

## A Comparative Study of the Relationship between Saffron Production and Co-operation and Assistance in South Khorasan Villages

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### Abstract

Co-operation is helping each other which is closely related to traditional activities such as agriculture, crop cultivation and more specifically to saffron production. Saffron production has played an important role in preserving traditional cooperatives in the villages of South Khorasan for its unique characteristics such as the need for teamwork, co-operation and assistance. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between saffron production and the existence of traditional cooperatives in South Khorasan villages. This is a comparative and applied research which is conducted by the survey method. The statistical population is 82000 beneficiary farmers in South Khorasan in 1398. Some villages in cities of GHayen, Zirkooh, Sarayan, Ferdos and Boshrooyeh have been studied. Using Cochran formula, 550 beneficiary farmers (saffron and non-saffron farmers) were selected as the sample of the study. The sampling method is multi-stage cluster sampling. The data collection tool was a researcher-made questionnaire whose validity was measured by a supervisor, a consulting professor, a number of university faculty members and co-operative experts. The reliability of the data collection tool was measured by Cronbach's alpha. The calculated alpha value was 0.82. After collecting the questionnaires, the data were analyzed using SPSS / 23 software under windows. Findings of this study using independent t-test showed that the relationship between cooperatives and saffron production with t value was 17.32 to (0.000) significant. In other words, saffron production plays an important role in preservation and continuity of traditional cooperatives in saffron producing villages. In the other five dimensions of co-operation such as cooperation in non-agricultural affairs, co-operation in crop production, co-operation in cultivation and co-operation in harvesting and co-operation in establishing cooperatives, the difference between saffron producer and non-saffron producer villages was also significant (to the level of 0.000). In other words, saffron producer villages had a higher level of co-operation and assistance. Based on the results, it is suggested that crop production organizations and agencies put the increasing of the production of saffron on the list of their priorities.

**Key words:** Saffron production, traditional cooperatives, co-operation, Assistance

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