

The First International Conference of the APIRAS & the Fifth Congress of Extension and Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management: 2-4 *September, 2014, University of Zanjan, Iran* 

## Capacities and competencies of agricultural cooperatives and rural organizations in Japan and Australia

Fereshteh Bagrezaei Jayhoon Abadi<sup>1</sup>, Gholamreza Mojarradi<sup>2</sup>

1 M. Sc. Student of rural development, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zanjan, Iran. 2Assistant Professor, Department of communication, Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zanjan, Iran.

Currently the cooperative system is essential element for achievement in different economic sectors. Cooperation in global agricultural sector caused social and economic prosperity by vision of many scholars and researchers in the field of development and the economy. This documentary study carried out to review Capacities and competencies of agricultural cooperatives and rural organizations in Japan and Australia. The results showed that the Australian rural cooperatives activities included citrus packing, production of chemical fertilizers, production of eggs, fruit production and packaging, irrigation, marketing, research activities, meat products, providing agricultural supplies and so on. These cooperatives have met not only the economic needs of individual procedures directly but also they have answered industrial markets demand even well than rival organizations. Japan's agricultural cooperatives are entitled to coherence of the popular, high efficiency in the production of food products and provision of high quality services to members. Finally, the results of agricultural cooperatives and rural organizations in both countries can be categorized on increasing of economic efficiency, providing timely and adequate credit facilities, providing a high level of market information, a high level of productivity, open attitude toward joint investments and cooperation, increasing the social capital, empowerment, and gender equality on women's organizations.

Key words: capacity, cooperatives, village

385