Analyzing the Consequences of Implementing Land Consolidation Project in Paddy Fields
(Case Study: Veleshcola Village)

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Extended Abstract
1. INTRODUCTION
One of the most basic strategies of development is agricultural development strategy. Agricultural development would not be realized unless the agricultural sector enjoys proper infrastructures. One of the basic infrastructures is implementing land consolidation project in paddy fields which is in line with the objectives of agricultural development that have been implemented in some areas of the country. The decision to develop the level of implementation and development of these projects needs assessment and identification of impacts and consequences resulting from their implementation. Since no comprehensive research has been conducted on the identification of consequences and results from consolidation project, the current research is based on the intention to analyze the consequences of implementing land consolidation project in Veleshkela, a village in Sari, Iran. The identification of the consequences and impacts of the project can facilitate and accelerate the basis of the adoption and implementation of the consolidation through analyzing the results obtained, and pave the way for agricultural development.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Land consolidation has been common in the literature of agricultural development in many countries and has been applied in different forms in Iran. Land consolidation has different forms and each of them has functionality under certain conditions. This study intends to investigate consolidating parts of cultivated land under the operation of farmers. The acceptance of consolidation can occur spontaneously or by governmental or external factors. Typically, the stimulant form in society and the spontaneous need show more stability. The studies show that, implementing land consolidation will bring more benefits. The benefits are as follow: optimal utilization of natural resources and manpower, increasing automation, reducing production costs, increasing performance, increasing the area under cultivation, and environmental issues. Since the success of any project can be different according to the conditions and its implementation; therefore, identifying the impacts and consequences of the projects in a local situation, describing their positive outcomes in line with the process of development, and expanding implementation plans are essential.

3. METHODOLOGY
The current study is applied in purpose and analytical in nature. The data were collected through library study and field survey. The instrument of the study was a questionnaire that its validity and reliability was confirmed by the experts’ opinions and Cronbach’s alpha coefficient (0.833). The statistical population is consisted of all the rice cultivators in Veleshkela, a village in Sari, Iran, whose lands are consolidated (N=300). Using the sampling table of Krejcie and Morgan, 169 individuals were selected. Finally, the data analysis was applied on 140 individuals using SPSS software. To analyze the data, descriptive statistics and factor analysis were used.

4. DISCUSSION
According to the results obtained, five factors were identified as the consequences and impacts resulting from the implementation of land consolidation in the intended areas, which are as follow: economic (22.257%), environmental (21.883%), social (14.835), technical (11.881%), and cultural (9.563%). Based on the findings, the most important consequence of consolidation is related to the economic issue. Accordingly, the land consolidation had concrete and positive impact on individuals’ economic status due to the increase in revenues related to production and reduction of costs. In addition, improving environmental or ecological indices is introduces as one of the findings of land consolidation project that, nowadays, policymakers and practitioners of...
developmental issues and sustainable agriculture consider it more than ever. Promoting and improving the social sector issues such as farmers' participation and permeability, and improving technical conditions of production process on farms, including cultivation planning, and farm management affairs are the other consequences of the project. In general, the five identified factors in total, specified 80.42% of the variance of the consequences of implementing the land consolidation project. According to the results obtained, more attention and necessary measures by planners or policy makers, with respect to these factors, can facilitate the basis of development and expansion plans in other areas.

5. CONCLUSION
In line with the results of the study on the basis of positive impacts of implementing land consolidation project, especially from economic, ecological, and social aspects, transferring experiences and justifying the benefits to the other potential or eligible areas of the project can be counted as effective measures for farmers’ adopting land consolidation projects. Accordingly, building trust in the technical and local leaders, holding explanatory meetings for farmers in order to specify the multidimensional benefits of the project, and providing a visit, for the eligible farmers, to the successful plans implemented in those or other areas are the basic strategies for overcoming barriers to the adoption and implementation plan of land consolidation process.

Key words: Land consolidation, factor analysis, Veleshkola village.

References


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