



## **Investigating of Barriers to the Development of Water Users Cooperatives in Rural Areas around the Aras River with Explanations Strategies to Development of Their**

**Rohallah Maghab<sup>1</sup>, Karim Naderi mahdii<sup>2</sup>, and Farhad Paknia<sup>3</sup>**

\*1, 2Phd Student and Assistant Professor, Agricultural Extension & Education  
Department, Bu Ali Sina University, Hamadan, Iran, 3Advisor to CEO and  
Director of Resource Equipment and Public Participation Office, Regional Water  
Organization of East Azerbaijan province  
maghable@yahoo.com

Newly Participatory Irrigation Management have been introduced widely as a new approach for strengthening sustainability in agricultural water management that aims to involve farmers to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of irrigation. This study performed to investigate the barriers to the development of cooperatives in rural areas around the Aras River Water Users. The research methodology applied survey. The sample of 537 water users' cooperative farming villages constituted the Aras River in 2013. The research instrument was a questionnaire that was verified by a group of experts and its validity and reliability was calculated by using Cronbach's formula ( $\alpha=0.90$ ). Barriers to development of water user's cooperative by using SPSS and LISREL were classified in 5 factors. The first factor was financial barrier that account of 18.54% of the variance was introduced as the most important factor. Next barriers named educational-extensional, policy investment, Infrastructure and legal barriers were classified a total of 68.89% of the explained variance. Based on the results, recommendations presented for the Development of Water Users Cooperatives in Rural Areas around the Aras River.

**Key Words:** Barriers, Water User Cooperatives, Aras River.