

STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION IN A PRIVATE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Participation of stakeholders in the decision making process in water management is a relevant issue to an adequate water governance. Based on this hypothesis, we analyzed the structure of Chilean water system considering the legal framework, the consequences derived from existence of the market, and the historical behavior of water users in the Limarí river basin, all with regards to the ability of the water users to influence the decision making process. Through a qualitative approach we used semistructured interviews applied to a small, medium, and large farmers, local water managers, and governmental officers. We found that effective participation in the decision making process is limited by both the national law and the local management culture, which increase the gap between farmer types, as the larger ones enjoy more power due to their financial resources and the amount of water rights they own.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Participation, water, private