

desalting using geothermal energy; and (d) innovative uses of desalted water in agriculture.

Although strictly speaking, agricultural water supplies should be encompassed by regional water supplies, it is mentioned here separately. The scientific and technological base for this application has not yet been brought to a point where this use can generally be considered to be economically feasible, although the topic is currently of considerable research interest (11, 12, 13, 14). An extensive bibliography on the subject will be found in Reference 14.

There are two conditions under either or both of which desalted water may find an economical place in agriculture. The first is to reduce the cost of desalting. This approach, with some slight modification, may become a reality with the application of large-scale desalting to regional water supplies. The second approach is to improve the technology of use of high-cost, high-quality distilled water to obtain a substantial increase in the productivity of a unit of water. Research suggests (13, 14) that there is a potential for an increase in productivity per unit of water by a factor of from two to four. Combined with the expected cost reductions in large-scale distillation using the newest and best