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Drought management in practice: An issue of discrepancy of perceptions

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Abstract :

Drought management policy in France is implemented locally. Due to discrepancies between assessment of drought situation by managing agency on one hand and water users on the other hand, as well as to uncertainty in measures and benchmarks, its efficiency is limited. From field investigations we could reveal various strategies of circumventing drought management regulation through contestation of its objective basis. In my talk, I will tell about this analysis of stakeholders' strategies and interests in drought management. I will also present an agent based model designed to represent the suitable indicators of drought at the suitable spatial scale for any category of stakeholders. This model aims at capturing the situation of drought management in the field in order to test various scenarios of rules adaptation. Initial test of the model show its suitability to explore sensitivity of efficiency of drought management setting according to its context: population of water users and their attitudes to water restriction rules as well as practical details of implementation.

Dr. Olivier Barreteau is senior water scientist at IRSTEA, UMR G-EAU in Montpellier. He has close to 20 years experience of interdisciplinary research at the interface between hydrology, modeling, and management sciences in various projects on local water governance in various places in the world, using social simulation with Agent based modeling and role playing games. His research focuses on the development of tools and methods to support collective decision processes about water issues, including stepping back to assess participatory approaches he is involved in. He is founder member of the Companion Modeling network (<http://www.commod.org>). He is also in charge of coordination of the joint Land & Water program for French Ministry of Environment, CNRS and IRSTEA.