

CLIMATE CHANGE AND IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE: WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONALIZATION IN ARGENTINEAN PAMPAS

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ABSTRACT

This paper will analyze changes occurred as a result of environmental and social pressures that brought as a consequence the emergence of a new agricultural system in a semiarid region of the Pampas in Argentina. This is the case of the irrigated agriculture in Rio Segundo basin, in the province of Córdoba. This basin has experienced substantial increases in precipitation during summer months since 1970. Changes in climate, along with high prices for agricultural commodities in the international market, allowed a process of "agriculturalization" during the 1990s. By this time supplementary irrigation systems for extensive production of grains with use of groundwater was adopted. The adoption of irrigation technology has brought along some important social changes, that included the emergence of a new type of social actor, the irrigating farmer, with a "new culture of management", and the creation of new institutions, such as the Consortium of Groundwater Users.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Irrigated agriculture, Argentinean pampas, water management institutionalization