

## Research Paper

## Analysis of the Status of Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Macro and Sectorial Agricultural Policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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**ABSTRACT**

Currently, according to the various challenges of sustainable agriculture development principles such as competitive market, new technologies, and environment protection, developing sustainable entrepreneurship in agriculture sector is introduced as a key and an effective strategy to achieve agricultural sustainability. For this purpose, it is essential to provide appropriate policies on economic, social, and environmental dimensions. The current study aimed at analyzing the status of dimensions and elements of sustainable entrepreneurship in macro and sectorial agricultural policies of Islamic Republic of Iran. Content analysis research method was used to analyze the policies. Hierarchical additive weighting method (HAW) and the Shannon entropy weighting method were used to prioritize the 5-year development plan. The results showed that the entrepreneurship term was used in the Islamic Republic of Iran policy documents from the second development plan. But, sustainable entrepreneurship term is not used yet. Therefore, the sustainable entrepreneurship thought should be entered into the national policy. Due to entering the sustainability and entrepreneurial thought, and the terms related to the components of sustainable entrepreneurship in the policy documents of I.R.I, there is no obstacle to enter sustainable entrepreneurship thought in macro and sectorial policies including the constitutional law and Iran outlook 1404 and its policies, and 5 year development plans. According to the status of importance of sustainable entrepreneurship dimensions in 5 year development plan documents, the second plan is in first priority and then there are first, fifth, fourth, and third plans.

**Key words:**

Sustainable entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Policy, Content analysis

**Extended Abstract****1. Introduction**

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he failure of growth-oriented agricultural policies in the framework of modernization theory and market failure caused economic, social, and environmental unsustainability in agricultural sector. In

addition, currently sustainable agriculture development is faced with numerous challenges in global, regional, and local levels. Improving productions and productivity, profitability, marketing, health and food security, employment, modern technologies development, farmers empowerment, and environment protection on one hand, and some evolutions such as globalization, decentralization and privatization, competitive and free markets, population growth and urbanization, changes in the agricultural

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labor market, the necessity of research and development and innovation, developing the new food products, and changing the consumption patterns and consumer interests, climate changes, and environmental hazards on the other hand are the most important challenges that should be considered to make agricultural policies. Thus, the need to develop sustainable agriculture by adopting effective strategies and making appropriate policies is emphasized. In this regard, developing sustainable entrepreneurship in agriculture sector is introduced as a key and an effective strategy to achieve agricultural sustainability. In the entrepreneurial literatures, failure of markets is the resource of opportunities for sustainable entrepreneurs to achieve profitability and simultaneously reduce environmental degradations and realize social goals.

Developing new products and services, radical technologies, innovative methods of marketing, improving business models and practices, and increasing efficiency are some of the opportunities to emerge sustainable entrepreneurship and create economic, social, and environmental values. In this framework, developing sustainable entrepreneurship in agricultural sector facilitates the achievement of the goals of sustainable agriculture, especially wealth and human and ecosystem welfare by empowering farmers, increasing the number of sustainable farms, developing effective innovations and technologies, and more green products. For this purpose, it is essential to provide appropriate policies on economic, social, and environmental dimensions. In this framework, the current study aimed at analyzing the status of dimensions and elements of sustainable entrepreneurship in macro and sectorial agricultural policies of Islamic Republic of Iran.

## 2. Methodology

The content analysis research method was used to analyze the policies. The qualitative research method was employed to study the attitudes of policy documents by coding rules to make quantities data. The constitutional law, Iran, outlook 1404 and its policies, general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the policies of 5 year development plan from first to fifth plan, were the policy documents analyzed in this article. The validity of the analysis was achieved via symmetrical validity through providing a valid measure based on reviewing valid literatures comprising sustainable development, sustainable entrepreneurship and agricultural entrepreneurship policy making, and the visions of expert panel. Finally, a measure was prepared to analyze the status of sustainable entrepreneurship in the selected policy documents that included economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Each of them consisted of some elements and sub elements.

Respectively, the dimensions included 4 (investment and infrastructure development, employment, trade and market, and productivity and profitability), 6 (justice, decentralization and participation, knowledge, culture, and empowerment, life quality, research and development, and institutional development), and 2 (natural resources conservation and rehabilitation; environmental management, and monitoring and evaluation) elements. Their sub-elements were used as recording and counting units. The reliability of this analysis was 0.987. The hierarchical additive weighting method (HAW) of decision making models and the Shannon entropy weighting method were used to recognize the trend of emerging sustainable entrepreneurship dimensions in the 5 year development plans and prioritizing them.

## 3. Results

The results showed that the sustainable development term was used in some policy documents including the policies of Iran outlook 1404 (3 times), the general policies of water resources (1 time), Agriculture (1 time), and natural resources (1 time). In addition, it was used in the agricultural policies in the second (1 time), third (1 time) and fifth (1 time) 5 year development plan of I.R.I. Also, the entrepreneurship term entered some of these policy documents including the policies of Iran outlook 1404 (2 times), the general policy of economic security (1 time), employment (2 times), and investment encouragement (1 time), and third (2 times) and fourth (2 times) 5 year development plans. The multiple dimensions and components of sustainable entrepreneurship were used in the documents with different frequency and weights. The different weights of social (0.5), economic (0.3), and environmental (0.2) dimensions of the concept approve it.

## 4. Discussion

The results show that the entrepreneurship term has been used in the Islamic Republic of Iran policy documents from second development plan. But sustainable entrepreneurship term has not been used yet. In the national macro policies including the constitutional law and Iran outlook 1404 and its policies, the entrepreneurship term is used only twice (3%) in the third document. The social dimension is the most frequent (more than about 70%) in these documents. The findings of analyzing general policy documents were indicated that the environmental dimension was the most important in water resources, natural resources and adjustment of consumption samples policies. In contrast, in promoting investment and employment policy documents were focused on economic dimension and entrepreneurship recording unit

was counted. There was not entrepreneurship term in the general agricultural policy documents. Also environmental dimension was neglected. There are various elements of sustainable entrepreneurship in the macro policies of five-year development plan and entrepreneurship word is used in the third and fourth documents. Emphasis on investment, knowledge, culture and empowerment and research and development elements has grown in these documents. From the first to fourth five-year development plans, social dimension is the most important but in the fifth priority is economic and then environmental dimensions. According to the status of importance of sustainable entrepreneurship dimensions in five-year development plan documents, the second plan is in first priority and then there are first, fifth, fourth and third plan.

## 5. Conclusion

The macro and sectoral policies are supporting the sustainable entrepreneurship but there is not a holistic and integrated approach toward this in the documents. Especially, environmental dimension has been had very little importance and need to be reviewed. Also recognizing these documents is essential to make appropriate policies to develop sustainable entrepreneurship in agricultural sector. Because of scattering the components of sustainable entrepreneurship in the documents need to prepare a new macro policy document as a multi-sectorial guideline.