

## **Exploring the challenges and problems facing aquaculture industry and the need for Extension Services**

**Saeed Khodayari<sup>\*1</sup>,**

1 MSc Student of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Communication and Rural Development, the University of Zanjan,  
s.khodayari1366@gmail.com

Despite the short history of aquaculture industry in Iran, it has had a rapid growth in the last decade, which has mainly been due to the high potential of aquaculture in this country rather than only because of the growing utilization of technical skills. Undoubtedly, the significant gap between the current and potential capacities of fisheries implies the constraints and problems that threaten fisheries in this country. The aim of this study was to examine the challenges and problems facing the aquaculture Industry. On account of the existing studies, challenges of the aquaculture industry are lack of sufficient technical knowledge, lack of training and practical extension programs, lack of enough support from governmental organizations, and weak market of fish. This shows the necessity of providing appropriate extension programs for human and social capacity building of aquaculture farmers to be able to manage the complex challenges of this industry.

**Key Words:** aquaculture, challenges, knowledge, solutions