

EVALUATING SOME PAN COEFFICIENT EQUATIONS UNDER FAYOUM CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT: Reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) is an important component in water management of irrigated crops. Reliable estimation of ET_o using pan evaporation (E_{pan}) depends on the accurate determination of pan coefficient (K_p). This study was carried out to evaluate eight K_p equations (Cuenca (1989), Allen and Pruitt (1991), Snyder (1992), Orang (1998), Raghuwanshi and Wallender (1998), Allen *et al.* (1998), Grismer *et al.* (2002) and Snyder *et al.* (2005)) using climate data for a 10-year (January 1997–December 2006) period obtained from Atsa Weather Station, Fayoum Governorate. The accuracy of the K_p equations to estimate ET_o and crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) by comparing them against FAO Penman-Monteith (FAO-PM) equation (1998) and ET_c of grain sorghum based estimates of means, standard deviation (SD), percent error (PE), linear coefficient of determination (R²), linear regressions, and standard error of estimate (SEE) was also investigated. These comparisons led to select the suitable equation for estimating K_p under the environmental conditions of Fayoum Governorate. Under these conditions, all tested equations gained similar and lower results than those of FAO-PM and ET_c of grain sorghum, except with the K_p calculated by Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation that provided more accurate estimates when compared to FAO-PM and ET_c of grain sorghum. The K_p data from Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation to estimate ET_o was close to the FAO-PM where the PE value was close to zero, the regression coefficient was close to 1.0, with the lowest SEE and it had the highest R² value. Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation was also ranked first for estimating the mean daily and seasonal ET_c, PE, coefficient (a) and SEE. The mean daily and seasonal ET_c from Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation were close to the

mean daily and seasonal ETC of grain sorghum. In addition, the PE was close to the ETC of grain sorghum with the lowest SEE. Finally, the regression coefficient (a) was closest to 1.0. As wind speed and relative humidity are unavailable at pan evaporation sites, Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation was found to be the most suitable one to estimate ETC.

Key words: Crop coefficient, evaporation and evapotranspiration.

INTRODUCTION

In arid and semiarid regions, there is a great need to increase limited water resources. One of the most important ways is to manage the crop irrigation, increase water use efficiency and conserve water. Any water saving could be used in the new expansion of the reclaimed soils. A good estimation of evapotranspiration is vital for proper water management because it improves water use efficiency, water productivity and efficient farming practices. Estimates of ETC are important in irrigation planning and scheduling, overall crop and irrigation system management in large-scale producing areas. ETC can be determined from ETO, which is calculated using various weather parameters obtained from a weather station, or from evaporation pan data that are calibrated for wind and humidity conditions.

Phene and Campbell (1975)

reported that many different methods for estimating ETO have been developed, most of which are complex and require a significant number of weather parameters. They also added that, evaporation pans are used extensively throughout the world because of the simplicity of the method and ease of data interpretation.

Doorenbos and Pruitt (1977) cleared that a high correlation between Epan and ETO could be obtained when evaporation pans are properly maintained and interpreted. They also, added that the ratio of ETO to Epan defines the K_p whose values range from 0.40 to 0.85 and provides an essential calibration factor that depends on the prevailing upwind fetch distance, average daily wind speed, and relative humidity conditions associated with the sitting of the evaporation pan.

The Epan data are often used to estimate ETO for a short canopy for use in irrigation scheduling and

water resources' planning. Commonly, ETo is estimated as the product of the Epan data and a Kpan: $ETo = Kp \times Epan$ (Snyder *et al.*, 2005).

In Egypt, Eid *et al.* (1982) used the evaporation pan method for scheduling irrigation of maize and Egyptian clover in the agro-climatological regions; Sakha in Kafr El- Sheikh and Giza 1 in Giza Governorates respectively. Recently, class A pan evaporation records were used in scheduling irrigation for many crops; El-Marsafawy (2000) for wheat crop in Middle Egypt, Rayan *et al.* (2000) for cotton in upper Egypt, Abdou (2004) in El-Fayoum Governorate, for grain sorghum crop and Ertek, *et al.* (2006) for cucumber in Turkey.

There are many equations to calculate Kp, and these equations should give reliable results when applied to climatic conditions similar to those where they were developed. These equations, however, require testing or calibration when they are used under different climatic conditions. The accuracy and reliability of the equations may differ from one location to another (Irmak *et al.*, 2002).

Allen *et al.* (1998) indicated that the use of tables or the corresponding equations may not be sufficient to consider all local environmental factors influencing Kp and that local adjustment may be required. To do so, an appropriate calibration of Epan against ETo computed with the FAO-PM method is recommended. The International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expert consultation on revision of (FAO) methodologies for crop water requirements (Smith *et al.* 1992) recommended that the FAO-PM equation could be used as the standard method to estimate ETo. More recently, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) also recommended that the FAO-PM equation could be used to estimate ETo (ASCE-EWRI, 2005). The ASCE equation for ETo using daily data is identical to that of Allen *et al.* (1998) and Smith *et al.* (1992), but the hourly equation is slightly different (i.e., the canopy resistance is fixed at 70 sm^{-1} in the FAO hourly equation, whereas it is 50 sm^{-1} during daytime and 200 sm^{-1} during nighttime in the ASAE recommendation).

Estimating ETo with FAO-PM equation frequently results in a good agreement with the observed data from lysimeters (Jensen *et al.*, 1990 and Steiner *et al.*, 1991). El-Saadawy (2004) studied the relative performance of six different equations on Bostan region (Nobaria sector, Egypt). He recommended that, a map of Kp for different areas in Egypt should be created to help farmers in estimating the quantity of water that could be applied.

This study was planted to: 1) evaluate the accuracy of Kp equations to estimate ETo by comparing them against the FAO-PM equation under the climatic conditions of Fayoum Governorate, 2) test the accuracy of Kp equations for estimating ETc ($E_{pan} \times K_p \times K_c$) by comparing them against the ETc of grain sorghum crop under Fayoum Governorate climatic conditions carried out by (Abdou, 2004).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area and Weather Station

Monthly mean weather data for a 10-year (January 1997–December 2006) period were obtained from Atsa weather

station, Fayoum Governorate, where' Longitude is 30°.85' E, Latitude is 29°.3' N, Altitude is -25 m and the fetch (F) of short vegetation around the evaporation pan is 1000 m. Monthly mean relative humidity, wind speed and class A pan evaporation for Atsa Weather Station are shown in Fig.1.

Equations Used to Calculate Pan Coefficient

In the last decade, several Kp equations have been developed, including Cuenca (1989), Allen and Pruitt (1991), Snyder (1992), Orang (1998) and Raghuvanshi and Wallender (1998). The equations developed by Cuenca (1989), Snyder (1992) and Raghuvanshi and Wallender (1998) were based on the FAO-24 Kp table, while those of Allen and Pruitt (1991) and Orang (1998) were developed using the original Kp data that were first published in Allen and Pruitt (1991) and upon which the FAO-24 table was developed. Grismer *et al.* (2002) followed the Snyder (1992) approach, but based their equation on the original data table and referred to it as the Grismer *et al.* (2002) equation.

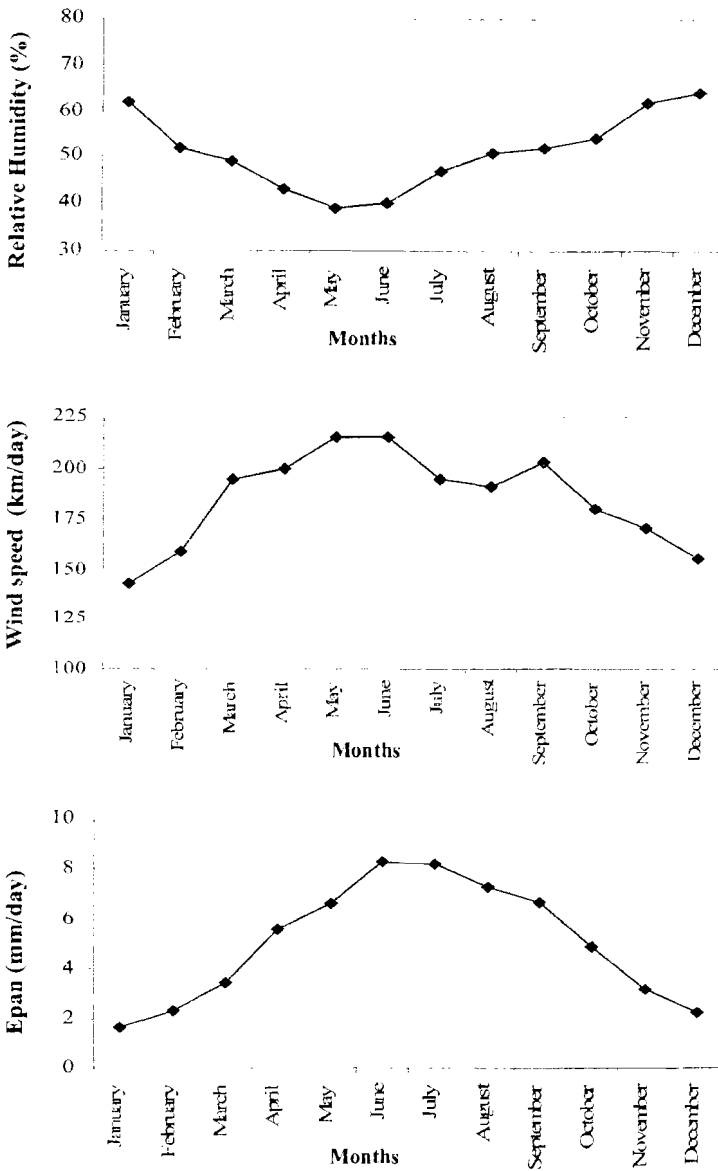


Fig. 1. Monthly mean relative humidity, wind speed and class A pan evaporation of average of ten years for Atsa Station

The derived Allen *et al.* (1998) regression equation was based on the original Kp table. Snyder *et al.* (2005) developed a new model to estimate ETo where the Epan data were first adjusted to estimate evaporation from a pan with 100m of fetch (Epan₁₀₀) and then the Kp values were estimated as a function of the Epan₁₀₀ rate. This will be used to eliminate the need for wind speed and relative humidity data and simplifies the conversion of Epan to ETo.

The equations to calculate daily Kp are summarized as:

1) Cuenca (1989)

$$K_p = 0.475 - 2.4 \times 10^{-4}(U) + 5.16 \times 10^{-3}(RH) + 1.18 \times 10^{-3}(F) - 1.6 \times 10^{-5}(RH)^2 - 1.01 \times 10^{-6}(F)^2 - 8.0 \times 10^{-9}(RH)^2(U) - 1.0 \times 10^{-8}(RH)^2(F) \dots (1)$$

2) Allen and Pruitt (1991)

$$K_p = 0.108 - 0.000331(U) + 0.0422 \ln(F) + 0.1434 \ln(RH) - 0.000631 [\ln(F)]^2 \ln(H) \dots (2)$$

3) Snyder (1992)

$$K_p = 0.482 - 0.000376(U) + 0.024 \ln(F) + 0.0045(RH) \dots (3)$$

4) Orang (1998)

$$K_p = 0.51206 - 0.000321(U) + 0.002889(RH) + 0.031886 \ln(F) - 0.000107H \ln(F) \dots (4)$$

5) Grismer *et al.* (2002)

$$K_p = 0.5321 - 0.0003(U) + 0.0249 \ln(F) + 0.0025(RH) \dots (5)$$

Where:

RH = Daily mean relative humidity (%),

U = Daily mean wind run (km/day),

F = Fetch distance (m) defined by Doorenbos and Pruitt (1977).

6) Raghuwanshi and Wallender (1998)

$$K_p = 0.5944 + 0.0242 X_1 - 0.0583 X_2 - 0.1333 X_3 - 0.2083 X_4 + 0.0812 X_5 + 0.1344 X_6 \dots (6)$$

Where:

X1 = ln(F);
 X2, X3, X4 = 0 (if category is not present) or 1 (if present), corresponding to wind run categories of 175–425, 425–700, and > 700 km/day, respectively;
 X5, X6 = 0 (if category is not present) or 1 (if present), corresponding to relative humidity categories of 40–70 and > 70%, respectively.

7) Allen *et al.* (1998)

$$K_p = 0.108 - 0.0286(U) + 0.0422 \ln(F) + 0.1434 \ln(RH) - 0.000631 [\ln(F)]^2 \ln(RH) \dots\dots\dots(7)$$

Where: U daily mean wind run, m/s.

8) Snyder *et al.* (2005)

$$E_{pan100} = E_{pan} \times F_{100} \dots\dots\dots(8)$$

$$F_{100} = -0.0035(\ln(F))^2 + 0.0622(\ln(F)) + 0.79 \dots\dots\dots(9)$$

$$ET_o = 10 \sin \left[\left(\frac{E_{pan100}}{192} \right) \frac{\pi}{2} \right] \dots\dots\dots(10)$$

E_{pan100} : pan evaporation for 100m of fetch (F_{100}),

The FAO-PM equation was used with the daily meteorological data to estimate ET_o , and these values were compared to the ET_o obtained from ($E_{pan} \times K_p$) calculated from previous equations. The daily-time-step, FAO-PM equation as given by Allen *et al.* (1998) is as follows:

$$ET_o = \frac{0.408\Delta(R_n - G) + \gamma \frac{900}{(T_{mean} + 273)} u_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + 0.34U_2)} \dots\dots\dots(11)$$

Where:

Δ = Slope of the saturation vapor pressure curve at air temperature (kPa $^{\circ}C^{-1}$),

R_n = Net radiation at the crop surface (MJm $^{-2}$ d $^{-1}$),

G = Soil heat flux density (MJm $^{-2}$ d $^{-1}$),

γ = Psychrometric constant = $0.665 \times 10^{-3} \times P$, kPa $^{\circ}C^{-1}$ (Allen *et al.*, 1998),

U_2 = Wind speed at 2 m height (m s $^{-1}$),

e_s = saturation vapor pressure (kPa),

e_a = actual vapor pressure (kPa),

($e_s - e_a$) = saturation vapor pressure deficit (kPa)

T_{mean} = mean daily air temperature at 2m height ($^{\circ}C$).

Assessment of Pan Coefficient Equations

Assessment of the relative performance of each (K_p) equation was based on:

- Comparing mean, standard deviation (SD), percent error (PE%), linear coefficients of determination (R^2), linear regression (Y) and standard errors of estimate (SEE) against K_p equations to estimate ET_o and FAO-PM.

- Comparing ET_c estimated by K_p

equations ($ET_c = K_p \times E_{pan} \times K_a$) and measuring ET_c of grain sorghum crop under Fayoum Governorate conditions with the results reported by (Abdou, 2004).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 10-year means of monthly measured class A evaporation E_{pan} are given in Fig. 1 showing that the peak values of E_{pan} at the Atsa weather station occur in June and July (8.28 and 8.21 mm/day), respectively. The daily E_{pan} values ranged from 1.70 mm/day in January to 8.28 mm/day in the peak month of June.

To find the best indicators and assess reliability of ET_o equation to match the FAO-PM; the mean predicted ET_o , standard deviation (SD), percent error (PE %), linear regression (Y), the linear coefficients of determination (R^2) and standard errors of estimate (SEE) were calculated by comparing the above equations results with those obtained from FAO-PM equation specific to the Atsa station. The results are summarized in Table 1 and Fig. 2.

PE of mean daily estimates of each method was computed relative to the FAO-PM Table 1. A

positive or negative PE indicates overestimation or underestimation compared to the FAO-PM, respectively. A linear regression analysis was calculated using the equation ET_o values (Y) as the dependent variable and the FAO-PM values (X) as the independent variable. The regression was forced through the origin giving the equation: $Y = a X$

The coefficient (a) is the slope of the regression line through the origin. To choose the most suitable equation, Parmele and McGuinness (1974) reported that the best method is the one with the slope 'a' closest to unity, the smallest SEE, and the highest R^2 . Other literature indicates that the best equation gives a PE that is close to zero with mean predicted ET_o close to FAO-PM.

As shown in Table 1, the mean values of ET_o ranged between 3.87 ± 0.0175 for Grismer *et al.* (2002) equation to 5.01 ± 0.0207 for FAO-PM equation (1998). All equations underestimated PE relative to the FAO-PM equation. Also all equations similar results than those of FAO-PM, but ET_o estimated by Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation (4.13 mm/day) was closest to that obtained from FAO-PM (5.01 mm/day).

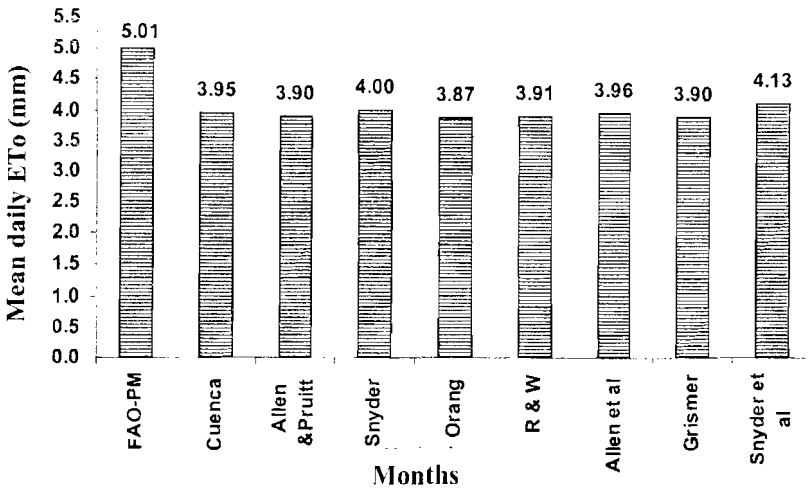


Fig. 2. The mean daily ET₀ from Kp and FAO-PM equations

Table 1. The mean daily of ET₀, SD, PE, coefficient (a), R² and SEE estimated by Kp equations and FAO-PM equation

Methods	Mean mm/day	SD	PE (%)	a	R ²	SEE
FAO-PM	5.01	0.0207	--	--	--	--
Cuenca	3.95	0.0180	-22.38	0.7964	0.956	1.206
Allen & Pruitt	3.90	0.0177	-23.21	0.7872	0.956	1.254
Snyder	4.00	0.0177	-20.70	0.8032	0.947	1.180
Grismer <i>et al.</i>	3.87	0.0175	-23.81	0.7801	0.956	1.291
Orang	3.91	0.0178	-23.18	0.7879	0.957	1.249
R&W	3.96	0.0179	-21.83	0.7968	0.940	1.225
Allen <i>et al.</i>	3.90	0.0177	-23.21	0.7872	0.956	1.254
Snyder <i>et al.</i>	4.13	0.0184	-18.79	0.8309	0.969	1.005

The Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation produced remarkable estimates of the daily ETo that resulted in the mean daily ETo which was close to the FAO-PM Table 1. The PE = -18.79% is close to zero. Regression coefficient from the Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation was the closest value to 1.0 it had the lowest SEE, and the highest R² values Table 1. The Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation gave ETo value close to the FAO-PM among all methods.

The results obtained from Atsa weather station are in agreement with that of Snyder *et al.* (2005), who pointed out that their equation, was more accurate than the other methods' equations for the studied locations; therefore, it was recommended for calculating Epan to ETo conversions. The Snyder (1992) equation ranked the second and the other methods ranked in the third group based on the previous statistical parameters.

To get the best-related equation to the measured ETc of grain sorghum, the mean daily and seasonal ETc values, SEE, coefficient (a) and PE estimated are presented in Table 2.

The daily average ETc values estimated from the predicted Kp

equations generally gave lower values than the measured ETc as shown in Fig. 3 and Table 2. The measured ETc for grain sorghum crop ranged from 3.17 mm/day in October to 5.97 mm/day in August with seasonal of 660.75mm. The PE of daily average ETc values, estimated by Kp equations, generally gave lower results than the measured ETc.

The daily and seasonal ETc calculated by Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation was more accurate when daily and seasonal ETc used as a reference under the local climate conditions Table 2. Based on the daily and seasonal values for ETc, PE, coefficient (a) and SEE, the Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation ranked first with mean daily ETc = 3.67mm and seasonal ETc = 549.95mm, respectively. It was close to the measured daily ETc = 4.41 and seasonal ETc = 660.75mm. Also, the PE = -16.99 % was close to the measured ETc with the lowest SEE = 0.851. Finally, the coefficient (a) (0.8343) is close to 1.0.

Sometimes, wind speed and relative humidity are unavailable at pan evaporation sites, so Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation was found to be the most suitable one for estimating ETo.

Table 2. The mean daily and seasonal ETc values, SEE, PE and coefficient (a) estimated by Kp equations and measured for sorghum crop under Fayoum conditions

Monthes	Measured	Cuenca	Allen-Pruitt	Snyder	Grismer	Orang	R&W	Allen	Snyder <i>et al</i>
June	3.65	2.97	2.94	2.94	2.91	2.95	3.09	2.94	3.11
July	4.84	4.16	4.12	4.20	4.07	4.12	4.19	4.12	4.22
August	5.97	4.92	4.86	5.01	4.81	4.85	4.88	4.86	5.01
September	4.40	3.34	3.29	3.40	3.27	3.29	3.31	3.29	3.44
October	3.17	2.44	2.42	2.51	2.40	2.41	2.40	2.42	2.55
ETc (mm/day)	4.41	3.57	3.52	3.61	3.49	3.52	3.57	3.52	3.67
ETc (mm/ season)	660.75	534.94	528.74	541.72	523.81	528.60	535.79	528.74	549.95
SEE	--	0.959	1.006	0.904	1.043	1.008	0.964	1.006	0.851
PE (%)	--	-19.44	-20.37	-18.44	-21.10	-20.38	-19.25	-20.37	-16.99
a	--	0.8132	0.8038	0.824	0.7963	0.8035	0.8137	0.8038	0.8343
R2	--	0.9655	0.965	0.9711	0.9659	0.9644	0.9514	0.965	0.9727
m ³ /fed.	2775	2247	2221	2275	2200	2220	2250	2221	2310

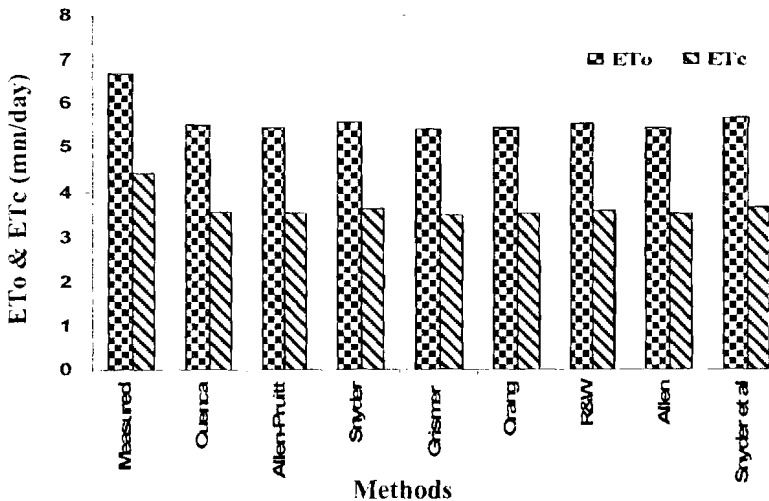


Fig. 3. The mean daily ETo and ETc estimated by Kp equations and measured for sorghum crop under Fayoum conditions

Conclusion

The equations of Cuenca (1989), Allen and Pruitt (1991), Snyder (1992), Orang (1998), Raghuwanshi and Wallender (1998), Allen, *et al.* (1998), Grismer *et al.* (2002) and Snyder *et al.* (2005) were evaluated to predict K_p for calculating ET_o using weather data for a 10-year period (January 1997 – December 2006) obtained from Atsa Weather Station, Fayoum Governorate. The relative performance of K_p prediction equations to estimate ET_o by comparing them against the FAO-PM equation was evaluated using the mean, standard deviation (SD), percent error (PE), linear coefficient of determination (R^2), linear regression (Y), and standard errors of estimate (SEE).

All equations gained similar and lower results than those of FAO-PM and ET_c of grain sorghum, but ET_o estimated by Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation was the closest to that obtained from FAO-PM and ET_c of grain sorghum.

The Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation produced remarkable estimates of the daily ET_o resulted in the mean daily ET_o that is close

to the FAO-PM. The PE is close to zero. Regression coefficient from the Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation is the closest value to 1.0 it had the lowest SEE and the highest R^2 values. The Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation gave ET_o value close to the FAO-PM among all methods. It also ranked first for the comparisons of mean daily and seasonal ET_c from measured ET_c for grain sorghum crop under Fayoum region climate conditions carried out by Abdou (2004). The PE value was close to zero and it had the lowest SEE. The Snyder (1992) equation ranked the second, while the other methods ranked in a descending order; Allen and Pruitt (1991), Allen *et al.* (1998), Raghuwanshi and Wallender (1998), Orang (1998) and Grismer *et al.* (2002), respectively.

Finally, Snyder *et al.* (2005) equation is the most suitable one at the pan evaporation sites that unavailable wind speed and relative humidity. As a conclusion, a complete map of K_p for different areas in Egypt should be created to help farmers in estimating the quantity of water should be applied.

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تقييم بعض معادلات معامل وعاء البخر تحت ظروف محافظة الفيوم

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قسم الأراضي والمياه (هندسة زراعية) - كلية الزراعة - جامعة الفيوم

يعتبر تقدير البخر نتح القياسي احد العوامل الهامة في إدارة المياه لري المحاصيل. وتتوقف دقة حساب البخر نتح القياسي باستخدام وعاء البخر علي دقة اختيار معامل وعاء البخر المستخدم في الحساب. لذلك أجريت هذه الدراسة لتقييم 8 معادلات لحساب معامل وعاء البخر تحت ظروف محافظة الفيوم باستخدام البيانات المناخية لمحطة اطسا في الفترة من (1997-2006). وقد تم مقارنة قيم البخر نتح المتحصل عليها من تلك المعادلات مع مثلتها الناتجة من كل من معادلة فاو- بنمان مونثيث (1998) والاستهلاك المائي لمحصول السورجم المزروع بمنطقة الدراسة باستخدام بعض التحاليل الإحصائية منها الخطأ المعياري والنسبة المئوية للخطأ ومعامل الاحدار ومعامل التقدير، وذلك لاختيار انسب معادلة لحساب معامل وعاء البخر تحت ظروف محافظة الفيوم.

وقد ثبت من الدراسة أن كل المعادلات المختبرة أعطت نتائج متقاربة ولكنها اقل من المتحصل عليها من معادلة فاو- بنمان مونثيث، باستثناء قيم البخر نتح المتحصل عليها من معادلة سنيدر وآخرون (2005) والتي كانت اقرب إلى القيم المتحصل عليها من معادلة فاو- بنمان مونثيث و الاستهلاك المائي لمحصول السورجم وذلك اعتمادا علي التحاليل الإحصائية. وتعتبر معادلة سنيدر وآخرون (2005) هي انسب معادلة يمكن استخدامها لحساب البخر نتح في المناطق التي لا تتوفر بها بيانات عن سرعة الرياح والرطوبة النسبية.