INTRODUCTION

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World wide, there is insufficient fresh water available to develop all potential irritable land. Therefore, there is a need for potential water sources to meet the demands of the new land reclamation projects in Egypt. The use of saline and drainage water in agriculture is a subject of vital importance for irrigation in arid and semi-arid regions.

Nutrients at optimal levels and applied in a proper balance are essential for obtaining healthy plant growth and production as well as high plant. In Egypt, utilizing agricultural drainage water and ground water for irrigation is becoming essential to meet the increasing demands for food production.

Salinity of soils, (as well as salinity of irrigation water), induces drastic changes in soil chemical properties and usually inflicts changes in the status and availability of micronutrients.

In view of the aforementioned reasons, the present work was carried out to study the status of selected micronutrients, namely; Fe, Mn, Zn and Cu in the soils irrigated with saline and agricultural drainage waters. The study included the effect of irrigation with saline water and the effect of saline soil on the available micronutrients to plant. The amount of micronutrients in a soil provides only limited information, as this can seldom reflect their availability to plants.