



## **Natural resources in drylands and rainwater harvesting: community based management approach in north eastern Jordan**

Mohammad Noor Alhamad and Samah Jaradat

Jordan University of Science & Technology, Natural Resources& Environment, Irbid, Jordan (malhamad@just.edu.jo)

This study was conducted to explore the feasibility and need to build a community-based management plan of the natural resources in dry regions from NE Jordan. The study area encompasses seven villages from the Al Mafraq Governorate. The selected villages were located near two earth dams; namely Um Elloolo and Al Khanasri earth dams. The objectives of the study were to identify major problems concerning natural resources use and to explore, and identify management options for common natural resources from the local community's point of view. The research methodology is based on the integrated application of field interviews with individuals, focus groups with the local community, and feedback from key informants. Questionnaire was developed, tested, then filled out by individuals randomly selected from the selected villages in addition to conducting two focus groups. The study results illustrate the local community dependency on livestock ranching and agriculture as additional supportive resources of income. Water shortage is the main constraint for land use and livestock husbandry. A very small percentage of the local community support the construction of earth dams on rangeland reserves, since such reserves are not accessible for local communities. The results showed vital weakness in natural resources management programs in the study area. The lack of active participation of local communities during the planning and execution of natural resources developmental project lead to projects failure in securing water resources and sustainable use of available resources.