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“Global food security and food safety:  
The role of universities”

## Drought and Water Scarcity as the Main Obstacle for Iran's Food Safety

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### Abstract

Iran, also known as Persia comprising about 1 % of the total world land, comprising about 1 % of the total world population, also produce about 1 % of total world food production. In year 2013 about 55 percent of food calorie needs were produced in the country. Wheat is the most important food crops in Iran. At the country level, 80 million people consumed wheat at the rate of 2.5 times more than average of the world (168 kg/year per capita). According to the FAO, Iran was the 12<sup>th</sup> leading producer of wheat in the world, with an average production of 14 million tons in 2011. Iran's food security index was stand at around 96 percent for this year. Because of the drought in recent years, thus made Iran the wheat importer which could be a treat for food security at national level. Prolonged droughts have caused mass migrations and humanitarian crises. Drought provides too little water to support food crops resulting in internal displacement and national/international refugees. In south-east region of the country, increasing drought and water scarcity diminished food security through more over 2800 villages resulted in wide population immigration to the big cities, makes the urgent need for crisis management. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad as the pole of research and education for sustainable agriculture in arid and semi-arid regions, provides action plans to combat drought under climate change conditions including: search for adaptation strategies to meet water deficit agriculture, integrate indigenous knowledge with modern agrotechnologies (i.e. supplying water from ancient innovative technic called Qanat), conducting workshops and training courses.

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