

Study of the Profile of Iranian Agricultural and Natural Resources Graduates

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The aim of this study was to identify the structural features of the 14 branches of agricultural and natural resources of four different levels: diploma, B Sc., M Sc. and Ph. D. For this purpose, the available statistical data of the graduates in all of the 14 branches of studies during the 1996-2000 academic years in all national agricultural and natural resources colleges and universities were analyzed. These data were then compared with the data of a pyramid structured on the basis of previous studies and experts' suggestions. The differences between the two sets of data were considerable. This was mainly due to the increased enrollments of students at the B Sc. level during the 1990s without any consideration for the national market demand for the graduates in each area of specialization. Therefore, it is important to have adequate knowledge of the national needs for each branch of agricultural and natural resources specialization, before allowing student enrollment. This would reduce the rate of unemployment among the agricultural graduates.

Key Words: Agricultural and Natural Resources Higher Education, Pyramid of Graduates in Agriculture, Unemployment among the Agricultural Graduates