**Role of social solidarity in local communities’ participation in fair use of shared water resources**

Hossein Yadavar1, Ribvar Isanezhad2, Shahrir Kharrazi3

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Extension and Rural Development, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran

2. PhD Student in Agricultural Development, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran

3. MSc of Agricultural Extension and Education, Tabriz, Iran

**Abstract**

As shared resources, rivers have always been a place for local disputes and conflicts over fair use. Due to the importance of management and fair and sustainable use of the limited water resources, the present study was carried out in order to investigate the effect of social solidarity on the local communities’ participation in fair use of shared water resources. The present study is a descriptive-correlational one, and the statistical population includes the farmers of 18 villages located in the riverbank of “Leylanchay in Urmia Lake’s basin”, East Azerbaijan, Iran. The size of the study sample was estimated to be 388 farmers who were selected through a two-step cluster random sampling method. The descriptive results of the study indicated that the rate of participation in fair use was low among the villages that shared rivers while based on the conventional system, water resources were shared fairly within the scope of the villages. Examining the relationship between the two variables of social solidarity and participation in fair use also showed that social solidarity predicted 0.54 of the changes in local communities’ participation in fair use of shared water resources. It is recommended that the level of social solidarity among the villages should be improved and enhanced by providing necessary trainings and the villagers should be trained about the principles of legal and fair use and the right of water in each village in order to facilitate the participation of rural communities in fair use of water and reduce the rate of the available conflicts over water division in villages with river.

Keywords: Fair use; Local communities’ participation; Shared water resources; Social solidarity.