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Nota di contenuto	General Introduction -- Diurnal Pattern of Coupled Moisture and Heat Transport Process -- Application of Diurnal Soil Water Dynamics in Determining Effective Precipitation -- Two-Phase Mass and Heat Flow Model.- How Airflow Affects Soil Water Dynamics -- Impact of Model Physics on Retrieving Soil Moisture and Soil Temperature -- Concluding Remarks.
Sommario/riassunto	In arid and semi-arid areas, the main contributions to land surface processes are precipitation, surface evaporation and surface energy balancing. In the close-to-surface layer and root-zone layer, vapor flux is the dominant flux controlling these processes - process which, in turn, influence the local climate pattern and the local ecosystem. The work reported in this thesis attempts to understand how the soil airflow affects the vapor transport during evaporation processes, by using a two-phase heat and mass transfer model. The necessity of including the airflow mechanism in land surface process studies is discussed and highlighted.