

# The Iranian Wheat Growers' Climate Information Use: An Actor-Network Theory Perspective

Maryam Sharifzadeh, Yasouj University, Yasouj, Iran

Gholam Hossein Zamani, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran

Ezatollah Karami, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran

Davar Khalili, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran

Arthur Tatnall, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

---

## ABSTRACT

*This research project employed an interdisciplinary attempt to study agricultural climate information use, linking sociology of translation (actor-network theory) and actor analysis premises in a qualitative research design. The research method used case study approaches and purposively selected a sample consisting of wheat growers of the Fars province of Iran, who are known as contact farmers. Concepts from actor-network theory (ANT) have been found to provide a useful perspective on the description and analysis of the cases. The data were analyzed using a combination of an actor-network theory (ANT) framework and the dynamic actor-network analysis (DANA) model. The findings revealed socio political (farmers' awareness, motivation, and trust), and information processing factors (accuracy of information, access to information, and correspondence of information to farmers' condition) as the key elements in facilitating climate information use in farming practices.*

**Keywords:** Actor-Network Theory, Climate Information Use, Dynamic Actor-Network Analysis (DANA), Fars Province, Wheat Growers

---

## INTRODUCTION

Climate information has become recognized as a basic production factor affecting agricultural systems (Harrison & Williams, 2007). This is while, despite significant improvements in the climatic information production in the last decade (Subbiah *et al.*, 2004; Ziervogel *et al.*,

2005; Hu *et al.*, 2006; Artikov *et al.*, 2006), farmers as focal decision makers of farm systems and main users of uncertain Agricultural Climate Information (ACI), have not altered management decisions to take advantage of this type of information (Articov *et al.*, 2006; Hu *et al.*, 2006; Nazemos'sadat *et al.*, 2006).

DOI: 10.4018/jantti.2012100101