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ESTIMATION OF IRRIGATION NEEDS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS CHANGEABILITY IN THE MID-WIELKOPOLSKA REGION

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ABSTRACT. The issue of water deficit in the areas utilized agriculturally is one of the most important problems in focus of agricultural services. The issue of estimation of irrigation needs against the background of climatic conditions changeability presents a practical aspect, apart from theoretical one. The Wielkopolska region is an area endangered by water deficits. The shortage of water in arable areas in May and July amounts on the average from 10 to 35 mm (monthly).

Key words: climatic conditions, temperature, precipitation, irrigations

Introduction

Climatic conditions are formed mainly by three processes creating the climate: heat, moisture and atmospheric circulation (**Martyn** 1987). Wielkopolska, as compared to other Polish regions, is regarded as the area of the highest water deficit (**Kędziora** 1991, 1993, **Koczarowska** 1964, **Pasławski** 1992). It is mainly the result of relatively low atmospheric precipitation sums. The annual mean of precipitation from the period of 1951-1999 did not exceed 550 mm for the area of the middle part of Wielkopolska, especially for the regions of the Gnieźnieńskie and Poznańskie Lakelands – annual mean of days with precipitation period oscillated from 145 to 175. Long-lasting periods without precipitation which can turn into soil droughts and next hydrological ones are especially unfavourable for soil water balance. 12-14 drought periods are observed on the average in the area covered by mid-Wielkopolska while even up to 20 in the areas of the Gnieźnieńskie and Poznańskie Lakelands. The publication by **Galęzewska** and **Kapuściński** (1978) presents the described probability of the occurrence of drought and drought period in central Wielkopolska.

The second 10-day period of May, the first and the second 10-day periods of June, the second 10-day period of July, the second 10-day period of August, as well as the first 10-day period of September (Galżewska and Kapuściński 1978) are especially unfavourable periods for plant vegetation and show a high probability of the occurrence of droughts exceeding 40%. First periods (May, June) are especially dangerous since they are periods when most important phenological stages of development of economically vital arable plants occur; sprouting of rare potato varieties, florescence of corn, caring of corn etc. Figure 1 presents the zones of water demands in Poland. It can be observed, at the same time, that the Wielkopolska region is characterized by the highest precipitation deficits and higher irrigation demands, category I and II (Drupka 1986).

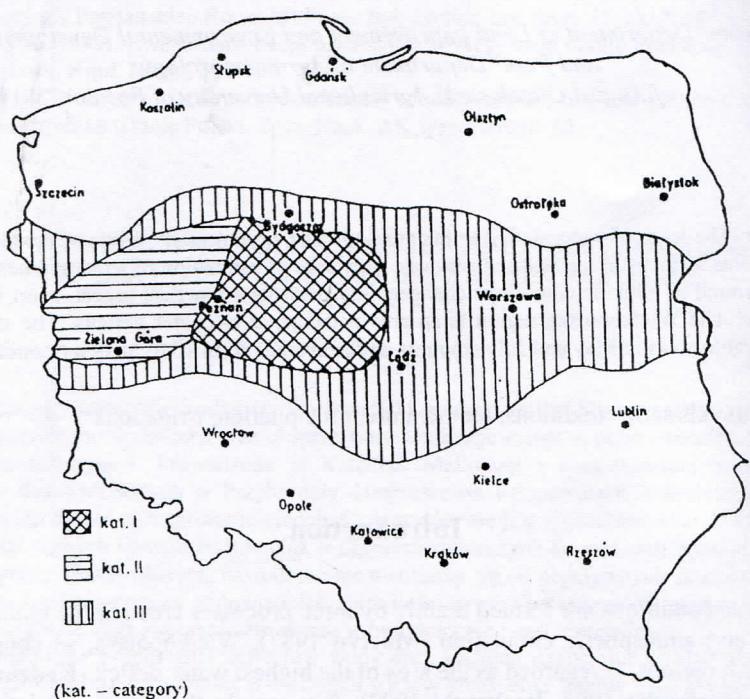


Fig. 1. Water needs zones in Poland, categories I and II – highest precipitation deficits and highest irrigation demands in mid-Wielkopolska

Ryc. 1. Strefy potrzeb wodnych w Polsce, kategorie I i II – największe deficyty opadów oraz największe potrzeby nawodnienia w środkowej Wielkopolsce

The climatic characteristics of mid-Wielkopolska

The area of this part of Wielkopolska shows mean annual atmospheric precipitation in 1970-1999 period from 500 to 550 mm. The precipitation sum in the vegetation period (IV-IX) oscillated from 250 mm to 300 mm and in dry years did not exceed half the volume, presenting the level of about 120 mm. The area presents one of highest water deficits which is the effect of a high frequency of periods without precipitation.

According to Rojek (1987) mean values of climatic water balances from many-year periods for the summer half-year range from 120 to 150 mm, and in a dry year having a probability of 10% water shortages reached 250 mm. The region of Wielkopolska is situated in the first zone of irrigation applications (Drupka 1986) which includes its mid-part analysed in the publication. According to the Departments' own investigations, many-year mean precipitation sum from 1986-1999 for the vegetation period reached 533 mm, and differentiation of precipitation deficits amounted from 6 mm to 131 mm.

The observed climatic warming is also of significance for agricultural production since meteorological conditions – temperature and precipitation, as well as the length of the vegetation season – influence both the quantity and quality of production and types of cultivations. At the same time, plant water demands play a vital role in the processes taking place on the boarder: atmosphere – plant – soil; it happens through quantitative and qualitative influence on the processes of energy and mass exchange.

Table 1 presents changes in the structure of soil use in the periods between 1864 and 1893 and 1930-1939, as well as in 1950, 1970 and 1999. The included data show that the percentage share of arable lands was gradually decreasing from 74.5% to 62.2% and Table 2 presents yielding in Wielkopolska in the years 1918-1999.

Both the quality and distribution of atmospheric precipitation, structure of land use and moisture conditions of a habitat influence water balance of a given region. Changes of moisture conditions of habitats will evolve changes of heat balance structure in the conditions of the expected global warming. An increase of air temperature will cause some rise of evapotranspiration which will, as a result, bring about an increase of drying up. It can also result in an increase of precipitation and creation of marshy areas in moist region.

The area of mid-Wielkopolska belongs to the zones of lowest atmospheric precipitation. The highest precipitation sums were noticed in July of 1956-1975 and their values increased towards South and East (Kapuściński 2000).

Table 1
Structure of land use in Wielkopolska (%)
Struktura użytkowania ziemi w Wielkopolsce (%)

Land use type Rodzaj użytkowania	Years – Lata				
	1864-1893	1930-1939	1950	1970	1999
Arable lands Grunty orne	61.3	63.5	62.7	56.4	52.2
Meadows Łąki	8.2	7.1	7.4	7.9	7.5
Pastures Pastwiska	50	3.4	3.5	3.1	2.5
Agricultural land total Razem użytki rolne	74.5	74.0	73.6	67.4	62.2
Forest, waters, underflows etc. Lasy, wody, cieki i inne	25.5	26.0	26.4	32.6	37.8
Total Ogółem	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2

Yielding in Wielkopolska in the years 1918-1999 (dt/ha)
Plonowanie w Wielkopolsce w latach 1918-1999 (dt/ha)

Cultivable plant Roślina uprawna	Years – Lata				
	1918-1919	1934-1938	1962	1970	1999
Wheat – Pszenica	19.3	14.8	23.9	25.4	40.9
Rye – Źotto	15.2	13.4	18.9	17.5	25.5
Barley – Jęczmień	19.0	15.8	24.4	25.8	36.7
Potatoes – Ziemniaki	136.5	133.0	149.0	199.0	169.0
Beets — Buraki	—	232.0	259.0	327.0	252.0

The seasonal course of climatic water balance components seasonal for the three forms use of land is shown in Figures 2-4. The Figures present the seasonal changeability of climatic water balance components. The changeability is the difference between the measured atmospheric precipitation and real evapotranspiration ($P - ETr$). The calculated values characteristic for the mean year were obtained on the basis of the data from 1956-1975 and 1961 (moist year), as well as 1972 (dry year). The highest values of real evapotranspiration in relation to precipitation were observed in May and June, in the period of highest water demands. On the average, the shortage of water for arable lands in the period oscillated between 10-35 mm a month.

Figure 2 presents the annual course of climatic water balance for arable lands for the mean year of 1956-1975 period and a moist year 1961 and dry year 1972; Figure 3

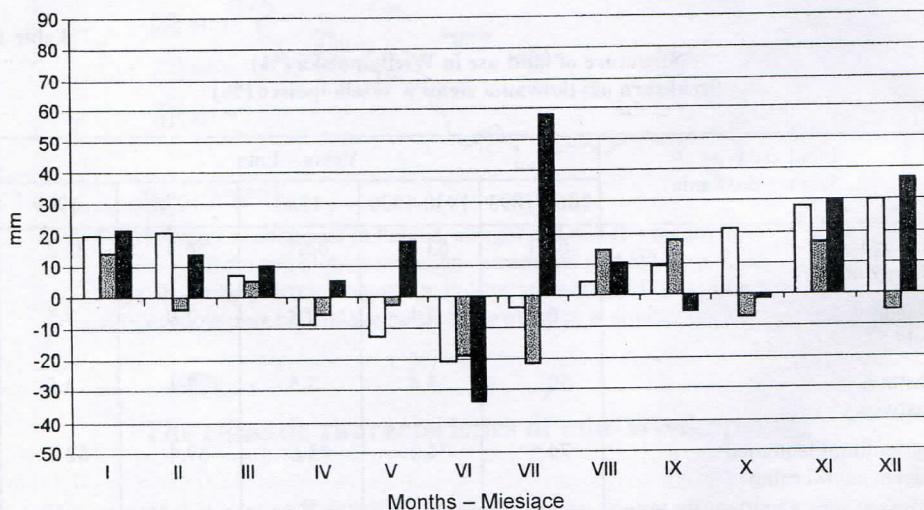


Fig. 2. Annual course of water climatic balance for arable lands in: □ – mean years (1956-1975), ■ – wet year (1961) and ▨ – dry year (1972) in the mid-Wielkopolska region
Ryc. 2. Roczný bieg klimatycznego bilansu wodnego dla gruntów ornych w: □ – latach średnich (1956-1975), ■ – roku mokrym (1961) i ▨ – suchym (1972) w środkowej Wielkopolsce

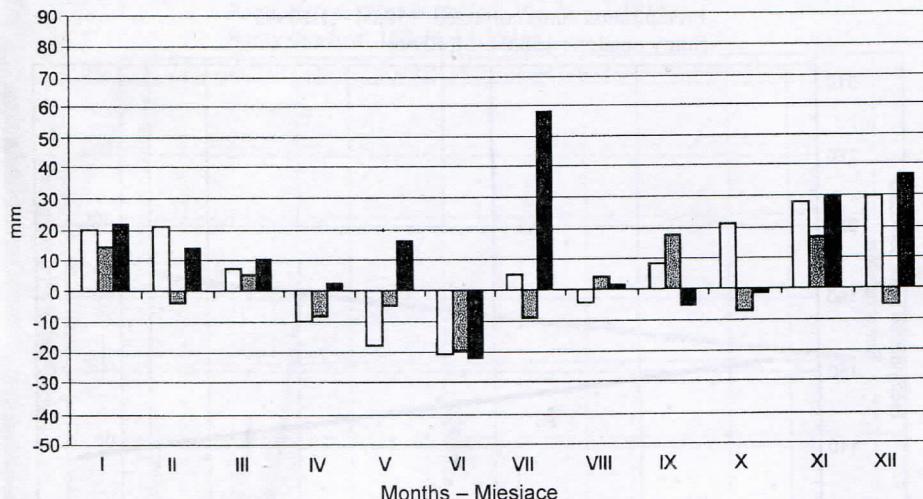


Fig. 3. Annual course of water climatic balance for meadows and pastures in: □ – mean years (1956-1975), ■ – wet year (1961) and ▨ – dry year (1972) in the mid-Wielkopolska region
Ryc. 3. Rocznny bieg klimatycznego bilansu wodnego dla łąk i pastwisk w: □ – latach średnich (1956-1975), ■ – roku mokrym (1961) i ▨ – suchym (1972) w środkowej Wielkopolsce

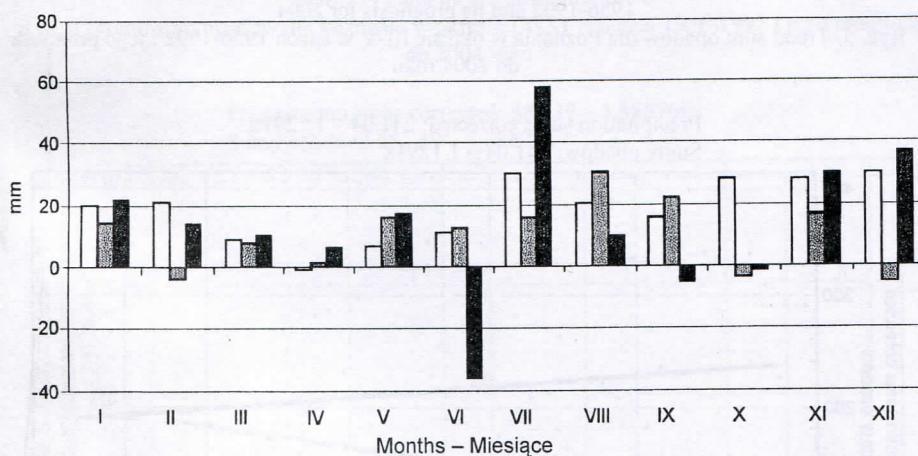


Fig. 4. Annual course of water climatic balance for non-arable lands in: □ – mean years (1956-1975), ■ – wet year (1961) and ▨ – dry year (1972) in the mid-Wielkopolska region
Ryc. 4. Rocznny bieg klimatycznego bilansu wodnego dla nieużytków w: □ – latach średnich (1956-1975), ■ – roku mokrym (1961) i ▨ – suchym (1972) w środkowej Wielkopolsce

shows the annual course of climatic water balance for meadows and Figure 4 for waste land. Figures 5-8 illustrate trends of precipitation sums in Poznań for chosen periods from 1956-1992 and also in the weather forecast till 2004. Figure 5 is an illustration of the spring period (III-V), Figure 6 – of summer period (VI-VIII), Figure 7 – of autumn period (IX-XI), and Figure 8 – of annual period (I-XII). All the trends included in the publication point to decreasing precipitation values in 1956-1992 and in the weather forecast till 2004 (Kapuściński 2000).

Precipitation sums corrected: $158.04 - 1.1099x$
 Sumy opadów: $158,04 - 1,1099x$

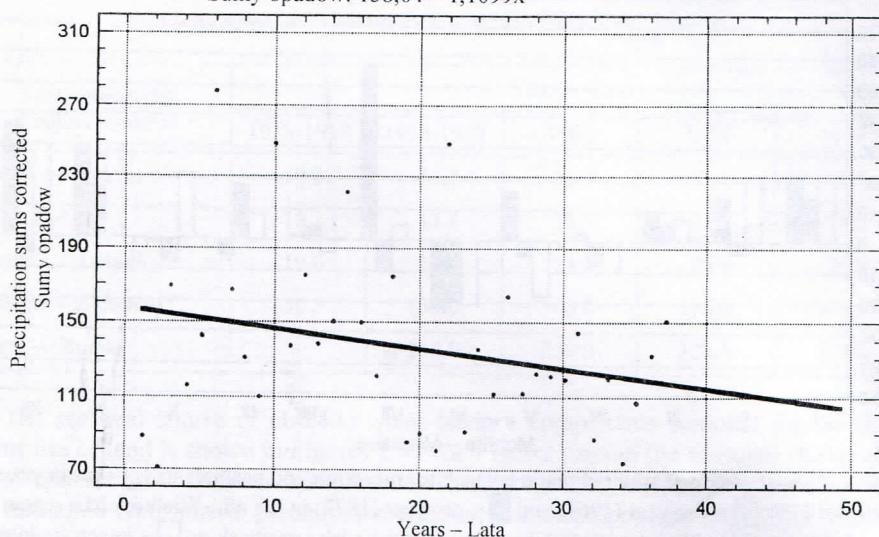


Fig. 5. Trend of precipitation sums corrected for Poznań in period of III-V in the years 1956-1992 and its prognosis for 2004

Ryc. 5. Trend sum opadów dla Poznania w okresie III-V w latach 1956-1992 i jego prognoza do 2004 roku

Precipitation sums corrected: $241.04 - 1.1291x$
 Sumy opadów: $241,04 - 1,1291x$

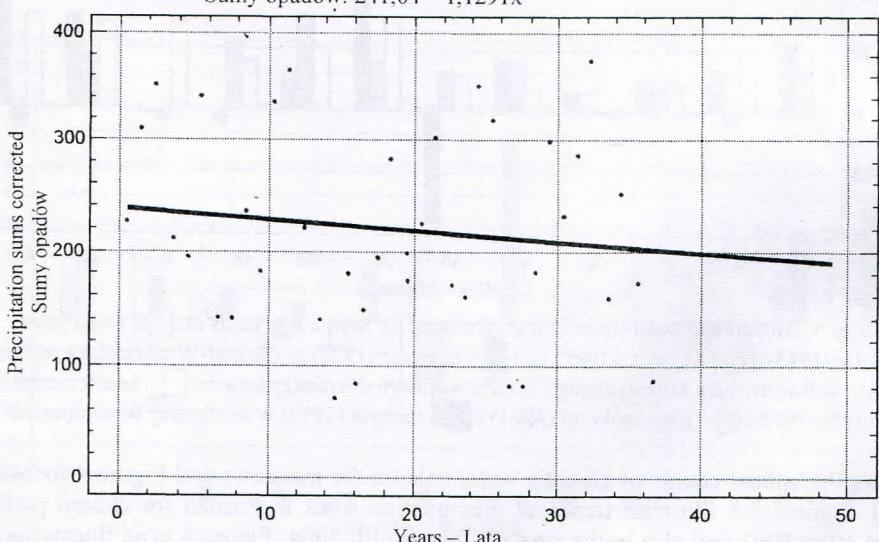


Fig. 6. Trend of precipitation sums corrected for Poznań in period of VI-VIII in the years 1956-1992 and its prognosis for 2004

Ryc. 6. Trend sum opadów dla Poznania w okresie VI-VIII w latach 1956-1992 i jego prognoza do 2004 roku

Precipitation sums corrected: $162.34 - 1.1911x$

Sumy opadów: $162,34 - 1,1911x$

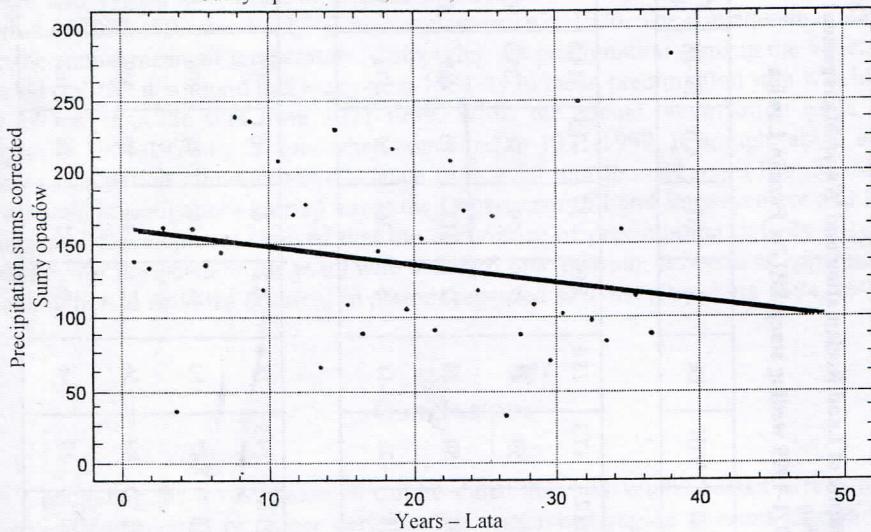


Fig. 7. Trend of precipitation sums corrected for Poznań in period of IX-XI in the years 1956-1992 and its prognosis for 2004

Ryc. 7. Trend sum opadów dla Poznania w okresie IX-XI w latach 1956-1992 i jego prognoza do 2004 roku

Precipitation sums corrected: $682.39 - 3.38876x$

Sumy opadów: $682,39 - 3,38876x$

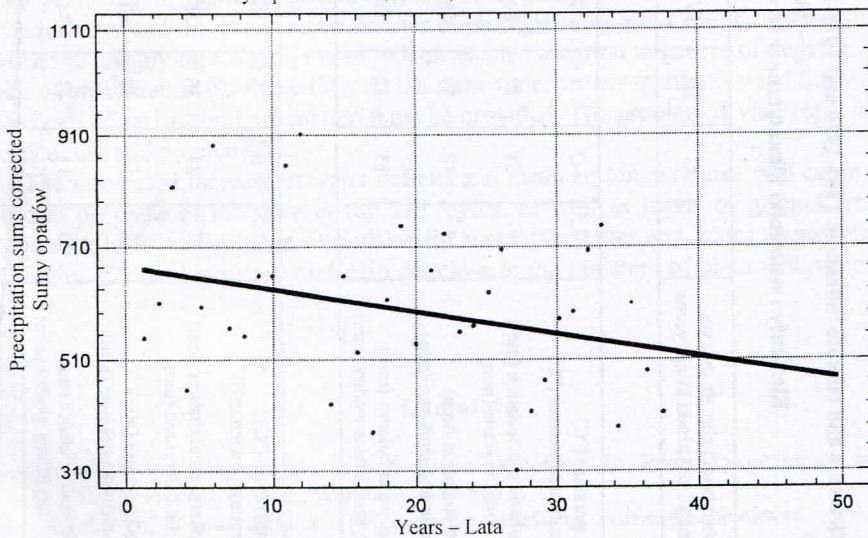


Fig. 8. Trend of precipitation sums corrected for Poznań in periods of I-XII in the years 1956-1992 and its prognosis for 2004

Ryc. 8. Trend sum opadów dla Poznania w okresie I-XII w latach 1956-1992 i jego prognoza do 2004 roku

Table 3
Elements and climate indexes in 1951-1970 and 1971-1999 according to Institute of Land Reclamation and Water Management
– the Poznań Lawica station

While analysing Table 3, which contains basic climatic data for the periods: 1951-1970 and 1971-1999, it can be noticed that the mean temperature for the vegetation period of 1977-1999 was by 2.2°C higher, than in 1951-1970. The rise equalled to 1.8°C for the annual mean air temperature. Comparing the precipitation sums in the vegetation period (IV-IX) it is found that many-year 1951-1970 mean precipitation sum was higher by 27 mm than the sum from 1971-1999. While the annual precipitation sums were higher in 1951-1970 by 30 mm when compared to 1971-1999. It brought about an increase in a deficit climatic water balance from - 60 mm to - 90 mm (Tab. 3). Many-year field investigations carried out at the Department of Land Improvement and Environmental Development showed that the occurrence of precipitation deficits is typical not only for dry years or for years with standard precipitation. It becomes apparent that water deficit in soil also occurred in periods regarded as moist (**Przybyla** 1994, 1995).

Conclusions

Concluding the investigations it can be stated that mid-Wielkopolska is regarded as a region endangered by water deficits. The researched region presents demands for irrigation not only in post drought periods (**Przybyla** 1994, 1995). Usefulness of applying irrigations to the highest extent depends on natural conditions which are not very favourable for the region. It is both proved by agricultural usability of soils which do not present high retentional capabilities and their position in the area of highest precipitation deficits. They are main natural factors influencing the purposefulness of irrigations and describing irrigation demands for the region. Deficits of climatic water balance occurring in the area of mid-Wielkopolska (**Kapuściński** 2000), their temporal changeability and the observed tendencies of changes fully prove the indispensability of irrigations. Applying irrigation is an indispensable condition to get rid of negative influence of precipitation changeability. At the same time, proper qualitative and quantitative standards of agricultural production must be provided. The problem is vital especially in horticulture and pomiculture.

The forecasted increase of water deficits and mean air temperatures will cause a significant decrease of moisture in top soil layers, as well as levels of ground water. It frequently leads to depletion of both easily accessible water and water accessible with difficulty. The soil moisture may also get close to the moisture of plant wilting in some periods.

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OCENA POTRZEB NA WODNIEŃ NA TLE ZMIENNOŚCI WARUNKÓW KLIMATYCZNYCH W ŚRODKOWEJ WIELKOPOLSCIE

S t r e s z c z e n i e

Występujący na terenie środkowej Wielkopolski znaczny deficyt klimatycznego bilansu wodnego, duża zmienność czasowa oraz obserwowane tendencje zmian w pełni uzasadniają potrzebę stosowania nawodnień. Prowadzone w Katedrze Melioracji i Kształtowania Środowiska – w stacjach doświadczalnych w Przybrodzie, Niepruszewie i Sapowicach – wieloletnie badania polowe wykazały, że występowanie niedoborów opadów nie jest zjawiskiem charakterystycznym tylko dla lat suchych i średnich. Również w okresach zaliczanych do mokrych wystąpiły deficyty wody w glebie. Bez stosowania nawodnień nie uwolnimy się od negatywnych skutków zmienności opadów i nie zapewnmy odpowiednich norm ilościowych i jakościowych w produkcji rolnej, co ma szczególnie duże znaczenie zwłaszcza w ogrodnictwie i sadownictwie.

Prognozowane zwiększenie deficytów wody oraz średnich temperatur powietrza spowoduje znaczne zmniejszenie wilgotności wierzchnich warstw gleby oraz stanów wód gruntowych. Przewodzi to do wyczerpania nie tylko wody łatwo dostępnej, lecz także wody trudno dostępnej. W pewnych okresach wilgotność gleby zbliża się do wilgotności więdnienia roślin.

Reasumując, można zaliczyć środkową Wielkopolskę do obszarów zagrożonych deficytami wody, wymagających stosowania nawodnień nie tylko w latach posuszyjących. Celowość nawodnień zależy w dużym stopniu od warunków przyrodniczych, które dla Wielkopolski nie są najkorzystniejsze. Świadczy o tym wartość użytkowo-rolnicza gleb, które charakteryzują się niezbyt dużymi zdolnościami retencyjnymi oraz położeniem w strefie najbardziej dotkliwych niedoborów opadów. Są to główne czynniki wpływające na celowość stosowania nawodnień w tym regionie.