



A Decade of Quality Assessment in Iran's Agricultural Higher Education: Successes and Failures

Saeed Mohammadzadeh*¹, Yousef Hedjazi², Abbas Bazargan³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension & Education, Ramin University of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ahwaz, Iran, ^{2,3}University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
sd.muhamad@gmail.com

In response to local, national and international developments and challenges many countries have developed quality assurance as a new approach and institutional innovation during last three decades. Self-assessment is considered as a base of quality assessment in higher education. First experience of implementing self-assessment by an agricultural educational department was 1998. In the early of 2000s, National Education Measurement Organization has introduced self-assessment nationwide. National Education Measurement Organization efforts led to hegemony of self-assessment in the 2000s. After a decade these questions are raised: 1) how was the trend of implementing self-assessment? 2) Which factors affecting success and failure of implementing self-assessment? 3) What is lost ring of quality assessment in Iran's higher education? The research method was qualitative-quantitative mixed method design. Data have been gathered through documents content analysis, interview and questionnaire. Participants in the qualitative phase were self-assessment committee members while population of quantitative phase consisted of all faculty members of agricultural departments which implemented self-assessment. Results revealed that in spite of successful implementation of self-assessment in several departments but many of other departments facing problems that led to delay or pausing in implementing self-assessment. Conflicts in the educational departments as well as losing motivation by executive committee members are main determinants of failure in implementing self-assessment.

Key Words: quality assurance, self-assessment, external assessment, agricultural education.