



Migration and Environment in Drâa Valley Oases, Morocco

EACH  *FOR*

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Case study SE Morocco

- **Subcontracted: Mohamed Ait Hamza, IRCAM, Rabat**
- **Field work: 2 palm groves in SE Morocco – Drâa river valley: Ktaoua +M'hamid**
- **Desk research + interviews 30 migrants (48-58 y.), 30 non-migrants + experts**

Environmental situation & problems for agriculture/herding:

- High temperatures, many sun hours
- Strong rate of evaporation
- Rarity + strong annual variability rainfall
- Open to desert; frequent strong sand storms
- Bayoud disease
- Locust plagues
- Construction El Mansour Eddahbi dam 1972
→ reduced flow & water tables, salinization

Environment and migration

- Environment motive for leaving: 28 migrants
- Different mechanisms: cultivators – herders (Ait Atta – Aarib) – agricultural workers (Draouas)
- Non-migrants: migration by turn: life cycle + gender + international migration
- Forced – or voluntary?

Conclusions

- There is no simple determinism, but (un)favourable factors
- Environmental constraints relative, people manage to adapt
- Migration as part livelihood marginal herders/cultivators
- Feedback effects migration + opening oases / development