**Supplementary Materials**

Table S1. Morphological and growth traits of maize at different levels of salinity and salicylic acid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Plant height (cm)</th>
<th>Leaf number</th>
<th>Leaf DW (g plant⁻¹)</th>
<th>Stem DW (g plant⁻¹)</th>
<th>Shoot DW (g plant⁻¹)</th>
<th>Root DW (g plant⁻¹)</th>
<th>R:S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salinity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>64.1 a</td>
<td>5.6 a</td>
<td>1.79 a</td>
<td>3.27 a</td>
<td>5.05 a</td>
<td>1.61 a</td>
<td>0.32 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 dS m⁻¹</td>
<td>57.8 b</td>
<td>5.0 b</td>
<td>1.29 b</td>
<td>3.29 a</td>
<td>4.58 b</td>
<td>1.45 b</td>
<td>0.32 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 dS m⁻¹</td>
<td>53.6 c</td>
<td>4.3 c</td>
<td>1.17 c</td>
<td>2.60 b</td>
<td>3.76 c</td>
<td>1.35 c</td>
<td>0.36 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P &lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>54.4 c</td>
<td>4.2 c</td>
<td>1.31 c</td>
<td>2.88 c</td>
<td>4.19 c</td>
<td>1.38 c</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mM</td>
<td>58.3 b</td>
<td>5.0 b</td>
<td>1.42 b</td>
<td>3.05 b</td>
<td>4.47 b</td>
<td>1.47 b</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 mM</td>
<td>62.8 a</td>
<td>5.7 a</td>
<td>1.51 a</td>
<td>3.22 a</td>
<td>4.73 a</td>
<td>1.57 a</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P &lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity × SA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>60.3 cd</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>3.17 cd</td>
<td>4.85 c</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 300</td>
<td>64.3 b</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>3.27 bc</td>
<td>5.08 b</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 600</td>
<td>67.7 a</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>3.36 b</td>
<td>5.24 a</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 0</td>
<td>54.7 ef</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>3.09 d</td>
<td>4.27 e</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 300</td>
<td>57.3 de</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>3.30 b</td>
<td>4.59 d</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 600</td>
<td>61.4 bc</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>3.49 a</td>
<td>4.87 c</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 0</td>
<td>48.2 g</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>2.39 g</td>
<td>3.46 h</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 300</td>
<td>53.2 f</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>2.57 f</td>
<td>3.74 g</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 600</td>
<td>59.3 cd</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>2.83 e</td>
<td>4.09 f</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>0.028*</td>
<td>0.057 n.s.</td>
<td>0.936 n.s.</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.791 n.s.</td>
<td>0.186 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.V. (%)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA, salicylic acid; DW, dry weight; R:S, root to shoot ratio; n.s., * and ** indicate non-significant and significant at \( P \leq 0.05 \) and \( P \leq 0.01 \), respectively. Different letters indicate statistical differences (Tukey test at \( P \leq 0.05 \)).
Table S2. Leaf water status and leaf pigments in maize at different levels of salinity and salicylic acid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>RWC (%)</th>
<th>EL (%)</th>
<th>Chl. a (mg g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>Chl. b (mg g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>Carotenoids (mg g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>Anthocyanin (mg g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salinity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>64.4 a</td>
<td>31.2 b</td>
<td>1.77 a</td>
<td>1.31 a</td>
<td>0.59 a</td>
<td>0.38 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 dS m(^{-1})</td>
<td>50.6 b</td>
<td>39.4 a</td>
<td>1.57 b</td>
<td>1.03 b</td>
<td>0.52 b</td>
<td>0.34 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 dS m(^{-1})</td>
<td>44.8 c</td>
<td>41.5 a</td>
<td>1.45 c</td>
<td>0.67 c</td>
<td>0.45 c</td>
<td>0.28 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>48.6 c</td>
<td>42.2 a</td>
<td>1.50 c</td>
<td>0.81 c</td>
<td>0.48 c</td>
<td>0.31 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mM</td>
<td>53.2 b</td>
<td>37.1 b</td>
<td>1.60 b</td>
<td>1.00 b</td>
<td>0.52 b</td>
<td>0.34 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 mM</td>
<td>57.9 a</td>
<td>32.8 c</td>
<td>1.70 a</td>
<td>1.19 a</td>
<td>0.56 a</td>
<td>0.36 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salinity × SA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>59.1 c</td>
<td>34.2 cde</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.54 c</td>
<td>0.36 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 300</td>
<td>64.2 b</td>
<td>30.7 de</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>0.59 b</td>
<td>0.39 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 600</td>
<td>69.9 a</td>
<td>28.9 e</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>0.64 a</td>
<td>0.41 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 0</td>
<td>46.0 g</td>
<td>45.7 a</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.48 e</td>
<td>0.32 e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 300</td>
<td>50.7 e</td>
<td>38.7 bc</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.52 d</td>
<td>0.35 d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 600</td>
<td>54.9 d</td>
<td>33.7 cde</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.57 b</td>
<td>0.37 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 0</td>
<td>40.7 h</td>
<td>46.8 a</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.43 f</td>
<td>0.26 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 300</td>
<td>44.7 g</td>
<td>41.9 ab</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.44 f</td>
<td>0.27 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 600</td>
<td>48.8 f</td>
<td>35.7 ed</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.47 e</td>
<td>0.30 f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>0.026*</td>
<td>0.046*</td>
<td>0.972 n.s.</td>
<td>0.992 n.s.</td>
<td>0.333 n.s.</td>
<td>0.026*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C.V. (%)</strong></td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA, salicylic acid; FW, fresh weight; RWC, relative water content; EL, electrolyte leakage; Chl. a and b, chlorophyll a and b, respectively; n.s., *, and ** indicate non-significant and significant at \( P \leq 0.05 \) and \( P \leq 0.01 \), respectively. Different letters indicate statistical differences (Tukey test at \( P \leq 0.05 \)).
Table S3. Antioxidant enzymes and oxidative stress markers in maize at different levels of salinity and salicylic acid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>POD (U mg(^{-1}) prot.)</th>
<th>CAT (mg g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>APX (nmol g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>Vitamin C (mg g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>H(_2)O(_2) (nmol g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
<th>MDA (nmol g(^{-1}) FW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salinity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.00 c</td>
<td>0.65 c</td>
<td>22.1 c</td>
<td>4.50 c</td>
<td>6.49 c</td>
<td>5.20 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 dS m(^{-1})</td>
<td>5.00 b</td>
<td>0.84 b</td>
<td>33.0 b</td>
<td>5.45 b</td>
<td>7.39 b</td>
<td>5.51 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 dS m(^{-1})</td>
<td>5.74 a</td>
<td>1.18 a</td>
<td>47.6 a</td>
<td>6.44 a</td>
<td>8.66 a</td>
<td>5.61 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.01 c</td>
<td>0.82 c</td>
<td>31.0 c</td>
<td>4.43 c</td>
<td>7.82 a</td>
<td>5.59 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mM</td>
<td>5.00 b</td>
<td>0.90 b</td>
<td>34.5 b</td>
<td>5.45 b</td>
<td>7.50 b</td>
<td>5.45 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 mM</td>
<td>5.73 a</td>
<td>0.95 a</td>
<td>37.3 a</td>
<td>6.52 a</td>
<td>7.22 c</td>
<td>5.28 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salinity × SA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>3.21 e</td>
<td>0.59 g</td>
<td>19.1 i</td>
<td>3.49 i</td>
<td>6.87</td>
<td>5.32 de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 300</td>
<td>4.09 d</td>
<td>0.67 f</td>
<td>22.4 h</td>
<td>4.49 g</td>
<td>6.39</td>
<td>5.22 e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 600</td>
<td>4.70 c</td>
<td>0.69 f</td>
<td>25.0 g</td>
<td>5.53 d</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td>5.06 f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 0</td>
<td>3.94 d</td>
<td>0.76 e</td>
<td>28.9 f</td>
<td>4.40 h</td>
<td>7.65</td>
<td>5.65 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 300</td>
<td>5.03 c</td>
<td>0.82 d</td>
<td>33.7 e</td>
<td>5.43 e</td>
<td>7.43</td>
<td>5.48 e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 600</td>
<td>6.03 b</td>
<td>0.95 c</td>
<td>36.4 d</td>
<td>6.51 b</td>
<td>7.08</td>
<td>5.39 cd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 0</td>
<td>4.87 c</td>
<td>1.10 b</td>
<td>44.9 c</td>
<td>5.40 f</td>
<td>8.94</td>
<td>5.78 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 300</td>
<td>5.87 b</td>
<td>1.22 a</td>
<td>47.4 b</td>
<td>6.42 c</td>
<td>8.67</td>
<td>5.65 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 600</td>
<td>6.48 a</td>
<td>1.21 a</td>
<td>50.5 a</td>
<td>7.51 a</td>
<td>8.37</td>
<td>5.4 cd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P)</td>
<td>0.030*</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.008**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.314 n.s.</td>
<td>0.027*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.V. (%)</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA, salicylic acid; FW, fresh weight; POD, peroxidase; CAT, catalase; APX, ascorbate peroxidase; MDA, malondialdehyde; U, units; n.s., * and ** indicate non-significant and significant at \(P \leq 0.05\) and \(P \leq 0.01\), respectively. Different letters indicate statistical differences (Tukey test at \(P \leq 0.05\)).
Table S4. Osmo-regulating compounds and hormones in maize at different levels of salinity and salicylic acid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Free a.a. (mg g⁻¹ FW)</th>
<th>Sol. proteins (mg g⁻¹ FW)</th>
<th>Sol. sugars (mg g⁻¹ FW)</th>
<th>Proline (µmol g⁻¹ FW h⁻¹)</th>
<th>IAA (µmol g⁻¹ FW)</th>
<th>GA (nmol g⁻¹ FW)</th>
<th>ABA (pmol g⁻¹ FW)</th>
<th>Ethylene evolution (pmol g⁻¹ FW h⁻¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salinity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.00 a</td>
<td>6.29 a</td>
<td>11.2 c</td>
<td>0.60 c</td>
<td>26.5 c</td>
<td>82.0 a</td>
<td>41.5 c</td>
<td>72 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 dS m⁻¹</td>
<td>1.78 b</td>
<td>5.55 b</td>
<td>15.1 b</td>
<td>0.74 b</td>
<td>28.5 b</td>
<td>64.7 b</td>
<td>44.8 b</td>
<td>145 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 dS m⁻¹</td>
<td>1.61 c</td>
<td>4.57 c</td>
<td>17.2 a</td>
<td>0.93 a</td>
<td>33.1 a</td>
<td>49.8 c</td>
<td>48.8 a</td>
<td>167 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.73 c</td>
<td>5.28 c</td>
<td>13.1 c</td>
<td>0.67 c</td>
<td>26.9 c</td>
<td>61.1 c</td>
<td>47.2 a</td>
<td>140 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mM</td>
<td>1.80 b</td>
<td>5.48 b</td>
<td>14.7 b</td>
<td>0.76 b</td>
<td>29.8 b</td>
<td>65.7 b</td>
<td>44.9 b</td>
<td>127 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 mM</td>
<td>1.86 a</td>
<td>5.65 a</td>
<td>15.6 a</td>
<td>0.84 a</td>
<td>31.4 a</td>
<td>69.7 a</td>
<td>43.0 c</td>
<td>117 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
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<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salinity × SA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>1.90 c</td>
<td>6.03 c</td>
<td>10.2 f</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>78 f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 300</td>
<td>2.02 b</td>
<td>6.33 b</td>
<td>11.3 c</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>26.5</td>
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<td>41.5</td>
<td>72 fg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 600</td>
<td>2.08 a</td>
<td>6.50 a</td>
<td>12.0 e</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>65 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 0</td>
<td>1.72 f</td>
<td>5.33 f</td>
<td>13.4 d</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>155 bc</td>
</tr>
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<td>1.79 e</td>
<td>5.61 e</td>
<td>15.2 e</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>146 d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1.82 d</td>
<td>5.70 d</td>
<td>16.7 b</td>
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<td>30.5</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>134 e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1.55 i</td>
<td>4.47 h</td>
<td>15.7 c</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>188 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1.60 h</td>
<td>4.50 h</td>
<td>17.6 a</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>162 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1.67 g</td>
<td>4.74 g</td>
<td>18.2 a</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>151 cd</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
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<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.002**</td>
<td>0.139 n.s.</td>
<td>0.710 n.s.</td>
<td>0.890 n.s.</td>
<td>0.834 n.s.</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C.V. (%)</strong></td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

SA, salicylic acid; FW, fresh weight; Free a.a., free amino acids; IAA, indole-3-acetic acid; GA, gibberellic acid; ABA, abscisic acid; n.s., * and ** indicate non-significant and significant at $P \leq 0.05$ and $P \leq 0.01$, respectively. Different letters indicate statistical differences (Tukey test at $P \leq 0.05$).
Table S5. Sodium, potassium and calcium concentrations in plant organs of maize at different levels of salinity and salicylic acid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Na_R</th>
<th>Na_S</th>
<th>Na_L</th>
<th>K_R</th>
<th>K_S</th>
<th>K_L</th>
<th>Ca_R</th>
<th>Ca_S</th>
<th>Ca_L</th>
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<tr>
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<td>(mg g⁻¹ DW)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.8 c</td>
<td>3.5 c</td>
<td>2.0 c</td>
<td>24.7 a</td>
<td>30.8 a</td>
<td>18.2 a</td>
<td>63 a</td>
<td>90 a</td>
<td>89 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 dS m⁻¹</td>
<td>14.0 b</td>
<td>15.5 b</td>
<td>8.2 b</td>
<td>18.5 b</td>
<td>23.0 b</td>
<td>15.0 b</td>
<td>53 b</td>
<td>80 b</td>
<td>77 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 dS m⁻¹</td>
<td>15.5 a</td>
<td>24.8 a</td>
<td>9.6 a</td>
<td>16.4 c</td>
<td>16.3 c</td>
<td>12.2 c</td>
<td>44 c</td>
<td>67 c</td>
<td>60 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>11.4 a</td>
<td>16.3 a</td>
<td>7.1 a</td>
<td>18.7 c</td>
<td>21.5 c</td>
<td>13.4 c</td>
<td>48 c</td>
<td>74 c</td>
<td>64 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mM</td>
<td>10.3 b</td>
<td>14.7 b</td>
<td>6.5 b</td>
<td>19.7 b</td>
<td>22.9 b</td>
<td>15.3 b</td>
<td>54 b</td>
<td>79 b</td>
<td>76 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 mM</td>
<td>9.6 c</td>
<td>12.8 c</td>
<td>6.1 c</td>
<td>21.1 a</td>
<td>25.8 a</td>
<td>16.7 a</td>
<td>58 a</td>
<td>83 a</td>
<td>86 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity × SA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>2.5 f</td>
<td>4.0 g</td>
<td>2.2 f</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>17.0 b</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 300</td>
<td>1.6 g</td>
<td>3.7 gh</td>
<td>1.9 f</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>18.4 a</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 600</td>
<td>1.5 g</td>
<td>2.7 h</td>
<td>1.8 f</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>19.2 a</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 0</td>
<td>15.4 b</td>
<td>17.7 d</td>
<td>8.8 c</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>13.2 d</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 300</td>
<td>13.8 d</td>
<td>15.3 e</td>
<td>8.2 d</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>15.4 c</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 600</td>
<td>12.9 e</td>
<td>13.6 f</td>
<td>7.6 e</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>16.5 b</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>27.3 a</td>
<td>10.4 a</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>10.1 f</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 300</td>
<td>15.6 b</td>
<td>25.1 b</td>
<td>9.45 b</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>12.1 e</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 600</td>
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<td>22.1 c</td>
<td>8.97 bc</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>14.5 c</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.002**</td>
<td>0.108 n.s.</td>
<td>0.263 n.s.</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>0.655 n.s.</td>
<td>0.156 n.s.</td>
<td>0.425 n.s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.V. (%)</td>
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<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SA, salicylic acid; _R, _S and _L indicate element concentration in roots, stem and leaves, respectively; n.s., * and ** indicate non-significant and significant at P ≤ 0.05 and P ≤ 0.01, respectively. Different letters indicate statistical differences (Tukey test at P ≤ 0.05).
Table S6. Magnesium and chloride concentration in plant organs of maize at different levels of salinity and salicylic acid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Mg_R</th>
<th>Mg_S</th>
<th>Mg_L</th>
<th>Cl_R</th>
<th>Cl_S</th>
<th>Cl_L</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(mg g(^{-1}) DW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salinity</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>55.2 a</td>
<td>71.7 a</td>
<td>64.5 a</td>
<td>1.8 c</td>
<td>5.1 c</td>
<td>1.2 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 dS m(^{-1})</td>
<td>46.0 b</td>
<td>59.1 b</td>
<td>56.7 b</td>
<td>17.8 b</td>
<td>25.4 b</td>
<td>24.1 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 dS m(^{-1})</td>
<td>39.1 c</td>
<td>49.5 c</td>
<td>47.0 c</td>
<td>19.7 a</td>
<td>42.8 a</td>
<td>25.4 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>43.1 c</td>
<td>55.8 c</td>
<td>52.5 c</td>
<td>14.5 a</td>
<td>26.5 a</td>
<td>18.2 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mM</td>
<td>47.3 b</td>
<td>60.1 b</td>
<td>56.1 b</td>
<td>13.0 b</td>
<td>24.6 b</td>
<td>16.9 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 mM</td>
<td>49.7 a</td>
<td>64.7 a</td>
<td>59.5 a</td>
<td>11.8 c</td>
<td>22.1 c</td>
<td>15.6 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity × SA</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>1.98 e</td>
<td>6.8 e</td>
<td>1.33 f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>64.1</td>
<td>1.84 e</td>
<td>4.8 ef</td>
<td>1.11 f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>57.9</td>
<td>77.1</td>
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<td>1.72 e</td>
<td>3.6 f</td>
<td>1.04 f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 0</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>55.2</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>19.5 b</td>
<td>27.1 c</td>
<td>25.6 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 300</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>17.6 c</td>
<td>25.7 c</td>
<td>24.3 cd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 600</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>16.2 d</td>
<td>23.4 d</td>
<td>22.3 e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 0</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>22.1 a</td>
<td>45.5 a</td>
<td>27.6 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 300</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>19.5 b</td>
<td>43.5 a</td>
<td>25.2 bc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 / 600</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>17.6 c</td>
<td>39.4 b</td>
<td>23.4 d</td>
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<td>0.830 n.s.</td>
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<td>0.019*</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001**</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.V. (%)</td>
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<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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</table>

SA, salicylic acid; _R, _S and _L indicate element concentration in roots, stem and leaves, respectively; n.s., * and ** indicate non-significant and significant at \(P \leq 0.05\) and \(P \leq 0.01\), respectively. Different letters indicate statistical differences (Tukey test at \(P \leq 0.05\)).
Figure S1. PCA correlation circle of quantitative variables. The amount of variation explained by the two principal components (Dim1 and Dim2) is indicated in brackets. ABA, abscisic acid; Ant., antocyan; APX, ascorbate peroxidase; Ca_T, total (i.e., whole plant) Ca concentration; Car., carotenoids; CAT, catalase; Chl_T, total (i.e., a + b) chlorophyll content; Cl_T, total Cl concentration; EL, electrolyte leakage; Free a.a., free amino acids; GA, gibberellic acid; Mg_T, total Mg concentration; IAA, indole-3-acetic acid; K_T, total K concentration; MDA, malondialdehyde; Na_T, total Na concentration; POD, peroxidase; R:S, root to shoot; RDW, root dry weight; RWC, relative water content; SDW, shoot dry weight; SP, soluble proteins.