**Β’AGRICULTURISTS**

**Composition of soils**

Soils are basically composed of:

• Solids which are principally formed by a) mineral or inorganic matter, such as stones, silt, clay, sand, etc. and b) organic matter, such as plants and animals’ parts that are left in the soil.

• Liquids which are mostly formed by soil water.

• Living organisms which are micro-organisms, such as earthworms, small soil animals, fungi, bacteria, etc.

• Gases –that is to say soil air– which, along with water, fill in the spaces among the soil particles.

**Soil water and tensiometers**

Soil water =The amount of water which is retained by the soil is called the moisture - holding capacity or field capacity.

It varies according to the texture and structure of the soil. If the soils have very small pores and channels, some of the water can move through the soil by means of capillary forces.

Water management should be viewed as a priority in agricultural production and development; water wastage through evaporation and drainage must be reduced to a minimum. The underlying principle of irrigation scheduling is to add only sufficient water to the soil to meet the daily requirements of a growing crop. Excess of water becomes wasted through evaporation from the soil surface or through drainage.

Tensiometers are used to measure soil tension, which is directly related to the amount of soil moisture available for plants.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the amount of water retained by the soil called?

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1. What’s the use of tensiometers?

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**VOCABULARY**

Solid=στέρεο

Liquid=υγρό

Mineral=ορυκτό

Worm=σκουλήκι/earthworm=γεωσκώληκας

Gas=αέριο

Fungus=μανιτάρι /Funghi(mushrooms)=μύκητες

Moisture=υγρασία

structure =δομή

management=διαχείριση (manage)

production=παραγωγή (produce)

wastage=κατασπατάληση (waste)

drainage=αποξήρανση (drain)

evaporation=εξάτμιση (evaporate=εξατμίζομαι)

equipment=εξοπλισμός, σύνεργα (equip)