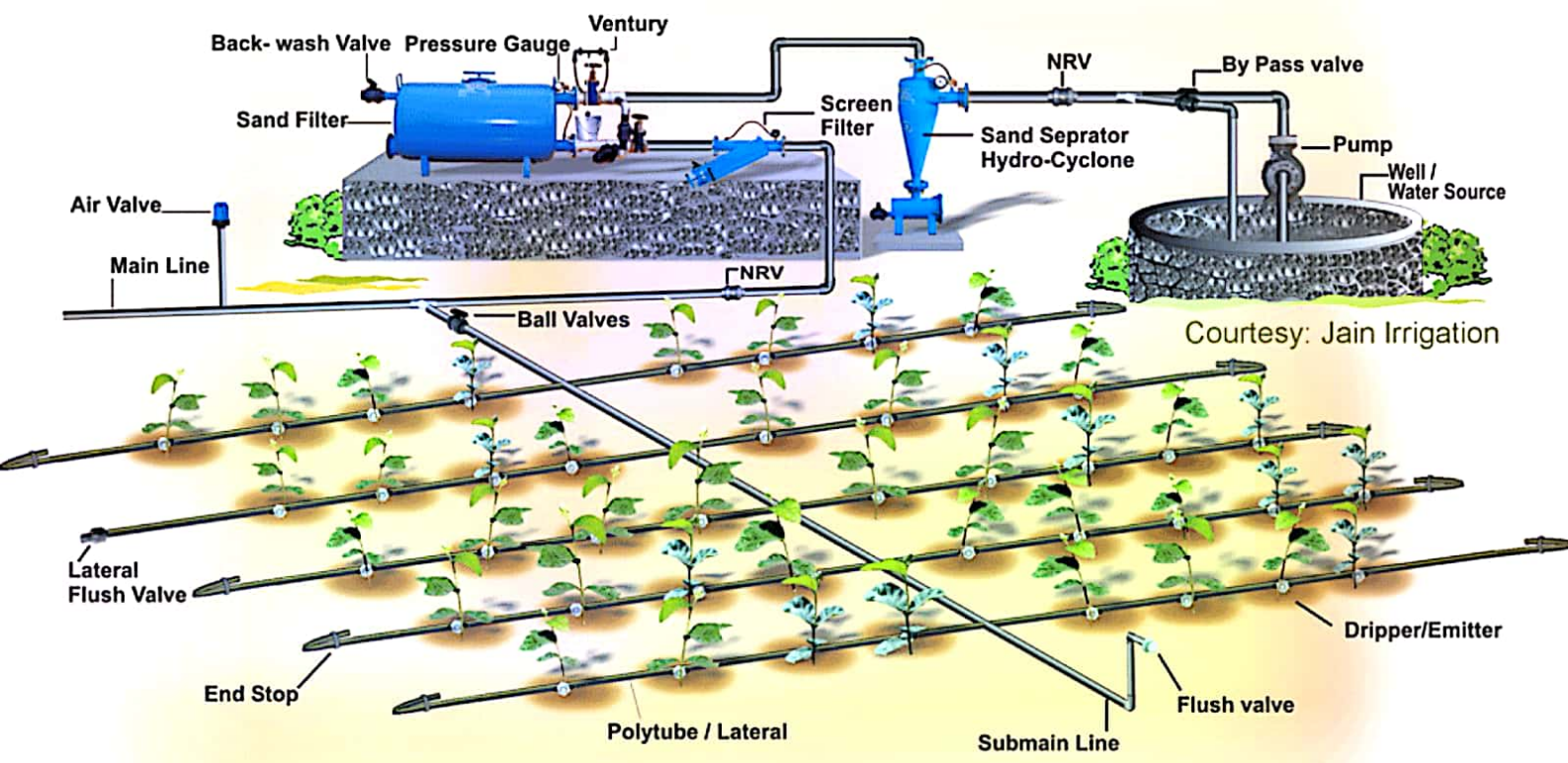


Drip Irrigation

- aka Trickle irrigation.
- Water is applied in form of drops, using nozzles to plants
- Using system of pipe lines – flexible, operating at low pressure
- It limits water supplied for consumptive use, maintains soil-moisture (= field capacity)
- Irrigation water + nutrients can be applied
- Helps in controlling water & nutrient supply frequency
- 1st introduced in Israel
-

- Drip irrigation arrangement consists of
 - Pump
 - Head tank: stores water & maintains pressure head (5-7 m)
 - Central Distribution system: filters, added nutrients, regulates pressure & water quantity
 - Mains & secondary lines: polythene/PVC material. Diameter between 20 - 40 mm
 - Trickle lines: dia 10 – 20 mm. PVC with perforations, at equal spacing of crops. Fitted to secondary lines.
 - Nozzles: designed to maintain min flow rate, drop size. Rate is 2 to 10 litres/hr



Advantages	Limitations
Less water requirement	High initial cost
Water supply at optimum level	Blockages of nozzle
Water logging is avoided	Change in spacing of nozzles
High yield, cash crops	Shallow root depth
No over irrigation, Variation in application rate	
Weed/Pest control	
Increase in net irrigable area	
Suitable for saline soils, No erosion	