



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Water resources crisis in Yemen: Causes Solution

Water resources Crisis in Yemen: Causes and Solutions

Yemen's agriculture and water resources sectors are in a crisis. The water availability is 150 m³/cap/a. This compares with an average of 1250 m³/cap/a for the Middle East and North Africa. All surface water and groundwater resources are exploited beyond the level of recharge. The agriculture industry uses 93% of the potable water, and does not actively encourage sustainable water saving techniques. Qat (*Catha edulis*; recreational drug) cultivation uses 40% of the potable water. The water crisis could be mitigated by reducing qat production, and promoting water reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation. However, this is currently socially unacceptable. The following factors have had a great impact on water resources, they are the causes to speed up the water resources deterioration in Yemen, they are:

- Agriculture activities depleted water resources.
- water losses.
- contamination of water resources.
- Qat cultivation.
- Digging of too many wells.

This paper will investigate these factors and will drive solution which might mitigate the water crisis in Yemen.

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