

#### **Panel 4. Salinity Management Panelist Biographies**

##### **David Crowley**

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David Crowley's research is primarily concerned with soil microbiology and plant microbial interactions. He works on microbiological indicators of soil quality, bioremediation of soil contaminants, and plant and microbial uptake of metals. Previous research on avocado by Crowley's group has examined zinc nutrition of avocado and comparison of different methods for zinc fertilization. Ongoing studies are comparing the salt tolerance of avocado rootstocks.

##### **Ben Faber**

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Ben is one tough guy. He can sling a bag around his neck and pick with the best of them. He has worked on avocado thrips and perseia mite biology and control, root and crown rots, iron chlorosis, and irrigation and salinity management. He covers avocado and other subtropical crops in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

##### **Avraham Meiri**

Institute of Soils, Water and Environmental Sciences, The Volcani Center  
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Born in 1932 in Israel. Married with three children. Research Scientist since 1959 at the ARO, Institute of Soils and Water Dept. of Irrigation and stress physiology, The Volcani Center. Head of the Department 1985-1992, Research scientist A+ (The equivalent of full Professor). Areas of major interest: Irrigation of field, vegetable and fruit crops with fresh, saline and sewage water - taking advantage of temporal and spatial variations of stress to facilitate irrigation management of sustainable agriculture under limited fresh water and increased brackish water supply. Participate in studies of Avocado response to N levels in the irrigation water and interactions of water salinity, irrigation system and management; mainly in the relations between fertigation management and the soil solution composition.

##### **James D. Oster**

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Dr. Oster's research interests include: environmental impacts of irrigated agriculture, soil, water, and crop management to minimize environmental impacts, use of saline/sodic drainage waters for irrigation of tree and forage crops, water quality impacts on soil and crop productivity, salinity and sodicity impacts on infiltration and soil tilth, irrigation system profitability, saline and sodic soil reclamation.

**Dr. Joseph Shalhevet**

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Soil and water scientist with specific interests in plat-water-salinity relationship. Involved in irrigation, salinity and drainage research since 1958, following studies at UC Berkeley and Cornell University. Initiated and participated in experiments on salinity and water management of avocado. From 1986 to 1990 was the director of the Israel Agricultural Research Organization (ARO) and Chief Scientist of the Israel Ministry of Agriculture. Before that was the director of the Institute of Soils and Water of ARO. From 1990 to 1992 served as director of the Liaison Office in Beijing, China of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

**Michael C. Shannon**

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Director of the U.S. Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, California, and Research Leader of the Plant Science Research Unit. Directs the research activities of 16 scientists in the areas of soil, water, and plant management, assessment and modeling for crop production under saline conditions. As a Research Geneticist, conducts basic research to find intraspecific differences in salt tolerance and to discover genetic and physiological mechanisms of salt tolerance in plants. Develops methods to accurately identify and measure differences in salt tolerance and to determine methods by which differences in salt tolerance can be rapidly selected and genetically transferred.

**Miriam Zilberstaine**

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**Benjamin Zur**

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My research interests are as follows: Scientific aspects of irrigation, controlled irrigation, water use efficiency of agricultural crops and urban plants, development of irrigation systems friendly to the environment. Computer simulation of soil-water-plant-atmosphere systems.