

Assessment of the economic effects of paddy land consolidation projects in rural settlements (case study: Central part of Rezvanshahr city)

Hamid Jalalian*

Associate Professor, of Geography & Rural Planning, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran

Farhad Javan

PhD. student of Geography & Rural Development, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

In the current situation of our country, due to the large number of agricultural parcels and problem in agricultural development, the land consolidation project is secure and necessary. When land consolidation may be in order to achieve sustainable development at the national level and be integrated rural development that action taken as a systematic approach and process planning studies and decision. With such an attitude, we can expect the economic effect of the integration process such as increased production per unit area, improved social status, improved farm management, improved soil conservation, reduction of manpower, increasing the use of inputs, facilitating the use of machines, saving water and etc. In addition, the implementation of land consolidation projects affects changes production conditions in the agricultural sector and in production pattern, productivity of factors of production, time needed to work in the fields income and etc. Land consolidation plays a key role in ensuring food security, poverty and access to sustainable rural development. This in turn improves the productivity of labor, increase agricultural competitiveness; facilitate investment in the village, functional planning and management of land leads. Western Europe focused experience shows that integration to increase productivity regardless of cultural and ecological aspects and ultimately the loss of natural diversity leads to the soil erosion and environmental degradation. So this study is intended to examine the economic effects of land consolidation projects in order to achieve the objectives of agricultural and rural development programs that is increasing production and rural incomes and optimal utilization of factors of production in the villages of Rezvanshahr city. In this paper, the main question is that what changes have the land consolidation created in the economy and improvement of the economic conditions of rural life compared to before integrating.

Methodology

With respect to aim, this study is applied and its method is descriptive-analytical. The data was collected based on the information provided in the documentation library various organizations. The statistical elements of this study are central Rezvanshahr rurals. In order to achieve the required data for instruments the survey and documentation methods have been used in research. The statistical elements of this study are the central rural area (29 villages) in the city is Rezvanshahr. The sample size of households is used to determine the project's beneficiary families. So, Cochran formula was used to determine the number of households in the sample from which the sample size of 225 was determined. To review and analyze information and data, paired t-test was used in the software Excel and SPSS. In order to compare the mean

* Corresponding Author:

Email: hamidjalalian@khu.ac.ir

between economic indicators before and after implementation of the project in the villages covered by the project, and as the dependent variables are interval, to compare the two groups (before and after the program) a paired t test was used.

Results and discussion

The results showed that the economic situation in the villages covered by the project from the perspective of villagers in two stages, before and after the program was significantly different in (05/0) level. From the perspective of the average number of parts villagers before implementation the average of 24/17 and after the program the average of 44/29 were obtained. These indices indicate that the number of land parcels compared to pre-plan has decreased. According to calculations, the average level of production conducted before implementation (4.28) has been lower than the production after the program (average 05/34). The average index of the machinery to implement the plan has been before (average 80/28) and after the program (average 56/43). It also indicates that after the implementation of integration projects the villagers' machinery use has been increased. In terms of water consumption in the villages covered in two stages, before and after the program, the indices were significantly different (05/0). So that water use in agricultural lands after the program has fallen. The results also demonstrated that the value of land in the villages covered in two stages, before and after the project was significantly different (05/0). So that villagers can say that from the perspective of the average value of agricultural land before the project (average 12/17) and after the program (average 88/25) has been increased. Land prices in the area increased after integration projects. Lack of proper access roads to farms, lack of water resources, local farmers conflicts over water are the most important factors in reducing the value of the land. When the project study was carried out in this area, it caused the reduction and elimination of these problems followed by an increase in the price of the lands. Expenses and income situation in the villages covered by the project in two stages, before and after the execution significantly different (05/0) is seen. This factor indicates a saving in the costs and an increase in avenues.

Conclusion

Land consolidation is one of the reasons for increased production of rice padding in the Rezvanshahr city. Annually 43261 ton of white rice (Hashemi) is produced from 10000 hectares of Rezvanshahr rice field. But the high cost of planting and harvesting rice, the presence of small plots and large number of borders, lack of road access, product transportation problems, lack of irrigation and drainage channels, flat and swampy rice paddies are some of the problems in rice production in the traditional way in the city that in the last two decades led to the formulation and implementation of integration projects and has caused an increase in rice paddies in the city Rezvanshahr. Based on the results from field studies and the results obtained from questionnaires, in connection with the economic effects of integration projects in the villages the following points can be mentioned:

- Integration projects with changes in land structure and increasing the size of exploits and Optimal irrigation methods and transfer positive effect on economic grounds (higher production efficiency, reduce costs, save water, etc.) provided.
- The most important positive effects of consolidation projects increase the area under cultivation in the studied villages.
- With the implementation of land consolidation projects, increased use of machinery in various stages of rice production.
- Land consolidation projects, reducing production costs have followed.
- With the implementation of the Land Consolidation, the possibility of investing on the floor along with production, second cultures and create new job opportunities in rural settlements has been increased.

Key words: Economy, land consolidation, rural settlement, city Rezvanshahr