop** desktop folders and click on **OUTP** (outputs)

DATA	02/12/2022 19:02	Carpeta de archivos	
IMPORT	01/12/2022 8:49	Carpeta de archivos	
OBS	01/12/2022 8:49	Carpeta de archivos	
<b>OUTP</b>	<b>02/12/2022 19:28</b>	<b>Carpeta de archivos</b>	
SIMUL	03/12/2022 9:33	Carpeta de archivos	
_DEISREG.ISR	01/12/2022 8:49	Archivo ISR	1 KB
_ISREG32.DLL	01/12/2022 8:49	Extensión de la ap...	40 KB
AquaCrop	01/12/2022 8:49	Aplicación	16.459 KB
AquaCrop	01/12/2022 8:49	Icono	2 KB
DelsL1.isu	01/12/2022 8:49	Archivo ISU	10 KB

**Step 2.** Open the file

OS (C:) > FAO > Pakistan > GUI\_AC71 > AquaCropV71No13102023 > OUTP

Nome	Ultima modifica	Tipo	Dimensione
<b>Wheat_BadinClim.OUT</b>	<b>28/11/2023 17:20</b>	<b>File OUT</b>	<b>14 KB</b>
Wheat_BadinCompEC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
Wheat_BadinCompWC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
Wheat_BadinCrop.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	35 KB
Wheat_BadinHarvest.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
Wheat_BadinInlet.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
Wheat_BadinProf.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinRun.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	4 KB
Wheat_BadinSalt.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinWabal.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	27 KB

**Step 3.** Visualize the **climatic** outputs

1 AquaCrop 7.1 (August 2023) - Output created on (date) : 28/11/2023 at (time) : 17:20:34

2 Climate input data

3

4 \*\* Run number: 1

Day	Month	Year	DAP	Stage	Rain mm	ETo mm	Tmin °C	Tavg °C	Tmax °C	CO2 ppm
1	11	2010	1	1	0.0	4.3	21.6	28.4	35.1	390.74
2	11	2010	2	1	0.0	4.2	20.0	26.9	33.9	390.74
3	11	2010	3	1	0.0	4.1	18.7	25.8	32.8	390.74
4	11	2010	4	1	0.0	4.0	17.6	24.8	32.0	390.74
5	11	2010	5	2	0.0	4.1	17.5	25.0	32.5	390.74
6	11	2010	6	2	0.0	4.2	17.7	25.4	33.1	390.74
7	11	2010	7	2	0.0	4.2	17.9	25.6	33.4	390.74
8	11	2010	8	2	0.0	4.1	17.9	25.4	33.0	390.74
9	11	2010	9	2	0.0	4.0	18.4	25.6	32.9	390.74
10	11	2010	10	2	0.0	3.9	18.5	25.6	32.6	390.74
11	11	2010	11	2	0.0	3.8	18.6	25.4	32.3	390.74
12	11	2010	12	2	0.0	3.8	19.0	25.8	32.6	390.74
13	11	2010	13	2	0.0	3.8	18.3	25.3	32.2	390.74

## Legend











DAP	: Days after planting
Stage	: 0: before/after planting
Stage	: 1: emergence or transplant recovery
Stage	: 2: vegetative stage
Stage	: 3: flowering
Stage	: 4: yield formation and ripening
Rain	: Rainfall
ETo	: Reference evapotranspiration
Tmin	: Minimum air temperature
Tavg	: Average air temperature
Tmax	: Maximum air temperature
CO2	: Atmospheric CO2 concentration

*At the bottom of the txt.  
file you will find the  
legend!*

# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs: soil water content

**Step 1.** Open the file **Wheat\_BadinCompWC**

OS (C:) > FAO > Pakistan > GUI\_AC71 > AquaCropV71No13102023 > OUTP

Nome	Ultima modifica	Tipo	Dimensione
 Wheat_BadinClim.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	14 KB
 Wheat_BadinCompEC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
 Wheat_BadinCompWC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
 Wheat_BadinCrop.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	35 KB
 Wheat_BadinHarvest.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
 Wheat_BadinInet.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
 Wheat_BadinProf.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
 Wheat_BadinRun.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	4 KB
 Wheat_BadinSalt.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
 Wheat_BadinWabal.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	27 KB

*At the bottom of the txt.  
file you will find the legend  
for each variable!*

### Legend

DAP : Days after planting  
 Stage : 0: before/after planting  
 Stage : 1: emergence or transplant recovery  
 Stage : 2: vegetative stage  
 Stage : 3: flowering  
 Stage : 4: yield formation and ripening

## Step 2. Visualize the **water content** outputs

[illegible]



# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs: crop info.

## Step 1. Open the file **Wheat\_BadinCrop**

*At the bottom of the txt.  
file you will find the legend  
for each variable!*

OS (C:) > FAO > Pakistan > GUI\_AC71 > AquaCropV71No13102023 > OUTP

Nome	Ultima modifica	Tipo	Dimensione
Wheat_BadinClim.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	14 KB
Wheat_BadinCompEC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
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Wheat_BadinProf.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinRun.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	4 KB
Wheat_BadinSalt.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinWabal.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	27 KB

### Legend

- DAP : Days after planting
- Stage : 0: before/after planting
- Stage : 1: emergence or transplant recovery
- Stage : 2: vegetative stage
- Stage : 3: flowering
- Stage : 4: yield formation and ripening
- GD : Growing degrees
- Z : Effective rooting depth
- StExp : Percent water stress reducing leaf expansion
- StSto : Percent water stress inducing stomatal closure
- StSen : Percent water stress triggering early canopy senescence
- StSalt : Percent salinity stress
- StWeed : Relative cover of weeds
- CC : Green total Canopy Cover of crop and weeds
- CCw : Green crop Canopy Cover in weed infested field
- StTr : Percent temperature stress affecting crop transpiration
- Kc(Tr) : Crop coefficient for transpiration
- Trx : Maximum total transpiration of crop and weeds

## Step 2. Visualize the **stress** and **canopy development** outputs

2	Crop development and production																		
3																			
4	** Run number: 1																		
5	Day	Month	Year	DAP	Stage	GD	Z	StExp	StSto	StSen	StSalt	StWeed	CC	CCw	StTr	Kc(Tr)	Trx	Tr	TrW
6						°C-day	m	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	-	mm	mm	mm
7	1	11	2010	1	1	23.0	0.30	-9	-9	-9	0	-9	0.0	0.0	0	-9.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
8	2	11	2010	2	1	23.0	0.30	-9	-9	-9	0	-9	0.0	0.0	0	-9.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
9	3	11	2010	3	1	22.4	0.39	-9	-9	-9	0	-9	0.0	0.0	0	-9.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	4	11	2010	4	1	21.8	0.46	-9	4	0	0	0	3.4	3.4	0	0.06	0.3	0.2	0.2
11	5	11	2010	5	2	21.8	0.53	-9	6	0	0	0	4.0	4.0	0	0.07	0.3	0.3	0.3
12	6	11	2010	6	2	21.9	0.58	100	8	0	0	0	4.0	4.0	0	0.07	0.3	0.3	0.3
13	7	11	2010	7	2	21.9	0.63	2	0	0	0	0	4.6	4.6	0	0.08	0.4	0.4	0.4
14	8	11	2010	8	2	21.9	0.68	35	0	0	0	0	5.0	5.0	0	0.09	0.4	0.4	0.4
15	9	11	2010	9	2	22.2	0.73	76	0	0	0	0	5.2	5.2	0	0.09	0.4	0.4	0.4
16	10	11	2010	10	2	22.3	0.78	81	0	0	0	0	5.3	5.3	0	0.10	0.4	0.4	0.4



# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs: crop info.

## Step 3. Continue visualizing **crop production** outputs

Tr/Trx %	WP g/m2	Biomass ton/ha	HI %	Y(dry) ton/ha	Y(fresh) ton/ha	Brelative %	WPet kg/m3	Bin ton/ha	Bout ton/ha
100	15.8	0.000	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	-9	0.00	0.000	0.000
100	15.8	0.000	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	-9	0.00	0.000	0.000
100	15.8	0.000	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	-9	0.00	0.000	0.000
96	15.8	0.010	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	96	0.00	0.000	0.000
94	15.8	0.020	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	95	0.00	0.000	0.000
92	15.8	0.031	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	89	0.00	0.000	0.000
100	15.8	0.044	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	88	0.00	0.000	0.000
100	15.8	0.059	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	87	0.00	0.000	0.000
100	15.8	0.074	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	84	0.00	0.000	0.000
100	15.8	0.089	-9.9	0.000	-9.000	80	0.00	0.000	0.000

### Legend

Trx	: Maximum total transpiration of crop and weeds
Tr	: Total transpiration of crop and weeds
TrW	: Crop transpiration in weed infested field
Tr/Trx	: Relative total transpiration of crop and weeds (100 Tr/Trx)
WP	: Crop water productivity adjusted for CO <sub>2</sub> , soil fertility and products synthesized
Biomass	: Total above-ground dry biomass
HI	: Harvest Index adjusted for failure of pollination, inadequate photosynthesis and water stress
Y(dry)	: Dry crop yield (HI x Biomass)
Y(fresh)	: Fresh crop yield
Brelative	: Relative biomass (Reference: no water, no soil fertility, no soil salinity stress, no weed infestation)
WPet	: ET Water productivity for yield part (kg yield produced per m <sup>3</sup> water evapotranspired)
Bin	: Daily mass of assimilates mobilized from root system at start of season
Bout	: Daily mass of assimilates stored in root system at end of season

*At the bottom of the txt.  
file you will find the legend  
for each variable!*





# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs: harvest info.

## Step 1. Open the file **Wheat\_BadinHarvest**

OS (C:) > FAO > Pakistan > GUI\_AC71 > AquaCropV71No13102023 > OUTP

Nome	Ultima modifica	Tipo	Dimensione
Wheat_BadinClim.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	14 KB
Wheat_BadinCompEC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
Wheat_BadinCompWC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
Wheat_BadinCrop.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	35 KB
Wheat_BadinHarvest.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
Wheat_BadinInet.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
Wheat_BadinProf.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinRun.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	4 KB
Wheat_BadinSalt.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinWabal.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	27 KB

## Step 2. Visualize values at **harvest** (dry yield and biomass)

```
2 Biomass and Yield at Multiple cuttings
3
4 ** Run number: 1
5   Nr   Day  Month Year   DAP Interval Biomass   Sum(B)   Dry-Yield   Sum(Y)   Fresh-Yield   Sum(Y)
6   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
7   0    1   11  2010     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
8  9999  26   3  2011     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
9
10 Legend
11
12 DAP       : Days after planting
13 Interval  : Number of days between events
14 Nr = 0    : At start of season
15 Nr = 1 to n : Harvest event
16 Nr = 9999 : At end of season
17
```

*At the bottom of the txt.  
file you will find the legend  
for each variable!*



# Interpreting AquaCrop outputs: water balance info.

## Step 1. Open the file **Wheat\_BadinWbal**

OS (C:) > FAO > Pakistan > GUI\_AC71 > AquaCropV71No13102023 > OUTP

Nome	Ultima modifica	Tipo	Dimensione
Wheat_BadinClim.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	14 KB
Wheat_BadinCompEC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
Wheat_BadinCompWC.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	26 KB
Wheat_BadinCrop.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	35 KB
Wheat_BadinHarvest.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
Wheat_BadinInet.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	1 KB
Wheat_BadinProf.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinRun.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	4 KB
Wheat_BadinSalt.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	20 KB
Wheat_BadinWbal.OUT	28/11/2023 17:20	File OUT	27 KB

### Legend

DAP	: Days after planting
Stage	: 0: before/after planting
Stage	: 1: emergence or transplant recovery
Stage	: 2: vegetative stage
Stage	: 3: flowering
Stage	: 4: yield formation and ripening
WCTot	: Water content in total soil profile
Rain	: Rainfall
Irri	: Water applied by irrigation
Surf	: Stored water on soil surface between bunds
Infilt	: Infiltrated water in soil profile
RO	: Surface runoff
Drain	: Water drained out of the soil profile
CR	: Water moved upward by capillary rise
Zgwt	: Depth of the groundwater table (-9.90 if absent)
Ex	: Maximum soil evaporation
E	: Soil evaporation
E/Ex	: Relative soil evaporation (100 E/Ex)
Trx	: Maximum crop transpiration
Tr	: Total transpiration of crop and weeds
Tr/Trx	: Relative transpiration (100 Tr/Trx)
ETx	: Evapotranspiration maximale
ET	: Evapotranspiration
ET/ETx	: Evapotranspiration relative (100 ET/ETx)

At the bottom of the  
txt. file you will find  
the legend for each  
variable!

2	Soil Water balance																	
3																		
4	** Run number: 1																	
5	Day	Month	Year	DAP	Stage	WCTot	Rain	Irri	Surf	Infilt	RO	Drain	CR	Zgwt	Ex	E	E/Ex	Trx
6						mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	m	mm	mm	%	mm
7	1	11	2010	1	1	323.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	4.7	1.6	34	0.0
8	2	11	2010	2	1	322.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	4.6	1.3	27	0.0
9	3	11	2010	3	1	321.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	4.5	1.0	23	0.0
10	4	11	2010	4	1	320.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	4.1	0.8	19	0.3
11	5	11	2010	5	2	319.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	4.2	0.7	16	0.3
12	6	11	2010	6	2	318.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	4.3	0.6	14	0.3
13	7	11	2010	7	2	325.9	0.0	11.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	3.4	3.4	100	0.4
14	8	11	2010	8	2	322.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	3.4	3.1	92	0.4
15	9	11	2010	9	2	321.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	3.2	0.7	23	0.4
16	10	11	2010	10	2	320.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	3.1	0.6	19	0.4
17	11	11	2010	11	2	319.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	3.0	0.5	16	0.4
18	12	11	2010	12	2	318.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.90	3.0	0.4	14	0.4





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## Crop Module 4

# Calibrating & Validating the AquaCrop model

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(2023)



# Calibration and validation of AquaCrop model

- The calibration and validation is a critical step towards achieving meaningful modelling outputs.
- **5 to 10 years** of historical yield data (for a specific location) are necessary to compare observed and simulated yields values.
- To test the performance of the AquaCrop model against observed values in the field, different statistical indicators are used.
- For example, while the **root-mean square error** (RMSE, Eq. 1) is useful for testing the differences between predicted and observed values, the **normalized-RMSE** (NRMSE, Eq. 2) provides relevant information about the average of the measured data ranges.
- AquaCrop findings are considered highly performant when the differences between observed and simulated NRMSE values **are below 5%**, and good when ranging between **6 to 15%**.
- **Willmott's index** of agreement ( $d$ , Eq. 3) provides a measure of the agreement of the deviation of modelled and observed values from the observed mean, where 0 indicates disagreement and 1 perfect agreement between simulated and observed values.



# Calibration and validation of AquaCrop model

$$\text{➤ RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (O_i - P_i)^2}$$

$$\text{➤ NRMSE} = \left( \frac{\text{RMSE}}{\hat{O}} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{➤ } d = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (O_i - P_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (P'_i + O'_i)^2}$$

Where  $O_i$  and  $P_i$  corresponds to the observed and simulated values, respectively, and  $n$  to the number of observations. While the RMSE has the same units as that of the variable being simulated (t/ha), NRMSE units are displayed as a percentage. In addition,  $O'_i = [O_i - \hat{O}]$  and  $P'_i = [P_i - \hat{P}]$  shows the differences between observed and simulated values, with  $\hat{O}$  and  $\hat{P}$  as the observed and simulated means, respectively.

# Calibration and validation of AquaCrop model

**Step 1.** You first **calibrate** in one location (Badin)

## CALIBRATION (Badin)

Here we introduce the  
observed values in the  
field and the simulated  
values from AquaCrop!

Badin (SOUTH) - CALIBRATION										
	OBSERVED	SIMULATED	RMSE	MAE	EF	I Pi-Oave I	I Oi-Oave I	d	MAPE	Difference
2011	2,965	2,869	0,01	0,10	0,00	0,11	0,02		0,03	0,01
2012	2,738	2,999	0,07	0,26	0,06	0,02	0,11		0,10	0,07
2013	3,067	2,874	0,04	0,19	0,01	0,10	0,02		0,06	0,04
2014	3,039	2,996	0,00	0,04	0,00	0,02	0,10		0,01	0,00
2015	3,065	2,722	0,12	0,34	0,01	0,25	0,17		0,11	0,12
	2,975		0,22	0,19	-2,04	0,50	0,42	0,73	3,17	0,23
										0,22
									NRMSE (as %)	7,28

**Step 2.** You **validate** against one other location (Multan)

## VALIDATION (Multan)

MULTAN (NORTH) - VALIDATION										
	OBSERVED	SIMULATED	RMSE	MAE	EF	I Pi-Oave I	I Oi-Oave I	d	MAPE	Difference
2011	2,811	2,567	0,06	0,24	0,03	0,41	0,33		0,09	0,06
2012	2,600	2,761	0,03	0,16	0,14	0,21	0,13		0,06	0,03
2013	2,907	3,130	0,05	0,22	0,00	0,16	0,24		0,08	0,05
2014	2,953	3,079	0,02	0,13	0,00	0,10	0,19		0,04	0,02
2015	3,022	2,856	0,03	0,17	0,00	0,12	0,04		0,05	0,03
	2,859		0,19	0,18	-0,02	1,00	0,92	0,95	3,23	0,18
										0,19
									NRMSE (as %)	6,61

# Thank you!

Contact details:

[jorge.alvarbeltran@fao.org](mailto:jorge.alvarbeltran@fao.org)

[riccardo.soldan@fao.org](mailto:riccardo.soldan@fao.org)