

The severe drought of the last five consecutive years and the use of water harvesting techniques in the Brazilian semiarid region

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Resumen

Water harvesting techniques have been used in the Brazilian semiarid region in a diffuse manner for a long time in order to mitigate the effects of the relatively persistent lack of water for drinking and productive purposes in small rural communities. Even though only from the last two decades NGOs and government initiatives have become to promote a more intense adoption of these techniques as a police to provide water in proper quantity and quality in time and space in this region. Following the impressive initiative proposed in the early 2000s for water supply – the Federal Government “One Million Cisterns” Program (P1MC) – the Programme One Piece of Land and Two Sources of Water (P1 + 2) was then implemented in order to also guarantee the access to a productive land and to provide another source of water (besides the water stored in the cisterns from the P1MC) for cattle and agriculture based on the use of a water harvesting technique. In this paper the overall performance of the water harvesting techniques adopted in Brazil is discussed considering that the Brazilian semiarid region has been facing a severe drought for the last five consecutive years.