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## ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION OF WATER SALT EXCHANGE PROCESS IN SOIL DEGRADATION IN THE ARID ZONE

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### ABSTRACT

Arid lands in comparison with other farming areas are usually characterized by higher soil degradation rates. This is due to the fact that drylands have specific natural conditions such as salinization, which is aggravated by the effects of climate change and anthropogenic impact, along with thoughtless and irrational use of irrigation water. As for current investments, they remain too limited to stop and reverse the negative trends associated with soil degradation. Research conducted over the past thirty years provides ground for conclusion that in order to increase agricultural productivity it is essential, first of all, to determine the consequences that cause salinization. An objective assessment of the existing agroecosystem is impossible without a qualitative assessment of land resources in areas with arid climate. The purpose of this study is to identify ways and methods of restoring soil fertility and achieving sustainable agriculture, which is essential in solving the major issue - malnutrition in overpopulated regions primarily in Central Asia.

**Keywords:** arid zone, degradation, salinization, soils, groundwater.