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Thesis Topic: "An application of the Ostrom Design Principles in a water scarce setting: the case of Madaba, Jordan"

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Abstract

One of the main concerns in Jordan is the water scarcity. The country is listed as the third driest country in the world. Population growth, unsustainable use of ground and surface water use for irrigation aggravates the scarcity. To have an overview, this study focuses on the water governance and institutions in place. Ostrom's SES framework is used in order to organize findings and examine the relationship between collective actions. Moreover, the goal of this exploratory study is to compare common pool resource and private goods by applying the eight design principles of Ostrom.

This study based on interviews with farmers in the Madaba region and government representatives in Amman. In total thirty farmers from two wells and one spring have been interviewed. The analysis distinguishes between the users of the spring as common pool resource and the users of the wells as private good. The results show that the applicability of the eight design principles in both cases considered is given. However, minor differences exist regarding the specific rules in payments for water, leadership of the resource, monitoring and sanctioning.

It can be concluded that farmers have a strong self-organizing of water use based on their cultural norms. However, the current rules in use do not lead to the sustainable use of water. The role of the government is critical in enforcing water policies.