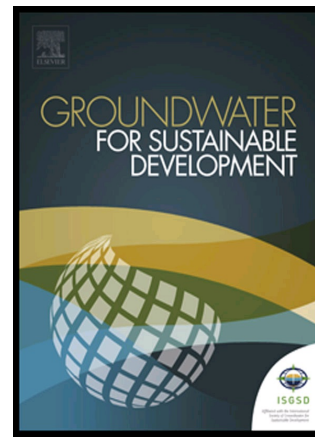


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On Farmers' Engagement In Groundwater  
Management: Case Of Saiss Aquifers, Morocco

Siham Laraichi, Ali Hammani



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# How Can Information And Communication Effects On Farmers' Engagement In Groundwater Management: Case Of Saiss Aquifers, Morocco

Siham Laraichi, Ali Hammani

Hassan ii institute of agronomy and veterinary medicine, rural engineering department, po. Box 6202, madinat al irfane, rabat, morocco.

siham.laraichi@gmail.com

a.hammani@iav.ac.ma

## ABSTRACT

Water scarcity, unequal water distribution and overexploitation make of groundwater a strategic resource to protect and preserve for future generations, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions. Groundwater governance has experienced many steps worldwide over the time. In literature, there are several research papers and reports talking about the importance of data and information in implementing effective governance. Nevertheless, few are showing their impact on stakeholders' engagement, such as in "the groundwater contracts" as a form of participatory governance. This paper aims to show the impact of information, trust in relationships and communication on the small farmers' commitment in participatory governance. This had been experimented in six rural communes in Saiss Plain in two steps. The first step consists on collecting and analyzing small farmers' requirements on information and communication in five communes, through a survey, in order to assess their ability to commit and cooperate under a participatory governance framework in developing Mediterranean countries. The second one consists on showing a concrete case of information need on groundwater found in another commune in Saiss and the role of small group of young farmers in the enhancement of the information dissemination and the farmers' awareness regarding rural and development and environment protection. The study shows that there is a weakness in information transmission and communication around groundwater. The paper recommends a new communication channel to give relevant information to farmers and to assist them to collaborate in order to preserve groundwater through NGOs and farmers organizations. This paper would enrich the knowledge of information and communication channels used and required by small farmers to be able to commit in arrangements such as groundwater contract.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ABHS, River Basin Agency of Sebou; CPR, Common Pool Resource; CC, Communication channel; GWG, Groundwater Governance; GWC, Groundwater Contract; NGOs,

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