



Assessment of water-saving society establishment program in China: A case study of Zhangye City, Gansu Province, China

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This research investigated the changes in land use/water use and consequent changes in water balance as well as the changes in farmers' awareness after the implementation of water-saving policies in Zhangye City, which is designated as one of the experimental sites for pilot programs of water resources management in China. We found that there are differences of the understanding among different stakeholders. The water saved ($2.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3 \text{ a}^{-1}$) through water-saving program, especially, changes in cropping structure, is lower than the newly increased water consumption (evapotranspiration, $2.6 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3 \text{ a}^{-1}$) through land reclamation activities of agricultural companies. In particular, the groundwater withdrawal has increased even after the implementation of water-saving program. This fact may deteriorate the decline of groundwater table.