Contents

Analysis of demand side policies on the growth of agricultural products in Iran

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to examine the impacts of two demand side policies, namely, expanding food industries and externally increase in households' demand for agricultural goods, on the growth of products in agricultural subsector. To this end, a social accounting matrix (SAM) is constructed based on the latest Iranian input- output table released in 2001. Then, production multipliers and income effects were calculated for four main agricultural subsectors. Finally, multiplier coefficients were decomposed, using the structural path analysis approach to distinguish short run and long run effects of the two policies. Results indicate that among agricultural related industries, food processing industry has a high potential for accelerating growth of raw agricultural products, both in short run and long run. Expansion of other related industries such as tobacco processing, carpets and rugs, hotel and restaurant services and agricultural activities are in the second place. Results of estimating income effects show that the impacts of income injection to the household groups, specially to lower income groups on growth of raw agricultural products is significant. Furthermore, redistribution of income from high to low income groups has almost the same effect. Accordingly, the latter two policies can be viewed as an alternative policy for agricultural growth both in short run and long run.

Keywords: agricultural sector, income effects, Iran, multiplier coefficients, path analysis, social accounting matrix (SAM).

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Determination of Iran's agricultural optimal R&D expenditure

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ABSTRACT

R&D is one of the most important and suitable strategies government's policies for increasing of agricultural production and supply. In this study, in addition of economic evaluation of agricultural R&D and determination of its rate of return, optimal Iran's agricultural R&D expenditure is determined. So, in this article, ex-post and ex-ante evaluation by using of Mathematical programming approach are used for determination and evaluation of agricultural R&D expenditure for years of 1967-2007. Estimation of optimal R&D expenditure indicate that optimal R&D budget is 23.5 percent more than current R&D budget and optimal optimal supply is 14.4 percent more than current supply. Results indicate that rate of return for current agriculture R&D is 29.12 percent. Whereas added R&D rate of return respect to Current R&D is 38.35 percent.

Keywords: agricultural R&D, ex-post and ex-ante evaluation, Iran, R&D optimal expenditure.

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Forecasting models for domestic and agricultural water consumptions in Tehran Province (Case Study: Amirkabir Dam)

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ABSTRACT

Considering importance and the role of forecasting water consumption in water resources management and implementing appropriate short- and long-run policies in order to optimize water demand, this study aims to provide a model for predicting the water consumption via Box and Jenkins method. To this end, monthly data for the domestic and Agricultural Water Consumptions of Tehran Province for 2001-2009 has been used. A HEGY seasonal and non-seasonal unit roots test, which was presented by Beaulieu and Miron (1993) for expanding monthly data has been performed. Following Box-Jenkins' approach on the converted data, $SARIMA(3, 1, 3)(1, 1, 1)_{12}$ and $SARIMA(1, 0, 5)(5, 0, 4)_{12}$ were chosen to forecast water consumption in domestic and agriculture sectors, respectively. The results water consumption in each period was influenced by their level and the shocks they received during the previous periods. Therefore an approximate, not an exact prediction of the mentioned values lets the policy-makers have a general view towards the future value of the domestic and agricultural water consumption in the following months so that they can plan and make future decisions effectively in order to take necessary initiatives for appropriate management of water consumption and operation of water reservoirs.

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Survey of the technology adoption of solar cookers by of visitor tribe's Sonqur & Kuliyaie County

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ABSTRACT

Efficient use of energy has always been considered as important goal of sustainable development. The purpose of this study in action research methodology is use of solar cookers for energy security in the tribe's community that has been conducted in two main parts; In the first part of the design, fabrication and testing of ovens, Faculty of Agriculture, Razi University in Kermanshah were performed in collaboration with the Technical University, Ensure the efficiency of the oven, place the second part of the population was tribe's, which is the main part of the study. Statistical Societyare This study tribe's Sonqur & Kuliyaie county hosted four families were in the category Chopan Kare Kalhor tribe. Methods used to collect data in the notes, Individual and group interviews, videos and audio recordings took place and this trend continued until theoretical saturation. Data analysis was performed by the author. Results indicated that the distributed solar cooker adoption were by tribes the foods cook. The use of solar cookers can be Solved many problems of tribes for cooking, Therefore it is imperative that development planners consider to renewable energy issues in regional and rural development programs.

Keywords: energy, solar cookers, sustainable development.

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Analysis of influencing factors on production risk management among orange farmers

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is analysis of effective factors on production risk management among orange farmers. Statistical population of research included all orange farmers of Jiroft (Kerman province). Using the Cochran formula were selected 25 cases, but to increase the validity of the research findings, by class random sampling the number of 125 questionnaire distribution among the members of the community finally number of 110 questionnaires was completed. The main study instrument was a questionnaire that its validity and reliability was confirmed by a panel of experts and Cronbach's alpha coefficient ($\alpha > 0.7$). The design of the study was a descriptive survey that done by single cross-sectional study (2010). Data analysis was done by SPSS$_{win18.}$ Finding from factor analysis illustrates that climatic, environmental, pests and disease factors have the greatest impact on risk on surveyed sample. In addition, financial and technology strategies and marketing management are of the most important practices to risk management among the farmers. The results of Pearson correlation analysis showed a significant and positive relationship between risk management and other study variables (education, cultivation Background, agricultural income and the amount of bank debt). This means that the farmers they have a high level of income, work experience or education, they well be able to management the risk better than others farmer. While there is a significant and negative relationship between bank debt and risk management. Further study results showed that the main factors influencing risk management point of view of the orange farmers was using varieties resistant to drought and crop insurance. Thus, the government provides insurance facilities for agricultural products to farmers in the area.

Keywords: factor analysis, Jiroft, management, production risks.

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Analyzing the trend and nature of technological change in sugar beet production in Iran

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ABSTRACT

In this study the trend of technological change and its nature was studied in production of sugar beet in Iran by using dual approach. This approach is useful for estimating the demand structure of the input price change and technology status. After estimating the various forms of flexible functions, by selection of Translog cost function with cost share equations system is estimated using seemingly unrelated regressions for the period of 1368-88. The rate of manufacturing cost in sugar beet farms has decreased over time. In addition, technological change is machinery- using and land, labor and fertilizer- saving.

Keywords: Iran, seemingly unrelated regressions, sugar beet, technological change, Translog cost function.

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Sustainability assessment of rice production in Iran using composite indicators (A practical method)

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to develop a practical methodology to assess the sustainability of rice production by composite indicators. This methodology includes five stages which end hierarchically calculating composite indicators. Thus, indicators were the main core of assessment, then the procedure of choosing indicators, selecting the best ones, normalization and weighting of them and how to calculate composite indicators are described. The number of 11 indicators in three dimensions of economic, social, and environmental by experts' opinions and data limitations were selected. Data were accessed from ministry of Agricultural Jihad website. The results showed that due to high rate of employment per hectare, Golestan province was ranked as the most sustainable among other provinces in social sustainability, Fars province in economic and Guilan in environmental sustainability. From the overall sustainability ranking, Fars province was ranked as the most sustainable producer of rice in Iran and Khuzestan province was ranked as the last one. The results also showed that the methodology of sustainability assessment using composite indicators due to simplicity and practical can be useful tool to calculate sustainability of agricultural crops like rice.

Keywords: composite indicators, rice production, sustainable agriculture, sustainability assessment.

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Investigation of factors influencing the implementation of the recommendations of Research Finding Diffusion-Push Plans by farmers' Fars province

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ABSTRACT

One of the indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of farmers' training is the transfer of learning by them. The aim of current study was to investigate factors influencing the implementation of the recommendations of Research Finding Diffusion-Push Plans by farmers. Research population consisted of farmers who participated at least in one of the Research Finding Diffusion-Push Plans in Fars province (143 farmers). According to Krejcie & Morgan's table, a number of 120 farmers were selected through stratified random sampling. Also, with all program organizers (n= 12) were interviewed about their perceptions about factors influencing learning transfer. Quantitative data was collected using a questionnaire. Face validity of the questionnaire was obtained through a panel of experts and reliability was obtained through pilot testing. The Cronbach's alpha ranged from 0.73 to 0.93. Results revealed that motivation to implementation, performance self-efficacy, supervisor support, performance–outcomes expectations, opportunity to use, personal outcomes-positive and supervisor sanctions could explain 80 percent of changes in the implementation of recommendations by farmers.

Keywords: farmer training, implementation of recommendation, learning transfer, research finding diffusion-push plan, training effectiveness.

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Factors influencing the quality of secondary agricultural education (Case study: Secondary agricultural school in Hajiabad County- Hormozgan Province)

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to study factors influencing the quality of secondary agricultural education from the viewpoints of teachers and students. The research method used was a descriptive and correlation design. Data was collected using questionnaire. The statistical population of this study included all agricultural teachers (N=21) and students (N= 86) at secondary agricultural school in Hajiabad County- which is located in the province of Hormozgan. Content validity of the questionnaire was tested by a panel of experts. A pilot study was conducted for testing the reliability and improving the questionnaire. Reliability of the instrument determined by Cronbach's Alpha (>0.7). SPSS version 11.5 was used to analyze the data. The findings revealed that from teachers' viewpoint, the quality of education was good. In contrast, from students' viewpoint, the quality of education was medium. The quality of farm instruments, teachers' skill in the subject matter, use of suitable teaching method, use of educational films, and students' interest to educational major were the important factors, which influence the quality of secondary agricultural education.

Keywords: educational facilities, educational quality, secondary agricultural education, student, teacher.

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Analyzing the impacts of watershed plans implement in rural areas of Zanjan province (Case study: Khomarak village)

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to analyze of impacts of watershed plans implement in rural areas of Zanjan province. The type of research method of the study was Analytical- Explanatory research. The statistical population of the study consisted of all the heads of household in Khomarak village (N= 170). According to Morgan& Krejcie table, 115 persons of them were selected by Simple Random Sampling (n=115). The main instrument for collecting data was questionnaire. A number of experts in the field of agricultural extension and rural development established the validity of the questionnaire. A pilot study was conducted to establish the reliability of the instrument. Cronbach alpha's coefficient for the sector of importance of watershed plans implement impacts in Khomarak village was 0.83. Collected data were analyzed using the $SPSS_{Win18}$ software. The finding of factor analysis revealed that the impacts of watershed plans implement in Khomarak village categorized in three factors named as environmental, economic and social, respectively and explained about 67.2% of total variances.

Keywords: impacts of watershed plans, Khomarak village, Zanjan province.

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The influence of quality of work life on agricultural extension expert's organizational commitment (A Study in Kerman Province)

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the relationship of quality of working life and organizational commitment of agricultural extension experts' in Kerman province, Iran. Correlational-descriptive research method was used in this study. Research sample including 123 experts were selected from 180 ones in Kerman agricultural extension sector using Krejcie & Morgan's table and proportional stratified random sampling. Survey research technique and questionnaire was applied to collect data. Questionnaire validity was confirmed by a group of experts. In order to measure the reliability of questionnaire, Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was calculated. Data was analyzed by applying $SPSS_{win20}$ and $LISREL_{8.5}$. Study results showed that there was a significant positive relationship between quality of work life and all components of agricultural extension experts' organizational commitment (Affective, Continuance and Normative). Results of structural equation modeling (SEM) revealed that quality of work life with 0.46 path coefficient and t=3.93 had positive significant influence on agricultural extension experts' organizational commitment, also, quality of work life explained 21% of agricultural extension experts' organizational commitment variance.

Keywords: affective commitment, agricultural Extension Experts, continuance commitment, normative commitment.

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Attitude of farmers to soil conservation practices (SCPs) in Kermanshah Province

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the attitude of farmers in Kermanshah Province to soil conservation practices (SCPs) and its effective factors. Statistical population consisted of all farmers in Kermanshah Province. Using the formula of Cochran, 176 individuals were selected as sample. The main instrument in this study was questionnaire which its validity was confirmed by the expert group and its reliability was calculated by using Cronbach's alpha coefficient ($\alpha > 0.7$). Data was analyzed by SPSS software. The results of the study showed that the majority of the Respondents (53.4 percent) had moderate attitude to SCPs. Results of the mean comparison showed that there was significant difference in the attitude of farmers to SCPs based on membership or non- membership in rural organizations and receiving loan or no loan. Also, results of regression analysis indicated that 27.4 percent of the variance of the attitude changes to SCPs is explained by three variables: "knowledge about SCPs ", "attending training - extension courses" and "education level of farmers".

Keywords: Kermanshah Province, soil conservation practices (SCPs), soil management, sustainable agriculture.

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The role of economic and noneconomic factors on residential water demand

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ABSTRACT

Estimation of water demand in the different sectors, spatially in the urban areas is an important subject that it has considered by scientists and economic researchers'. Water shortage and related challenges are most important problems of cities. This study was done according to Stonegray function and consumer behavior in microeconomic theory. Lineline, log line, loglog and some kinds of econometrics' functions was used in the analysis. Price and income elasticties were $-1<E_p<0$ and $0<E_M<1$ respectively. Water consumption in autumn and summer was 1.7 times greater than winter and spring. Three hindered and eighty households were chosen by using systematic sampling in Ilam. Price and income variables were measured on water consumption. Results show that, if we want to decision making to block rate pricing of residential water, we should pay attention to another variable such as weather temperature, size of home, size of family, tabs number, garden, yard, pool, pressure of water and consumption zone. Regression coefficients show that there were significance associations between water price and income with water demand.

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Performance analysis of autonomous rural production cooperatives in Hamadan Province according to SWOT model

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ABSTRACT

Autonomy in rural production cooperatives is one of the most important structural changes that Influenced by government policies, specially happened in recent decades and in turn affect their performance. But there is ambiguity in the current performance of autonomous cooperatives, in order to be objective and stability. This study was conducted in the Hamadan province. The purpose of the research is analysis of rural production cooperatives autonomous performance and Provide strategies for their empowerment and sustainability. The objective of this research is applicable and in terms of methodology is descriptive– analytical. The statistical population is comprised of four groups, Include: members, the board and managing directors of cooperatives are at least three years since its formation, and governmental managers and experts involved affairs of production cooperatives in the province. The officials and experts to 24 persons, as well as managing directors to 36 persons were identified through the census. Then, 13 Units of Cooperatives (35 percent of the statistical community) were considered and in the geographical directions and center of the province, sample size of cooperatives were determined as appropriate. They were selected with simple random sampling. To determine board of directors sample size in the selected cooperatives, 65 persons were identified through the census. A total of 350 sample members were identified using the Morgan Tables, and with proportionate stratified sampling, sample members were randomly selected. Data and information were obtained and collected with documentary and field methods. In field work, observation, interviews and structured questionnaire was used. Data were analyzed by SWOT models. The results showed that the most important strength point is Managing Director has a Bachelor of agricultural education, no specific model for evaluating the performance of Cooperative Managers is the most important point of weakness, having the proper soil and water resources of the cooperatives is the most important opportunity and low level of members education is the most important threat. Also, the current strategic establishment of flexibility mainly located in the WT or retreat and then in the WO or shift region. Therefore, avoiding the formation of autonomous cooperatives in rural by state and improvement activities and functioning of cooperatives to improve its performance for achieve to their goals and optimal use of opportunities, combined with reduction of threats, were proposed.

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Location ranking of conversion and completion industries in agriculture sector
(A case study: Mazandaran Province)

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ABSTRACT

Regarding to role and importance of conversion and competition industries in preventing to agricultural waste, establishment of these industries is an appropriate solution to agricultural development. Regarding to this problem that these industries are faced with inadequate supply of raw materials in terms of appropriate price and quality in their location, this study is ranking the cities of Mazandaran province in terms of the ability of conversion and competition industries in the agriculture sector. For this reason, ENTROPY and VIKOR techniques were used. The results show that capabilities of Behshahr, Neka and Sari cities are more than other city in establishing of these industries. So it is suggested that future investments and planning for the conversion and competition industries, take place in these cities, which have the lower costs and higher value added.

Keywords: conversion and competition industries, entropy, location, Mazandaran Province, VIKOR.

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Economic impacts assessment of development projects on rural areas (Case study: Irrigation and drainage network of Soleimanshah dam)

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to investigate of economic impacts of Soleimanshah dam on rural development in regions that are under influence of irrigation and drainage network of dam. In this research quantitative-qualitative research method was used and information gathered with questionnaire, interview, and direct observation. Statistical population of research in qualitative part consisted of managers of rural governance organizations which are under influence of irrigation and drainage network of dam (N=48) that totally interviewed, also Statistical population in quantitative part consisted of villagers householders downstream villages of dam (1273) that 300 people was selected base on Kerjski and Morgan table by using stratified sampling method with proportional allocation. For data analysis Moris model in quantitative part and content analysis and mind mapping techniques in qualitative part were used. Findings showed that positive and negative economic impacts of Soleimanshah dam totally summarized in 7 topics: 1. To cause economic competitions in local areas; 2. Enhancement and development of economic at under influence rural arias; 3. Attract of city founds by rural areas; 4. Increase agricultural land worth in studied areas; 5. Establishment of welfare activities; 6. Leads to food security, 7. Weak of local economy in upside areas of dam. Results of qualitative part and utilization of Morris model showed that in field of economic Impacts, the village which has more potential and Infrastructure for development(such as Satar) has got better rank and they were enjoyed from the economic indicators that related to establish of dam.

Keywords: development projects, economic impacts assessment, rural regions, Soleimanshah dam.

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Survey on factors affecting the acceptance of soil conservation measures, a step towards sustainable agriculture (Case study: township of Shirvan and Chardavol)

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ABSTRACT

The aim of present work is study of factors affecting the acceptance of soil conservation measures by the farmers in Shirvan & Chardavol township which is one of the main agricultural areas in the province of Ilam. This is an analytical comparative research that is done by survey method. The statistical population consisted of all the farmers of Shirvan & Chardavol township which are 8099 people, from them 140 people are selected using Cochran formula as the statistical samples. This group is divided into two groups, one that have applied the soil conservation techniques, and one that have not applied the techniques. The main tool to gather the data was a researcher-made questionnaire. The appearance and content validity of the questionnaire were examined based on the comments from the experts in agricultural education and extension, and necessary changes are applied. To determine the reliability of the questionnaire a preliminary test in a village outside of the statistical samples was carried out. The reliability of the examined factors in the questionnaire is evaluated by the use of Cronbach alpha coefficient. For statistical analysis of the data, descriptive statistics and inferential statistics including recognition analysis and paired t-test are employed and the analysis of the data was done by using of SPSS version 16 softwares. The results show that the parameters of age, technical knowledge, level of education, and the number of family of the farmers, have in order, the highest effect in accepting and employing soil conservation measures by the farmers.

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