Small farm dams research project in the semiarid northeastern region of Brazil

Ana Cristina Souza da Silva¹, Alain Marie Passerat de Silans², Gerald Souza da Silva¹, Flavia Augusta dos Santos¹, Renato de Queiroz Porto¹
¹UFPB – University of Paraiba, João Pessoa, Brazil; ²AESA - Water management agency of the state of Paraiba, João Pessoa, Brazil

The semi-arid northeastern region of Brazil has a unique natural character, which historically, demanded several scientific and political efforts in order to improve the living conditions for the population in this region. The most suitable use of water resources have been the subject of several researches for several reasons. Small farm dams represent one of the main sources of water during the dry season in the semiarid region of Brazil. Knowing more appropriate these sources has been studied in a project named DISPAB. Conservation conditions, maintenance and estimated volumes were the object of the survey, as well as social benefits brought by this source of water for the semi-arid population. The results showed that these small dams are an important source of water for the region. However, for the state water agency, the real magnitude of importance and risks provoked by them is still unknown. Through the results of the research methodological parameters has been obtained to support licensing actions related to the available water resources in small watersheds in semiarid regions.