

Small farm dams research project in the semi-arid northeastern region of Brazil

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Abstract 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 has been the subject of much research for several reasons. Small farm dams represent one of the main sources of water during the dry season in the semi-arid region of Brazil. To know these water sources the aim of the study and the project named DISPAB was more appropriate. 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 have been obtained to support licensing actions related to the available water resources in small watersheds in semi-arid regions.

Key words semi-arid; small dams; water management; Brazil