

CLASSIFICATION AND RECLAMATION OF SALT
AFFECTED SOILS

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Observations on the characteristics, nomenclature and classification of the salt-affected or "Salsodic" soils

G. AUBERT

ORSTOM, France

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The salt-affected soils category includes all the soils whose evolution is dominated by their content of soluble salts or ions derived from them and degrading their structure which becomes diffuse. These soils can be termed "salsodic soils".

Among these can be distinguished non alkali saline soils with a non degraded structure, non or medium saline alkali soils, and very saline alkali soils, with a lamellar or swollen structure, or pseudo-sand in the surface horizon. These soils corresponded to three very distinct categories. Sodium carbonate soils are saline alkali soils in most cases. Some hydromorphic saline soils are rich in sulfides—Thionic soils. The last part of this communication gives the classification rules for these salsodic soils in the framework of the French morphogenetic soils classification (C.P.C.S.).

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The need for new criteria for the classification of sodic soils in Zimbabwe

K.W. NYAMAPFENE

Department of Land Management, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, soil surveys leading to the production of maps at detailed and semi-detailed scales have only been done in less than 9 per cent of the country. As a result, most of the criteria for classifying the soils are based on reconnaissance level observation. Extensive work currently going on to characterise sodic soils

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