



## USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

### [Toward Successful Pilot Implementation of Strategies for Remediation of a Salinity-Threatened Irrigated Watershed](#)

**Problem:** This study, focuses on remediation of one of the most salinity-affected irrigated regions in the U.S., the Lower Arkansas River Basin in Colorado. Existing improvement efforts in the field are being used for preliminary assessment of the field-practicality of proposed strategies and as demonstrations of their feasibility and potential. An adaptive modeling process is being used to engage stakeholders in defining the best solution strategies based on calibrated model predictions and refined by field assessments and demonstrations. As a result of these processes, a pilot program is being designed to assess within a representative canal command area the most promising solution strategies. The pilot program will be used for the final assessment and refinement of strategies for large-scale implementation of sustainable and effective water management throughout the watershed. We have been broadcasting a vision for potential improvements of the watershed by publicizing existing results regarding promising solution strategies. We have also made numerous presentations and conducted a workshop in the area. We are in the process of implementing some of the demonstration sites and continue to work with the local groups (e.g. water conservation districts and canal boards).

**Impacts:** Through our outreach activities, we have reached a large audience through mass-circulation newspapers and have communicated with hundreds of people involved in the region's agriculture through workshop events. These personal connections with local residents will serve us well as we work in evaluating solution strategies for the salinity problem in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

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