

## **Exploring the causes and impacts of dust phenomenon: A case study**

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For decades, the pollution and destruction of the environment has been considered as one of the worrying issues at the local, national, regional and international levels. Need and greedy desire to exploitation of resources in today's human society has increased the pressure on different types of renewable natural resources, to the extent that, has exceeded of its tolerance range. This has created the contexts for destruction them. Dust phenomenon is one of the problems that is spreading by human interventions and irrational use of natural resources. In this regard, this study was performed with aim to explore the causes and impacts of dust phenomenon on farming using the qualitative research methods in Ahwaz County, Khuzestan Province. In this study, a number of key informants among agricultural experts and farmers were selected through purposive sampling and examined by encoding and categorizing method. The research findings indicate that the main causes of dust in the study area include: reduction of water resources, lack of vegetative cover, ceasing of interregional cooperation due to political factors, irrational patterns of agriculture, global warming, loss of soil moisture and speedy winds. Furthermore, agricultural experts attributed the causes of dust to a wider domain of factors. Also the impacts of dust on farmers and farming were revealed as social, economic, agronomic and environmental impacts. The study, then, suggests that the extension system must promote farmers' knowledge in the context of dust causes, in order to manage the controllable factors by farmers. Also, due to the impacts of dust on various sectors, the final part of the study followed by providing some suggestions to reduce the impacts of dust as well as to improve the role of agricultural extension in this context.

**Key Words:** Dust, Dust Causes, Dust Impacts.