

ASSESSMENT OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY OF ERO DAM FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSE

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Abstract

The physicochemical parameters of surface water surface of Ero Dam for irrigation were assessed. Water samples were selected from three locations (upstream, downstream and control). Tested parameters for water samples are pH, electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), calcium (Ca²⁺), magnesium (Mg²⁺), sodium (Na⁺), potassium (K⁺), chloride (Cl⁻), carbonate (CO₃⁻), bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻), boron (B), sulphate (SO₄²⁻), nitrate (NO₃⁻) and phosphate (PO₄⁻P). The samples were determined in accordance with the American Public Health Association standards. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics. Evaluation of surface water quality of Ero Dam was carried out using different irrigation indices methods such as sodium adsorption ratio (SAR), residual sodium carbonate (RSC), sodium percentage (Na %), potential salinity (PS), The Soluble sodium percentage (SSP), Kelly ratio (KR), magnesium adsorption ratio (MAR) and permeability index (PI) and compared with standard limits. The findings indicated that the concentrations of the Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻, CO₃⁻, HCO₃⁻, B, SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻ and PO₄⁻P were within the acceptance limits for irrigation purposes except K⁺ that above the limits specified. Results indicated that majority, 87.5% of irrigation indices fall under excellent or suitable and classified as salinity (C1) and SAR (S1) which was known as (CIS1). Hence, there are none degree of restriction in the application Ero Dam water quality for irrigation. Therefore, the results were concluded, that the study area surface water quality was suitable for irrigation.

Keywords: Assessment, Ero Dam, irrigation indices, suitability, water quality

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Water is one of natural resources that sustaining life. Any form of life cannot survive without water. Survival of its people particularly of those living in rural areas especially semi-arid and arid regions and they engaging in farming activities, lie on the resources it generates from the agricultural practices. Application of water (irrigation) is highlighted by FAO, 2011 are as follows:

- (i) It uses has been an essential factor in raising productivity of agriculture and ensuring predictability in outputs.
- (ii) It is raising productivity, sustainable water management (especially when combined with adequate soil

husbandry) helps to ensure better production both for direct consumption and for commercial disposal,

- (iii) It is enhancing the generation of necessary economic surpluses for uplifting rural economies.
- (iv) It promotes dry session farming which enhances agricultural sustainability.

Several researchers such Prasad et al (2001), Van de Graff and Patterson (2001), Jaji et al (2007), Joshi et al (2009) and Nishanthiny (2010) reported that water used for irrigation depends primarily on quantity and type of dissolved salts, which influences its quality and suitability. Researchers such as Ayers and Westcot (1994), Bauder et al. (2004) reported that assessing water quality for irrigation purposes, the following

key water qualities such as pH, EC, TDS, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻, CO₃⁻, HCO₃⁻, B, SO₄²⁻, NO₃-N and PO₄-P concentrations must be measured. Richards (1954), Ayers and Westcot (1994), Prasad et al. (2001), Van de Graff and Patterson (2001), Seilsepour et al. (2009) and Bauder et al. (2004) reported that irrigation index parameters are based on the following parameters which includes electrical conductivity (EC), sodium adsorption ratio (SAR), residual sodium carbonate (RSC), sodium percentage (Na %), potential salinity (PS), The Soluble sodium percentage (SSP), Kelly ratio (KR), magnesium adsorption ratio (MAR) and permeability index (PI). They are major parameters determining necessary management

requirement and influenced soil productivity (Talukder, et al., 1999, Bauder, et al., 2004, Al-Omran, et al., 2010). Joshi et al (2009) and Kankal et al (2012) reported that SAR, KR and RSC are the most important irrigation indexes that influence the water quality suitability. Permeability hazard of irrigation water is attributed to the combinations of SAR and EC (UCC, 1974; Ayers and Westcot, 1994). Guidelines for the assessment of salinity and sodium hazards of irrigation water were reported by Wilcox (1955), Kelly (1963), Doneen (1964), and Ayers and Westcot (1985) and are presented in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively.

Table 1 Classification of Irrigation water based on salinity hazard

Measure Parameter	Limitation		
	Not any	Moderately	Severe
ECw (dS/m)	<0.7	0.7 – 3.0	>3.0
TDS (mg/l)	<450	450 – 2000	>2000

Source: Ayers and Westcot (1985)

Table 2 Irrigation water quality based on Electrical Conductivity (EC) values

EC(µs/cm)	Salinity Class	Water Class/Interpretation
<250	C1	Excellent or Low
250 – 750	C2	Good or Medium
750 – 2250	C3	Permissible or High
2250 - 5000	C4	Unsuitable or Very high

Source: Ayers and Westcot (1985)

Table 3 Classification of water quality based on chloride, boron, nitrate and bicarbonate values (Cl, B, NO₃- N and HCO₃-)

Potential Irrigation Problem	Limitation		
	Not any	Moderately	Severe
Chloride (meg/L)	<4	4 – 10	>10
Boron (mg/L)	<0.7	0.7 – 2	>2
Nitrate (mg/L)	<5	5 – 30	>30
Bicarbonate (meg/L)	<1.5	1.5 – 8.5	>8.5

Source: Ayers and Westcot (1985)

Table 4 Classification of irrigation water based on boron concentration relation to plant tolerance

Classification	Sensitive Plants	Semi-tolerant Plants	Tolerant Plants
Excellent	<0.3	<0.6	<1.0
Good	0.4 – 0.6	0.7 – 1.3	1.0 – 2.0
Fair	0.7 – 1.0	1.4 – 2.0	2.1 – 3.0
Poor	1.1 – 1.3	2.1 = 2.5	3.1 – 3.8
Unsuitable	>1.3	>2.5	>3.8

Source: Ayers and Westcot (1985)

Table 5 Classification of water based on sodium Adsorption ratio values (SAR)

SAR	Classification	Water Class/Interpretation
0 - 10	S1	Excellent or Low
10 - 18	S2	Good or Medium
18 - 26	S3	Permissible or High
>26	S4	Unsuitable or Very high

Source: Ayers and Westcot (1985)

Table 6 Classification of water based on residual sodium carbonate values (RSC)

RSC (meg/L)	Water Class/Interpretation
<1.25	Safe
1.25 – 2.50	Permissible
>2.50	Unsuitable

Source: Ayers and Westcot (1985)

Table 7 Classification of water based on sodium percentage values (Na %)

(%Na)	Water class/Interpretation
<20	Excellent
20 – 40	Good
40 – 60	Permissible
60 – 80	Doubtful
>80	Unsuitable

Source: Wilcox (1955)

Table 8 Classification of water based on Potential Salinity values (PS)

PS (meg/L)	Water Class/Interpretation
<20	Excellent
20 – 40	Good
40 – 60	permissible
60 - 80	Doubtful
>80	Unsuitable

Source: Ayers and Wescot (1985)

Table 9 Classification of water based on SSP, KR and MAR values

Water Class	SSP	KR	MAR (%)
Suitable	<60	<1	<50
Unsuitable	>60	>1	>50

Source: Kelly (1963)

Table 10 Classification of water based on permeability index (PI) values

PI (%)	Classification	Water Class/Interpretation
<25	C3	Unsuitable or low
25 – 75	C2	Good or Medium
>75	C1	Excellent or High

Source: Doneen (1964).

For agricultural sustainability in Nigeria, both Federal and State Governments have set up regional irrigation scheme through the construction of dams and reservoirs in order to make water available to the farmers with small charges. Ero Dam is serving dual purposes include drinking and irrigation. Hence, this study is aim to determine the concentrations of physicochemical parameters of surface water of Ero Dam and its suitability for irrigation

2.0 MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Description of the Study Area

Ero dam is located at Ikun – Ekiti in Moba Local Government Area of Ekiti State as shown in Figure 1. The dam is constructed

on Ero River which takes its source from the highland region of Orin-Ekiti in Ido-Osi Local Government. The enlargement of the dam water as it flows is as a result of the contributions of the river tributaries as it is usually small at its source. These tributaries include Afintoto, Ayo, Igo, Igbegbe, Ipu, Irara, Ilogbe eran and Ofu rivers (Adedeji, 1993). Geographically, Ero Dam is located on intersect of latitude 70 351N and 70 301N of the equator and on longitude 50 311E and 50 281E of the Greenwich meridian. The dam site at Ikun Ekiti is bounded in the North by Kwara state, in the West by Ikosu-Ekiti, in the South by Ijesamodu-Ekiti and in the East by Ilejemeje Local Government Area. Ikun –Ekiti is a border town between Ekiti state and Kwara state and it is located at about 70 km from Ado, the Ekiti state capital. The impoundment area is about 4.5 km, the water surface area is about 450 hectares and it has a maximum capacity of about 20.9 million cubic metres.

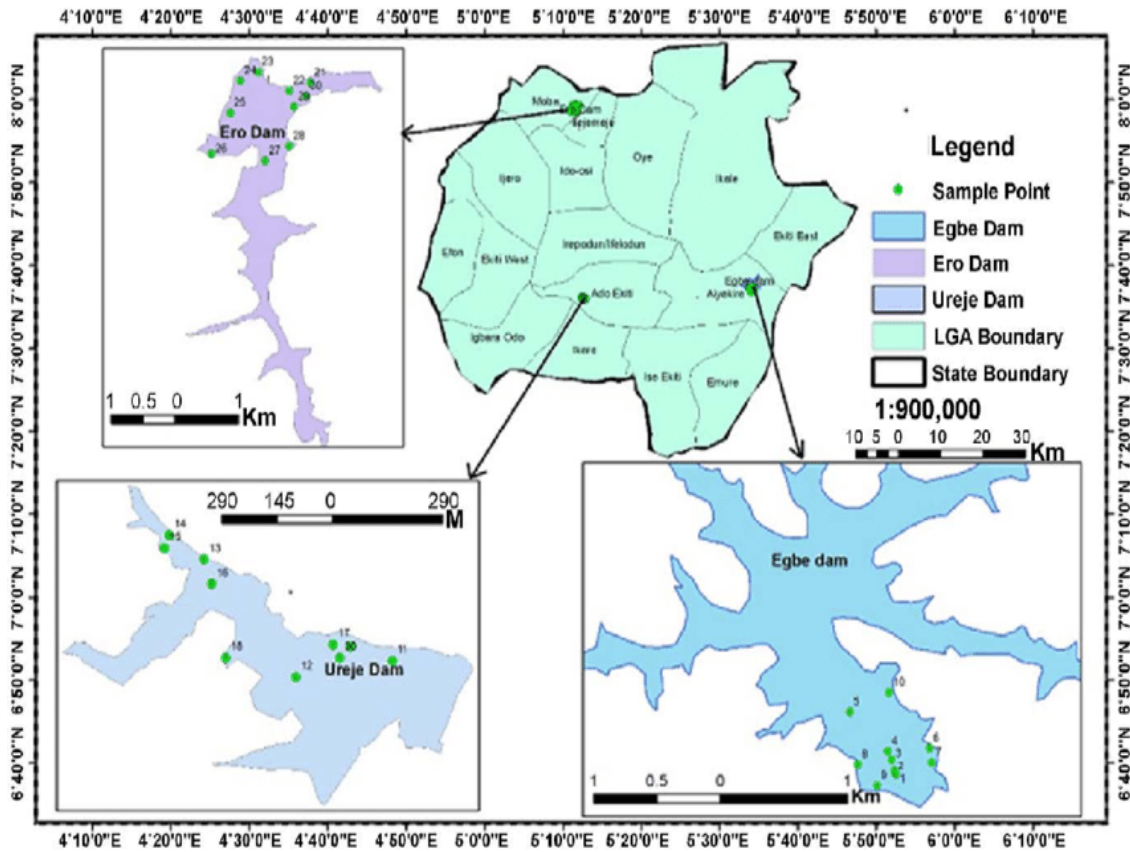


Figure 1 Map of Ekiti State showing the study area.

2.1.1. Geology

Geologically, the study area consisted basement complex sedimentary rock known as dolostone and metamorphic rock known as feldspar. The rock is generally even textured and homogenous with mineral aggregates mainly of dolomites. The rocks are rich in dolomite and also feldspar. The superficial deposits are clay, dolomites and fine sand (SiO₂). The clay is believed to have be formed from the weathering of dolomites mineral present in sedimentary rocks due to alteration of sedimentary by hydrothermal process and the dolomitic marbles due to high degree of cyclic weathering.

2.2 Experimental Procedures

The required water samples were collected at selected locations (upstream, downstream and Iworoko bridge as control) with 1000 ml plastic bottle each and field filtration was carried out through filter papers to remove suspended solids. Samples were taken at 50 cm depth of water in the morning (10 a.m) analyses were performed next day. Measured physicochemical water quality parameters were pH, EC, TDS, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻, CO₃⁻, HCO₃⁻, B, SO₄²⁻, NO₃-N and PO₄-P). Measurements replicated three times.

2.3 Measurements Of Water Quality Parameters

The pH and EC were taken in-situ using a multi parameter EC-D 1152 model and 215 model pH meters respectively. Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, K⁺ were measured using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS). Titrimetric method was used to measure for chloride, boron, nitrate, phosphate, sulphates, carbonate and bicarbonate. All the measurement was done in accordance with the American Public Health Association (APHA, 2005).

2.4 Data Analysis

SPSS program version 17.0 was used for statistical analysis. Mean values of each parameter measured was compared using Duncan’s multiple range test. The statistical inference was at 0.05 (5%) level of significance. Equations used for irrigation indices as follows:

(1) The Sodium Adsorption ratio (SAR)

$$\text{SAR} = \frac{\text{Na}^+}{\sqrt{\frac{(\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+})}{2}}}$$

Richards (1954) (1)

(2) The Residual Sodium Carbonate (RSC)

$$\text{RSC} = (\text{CO}_3^{2-} + \text{HCO}_3^-) - (\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+}) \quad \text{Easton}$$

(1950) (2)

(3) The Magnesium Adsorption ratio (MAR)

$$\text{MAR} = \frac{\text{Mg}^{2+}}{(\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+})} \times 100$$

Raghunath (1987) (3)

(4) The Kelly ratio (KR)

$$\text{KR} = \frac{\text{Na}^+ \times 100}{(\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+})} \quad \text{Kelly}$$

(1963) (4)

(5) The Potential Salinity (PS)

$$\text{PS} = \text{Cl}^- \times 0.5 \times \text{SO}_4^{2-}$$

Palacios and Aceves (1970) (5)

(6) Sodium Percentage (Na %)

$$\text{Na}\% = \frac{\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+}{\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+} \times 100$$

Wilcox (1955) (6)

(7) The Soluble sodium percentage (SSP)

$$\text{SSP} = \frac{\text{Na}^+}{\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Na}^+} \times 100$$

Todd and Mays (2005) (7)

(8) The Permeability Index (PI)

$$\text{PI} = \frac{\text{Na}^+ + (\text{HCO}_3^- \times 100)^{1/2}}{\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Na}^+}$$

Doneen (1964) (8)

(All the ions are expressed in meq/L)

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. pH

The mean of pH ranges from 7.1 - 7.4 (Table 11). The pH of water samples at the selected locations were within the specified standard limits of 6.5 - 8.5 (FAO, 2013). The pH of the water sampled ranged from neutral to basic (alkaline). pH higher than 7, carbonate becomes an issue and it may nutrients less available. The concentrations of pH in the study area were suitable for some crops except acid-loving plants such vegetables (sweet corn, cucumbers, and onions) and fruits (blue berries).

3.2 TDS and EC

They are indicators of salt concentration in water. The TDS concentration measured in the study area ranged (30 - 50) mg/L, while EC ranged (0.04 - 0.05) ds/m (Table 11). The

measured values of TDS and EC were within standard limits recommended for irrigation (FAO, 2013). There is no degree of restriction of using water for irrigation (Table 1). The EC is indicated to be excellent and classified as C1 (Table 2). Concentrations of EC were suitable for all crops that grown in the study area.

3.3 Sodium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sulphate, Bicarbonate, Carbonate, Chloride, and Boron (Cations and Anions)

The concentrations of Na⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, SO₄²⁻, HCO₃⁻, CO₃⁻, Cl⁻, and (B) range from (2.9 – 3.5) mg/L, (3.12 – 4.60) mg/L, (20.7 – 35.8) mg/L, (0.15 – 0.18) mg/L, (65.4 – 82.6) mg/L, (0.60 – 0.81) mg/L, (6.2 – 7.7), and (0.87 – 1.12) mg/L respectively (Table 11). The values were within standard limits recommended for irrigation (FAO, 2013). There is no degree of restriction especially in the concentrations of chloride and nitrate, but concentrations of boron and bicarbonate proved to be slightly moderate degree of restriction on use (Table 3). The concentration of boron is classified as good and suitable for semi-tolerant plants (Table 4). Irrigation water that contains ample calcium is most desirable, but it fall below desirable range of 40 – 120 mgL⁻¹ despite it within standard limits. Sodium, calcium and magnesium were used to establish the relationship to total salinity and to estimate the sodium hazard (SAR, Na%, KR, SSP, and PI). HCO₃⁻ levels is indicates low value and it reflects pH level. Both bicarbonate and carbonate concentrations are used to assess sodium permeability hazard especially if their levels are greater than 120 and 15 mg/L respectively. While Cl⁻ is used to estimate potential salinity which indicates salinity hazard

3.4 Potassium, Phosphate and Nitrate (Nutrients)

The concentrations of K⁺, PO₄-P, and NO₃-N range from (2.6 – 3.5) mg/L, (0.37 – 0.89), and (0.78 – 1.02) mg/L respectively (Table 11). The values were within standard limits recommended for irrigation except potassium (FAO, 2013). High concentration of potassium may be attributed to metamorphic rock and also present of feldspar which riches of potassium. Hence, it depends on the inherent property of the soil in the study area. Research conducted by U.S. Salinity Laboratory Staff (1954) proved that potassium can be expressed in term of potassium adsorption ratio (PAR) by replaced sodium with potassium concentration as what is obtained in SAR, but there are no guidelines based on standard reference related to irrigation water quality assessment (Ayers and Westcot, 1985, Wallender and Tanji, 2012). Researchers such as Arienzo et al (2009) and Rengasamy and Murchuk (2011) proved that accumulation of potassium reduces in standard hydraulic conductivity of water in soil.

Table 11 Average concentration of physicochemical parameters of the study area at selected locations

S/N	Parameters	Upstream	Downstream	Iworoko first bridge	FAO (2013)
1	pH	7.4a	7.1a	7.2a	6.5 – 8.5
2	Electricity conductivity (dS/m)	0.05a	0.04a	0.05a	0 - 3.0
3	Total dissolved solid (mg/L)	50a	30a	40a	0 - 2000
4	Chloride (mg/L)	6.1a	7.7a	7.6a	0 – 500
5	Phosphate (mg/L)	0.37a	0.41a	0.89a	0 - 2
6	Sulphate (mg/L)	0.19a	0.18a	0.15a	0 - 960
7	Bicarbonate (mg/L)	65.4a	76.3b	82.6b	0 - 300
8	Carbonate (mg/L)	0.81a	0.71a	0.60a	0 - 30
9	Nitrate (mg/L)	0.96a	1.02a	0.78a	0 - 10
10	Boron (mg/L)	0.87a	1.01a	1.12a	0 - 2
11	Sodium (mg/L)	2.9a	3.3a	3.5a	0 - 440
12	Potassium (mg/L)	2.6a	3.4a	3.5a	0 - 2
13	Calcium (mg/L)	3.12a	4.60a	4.41a	0 - 400
14	Calcium hardness (mg/L)	5.71a	8.40a	8.45a	0 - 150
15	Magnesium (mg/L)	35.8a	29.5a	20.7b	0 - 60
16	Magnesium hardness (mg/L)	10.4a	5.60b	1.90c	0 - 50

Means with similar letters do not differ ($P \geq 0.05$) significantly (horizontal comparisons only)

3.5 Irrigation Water Quality Analysis Parameters

3.5.1 Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)

Sodium is generally expressed as sodium adsorption ratio, which indicates its hazard and also relationship with concentrations of calcium and magnesium. The concentration of sodium to that of calcium and magnesium is the primary factor determining the hydraulic conductivity of water in soil. It ranges from 0.210 to 0.323 (Table 12) indicates low values which reveals that the surface water of Ero Dam is free from sodium hazard. Significant relationship between SAR values of irrigation water reflects to which Na^+ is absorbed by the soil. All the SAR in the study area is indicated to be excellent and classified as S1 (Table 5).

3.5.2 Residual Sodium Carbonate (RSC).

It serves as an alternative means of measuring the sodium hazard. It ranges from -1.103 meqL⁻¹ to 0.740 meqL⁻¹ (Table 12). The negative RSC Value indicates that dissolved calcium and magnesium ions are greater than that of carbonate and bicarbonate contents vice versa. All the RSC indicated to be safe water quality for irrigation purpose (Table 6). It serves as an indicator of soil permeability. Hence, water samples were safe according to water class set by Ayers and Westcot (1985).

3.5.3 Sodium Percentage (Na %)

It is also used for evaluation of sodium hazard. It ranges from 11.2 to 15.5 (Table 12). It indicates a low level. The entire Na% indicated to be excellent water quality for irrigation purpose (Table 7). The value depends on Na^+ , K^+ , Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} levels in water samples.

3.5.4 Potential Salinity (PS)

It is another way of expressing electrical conductivity and it is used to evaluate salinity hazard (total soluble salt

concentration) of water. It ranges from 0.359 meqL⁻¹ to 0.455 meqL⁻¹ (Table 12). It indicates a low level. The entire PS indicated to be excellent water quality for irrigation purpose (Table 8). Its value depends on Cl^- and SO_4^{2-} levels in water samples.

3.5.5 Soluble Sodium Percentage (SSP)

The value of SSP ranges from 7.73% to 10.14% (Table 12). The entire SSP values for the water surface of the study area are less than 60% and indicate good quality water for irrigation purpose (Table 9). It indicates a low level and depends on Na^+ , Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} levels in water samples. It is used to evaluate sodium hazard.

3.5.6 Kelly Ratio (KR)

The value of KR ranges from 0.084 to 0.164 (Table 12). The entire KR values for the water surface of the study area are less than 1 and indicate suitable water quality for irrigation purpose (Table 9). It indicates a low level and depends on Na^+ , Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} levels in water samples. It is used to evaluate sodium hazard.

3.5.7 Magnesium Adsorption Ratio (MAR)

The value of MAR ranges from 88.7% to 95.1% (Table 12). It is used to evaluate magnesium hazard in water quality for irrigation. The entire MAR values for the water surface of the study area are above acceptance limits of 50% indicating unsuitable for irrigation purpose (Table 9). The above result indicated magnesium hazard and adversely affects crop growth. Its value is influenced by Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} levels in water samples. The high values of observed magnesium content are due to the influence of dolomite in the area.

3.5.8 Permeability Index (PI)

PI is one of the criteria for assessing irrigation water quality. The value of PI ranges from 50.4% to 86.3% (Table 12). The above result indicated that water samples fall within water class 1 and 11 and can be categorized as good irrigation water (Doneen,

1964). It is based on long term application of water to the soil and influenced by HCO₃⁻, Na⁺, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ levels. Majority, (67%), of the study area (upstream and downstream) indicate good water for irrigation purpose, while the control indicates excellent water for irrigation purpose (Table 10).

Table 12 Summary of different indices of water parameters of study area at selected locations

Parameters	Upstream	Downstream	Iworoko Bridge (Control)
SAR (meg/L)	0.210	0.260	0.323
RSC (meg/L)	-1.103	-0.125	0.74
Na (%)	11.2	15.2	13.5
PS (meg/L)	0.359	0.455	0.447
SSP (%)	7.73	10.14	9.03
KR	0.084	0.113	0.164
MAR (%)	95.08	92.48	88.67
PI (%)	50.403	63.176	86.262

Summarily, majority (94 %) of the physicochemical parameters of water samples indicating suitable water quality for irrigation purposes. Similarly, majority, (87.5%) irrigation indexes indicated that water samples in the study area were fall under suitable/safe/excellent for irrigation purposes. Summary of water classification based irrigation indices and its occurrence is presented in Table 13

Table13: Summary of water classification based irrigation indexes and its occurrence in the study area

Irrigation Indices	WATER CLASSIFICATION			Occurrence (%)
	Upstream	Downstream	Control	
SAR	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	100
RSC	Safe	Safe	Safe	100
Na (%)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	100
PS	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	100
SSP	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	100
KR	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	100
MAR	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	100
PI	Good	Good	Excellent	67or 33

3.0 CONCLUSION

Water qualities of Ero Dam were assessed. The concentrations of the Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻), CO₃⁻, HCO₃⁻, B, SO₄²⁻, NO₃-N and PO₄-P were within the acceptance limits for irrigation purposes except potassium that above the specified limit. Evaluation of surface water quality of Ero dam were carried out using different indexes methods such as SAR, RSC, Na %, PS, SSP, KR, MAR and PI; among these, majority of indices results fall under excellent to safe and classified CISI. Therefore, the results were concluded, that the majority of surface water qualities in the study area were suitable for irrigation purpose.

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