



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**APPLICATION OF THE FUZZY APPROACH TO AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION PLANNING IN THE ATRAK WATERSHED IRAN**

**SEYED AHMAD MOHADDES HOSSEINI.**

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**By**

**SEYED AHMAD MOHADDES HOSSEINI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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Philosophy**

**December 2005**



## **Dedication**

*To: My wife and my daughter Seyedeh Zahra  
who are sharing in this study, My son Seyed  
MH who was born in Malaysia  
And my martyr friends.*



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia  
in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor Philosophy

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**Chairman: Professor Mohd Ghazali Mohayidin, PhD**

**Faculty: Agriculture**

The Atrak watershed is located in the northeast of Iran, where agricultural production is the main activity of the area. The government of Iran has adopted a sustainable agricultural development strategy for all watersheds in the country including the Atrak watershed. The government's goal is to embark on a sustainable agricultural development that not only provides the production of agricultural commodities and employment but also protects the environment from degradation. The rationale of adopting this strategy is that the watersheds of Iran, including the Atrak watershed, are facing many environmental problems especially severe soil erosion. The main purpose of this study is to define a framework for sustainable agricultural production planning for these watersheds particularly for Atrak watershed.



Watersheds are large-scale regions where agricultural production planning is usually associated with multiple objectives including economic, social and environmental targets. Uncertainty plays an important role in all agricultural planning because some factors are not fully controllable and some input data or parameters such as demand, resources, costs and objective functions are imprecise. This study develops and applies fuzzy multi-objective mathematical programming models to the Atrak watershed agricultural development plan. The models include three objectives, namely, profit maximization, employment maximization and erosion minimization, and they are subject to 89 constraints.

The models focus on sustainable agricultural production planning in order to determine the optimal cropping patterns in short-term and intermediate-term planning of the Atrak watershed. Results of the models show that the most important crops in the optimal plans in short and mid term are wheat, orchards (grape and other orchards) and alfalfa. Compared to current crop pattern, the results show that if the optimal plan was implemented, the optimal value of profit and employment would have increased respectively by 16.12 and 0.53 percent and erosion decreased by 19.88 percent. These figures may not show significant changes to the existing crop pattern, however it would improve farmers' income, and at the same time, achieve more



sustainable agricultural development. The Atrak Watershed consists of eight zones. In this study, cropping patterns for all the zones are also determined.

The model is also applied to several scenarios, i.e. looking at different tradeoffs among different but conflicting objectives (using different weights). The result shows a high profit is achievable while pursuing erosion control and higher employment, whereas there are trade-offs between economic, environmental and social targets. In addition, the result also shows that if the decision maker insists on higher employment level, profit level will fall and the erosion will increase. Therefore, the decision maker should not expect more employment from agricultural sector of Atrak watershed. Where equal weights are given to the various objectives, the result shows that social goal (employment) and environmental goal (erosion) were more attainable over economic goal (profit) in the Atrak Watershed.

The study also compares the results from the fuzzy model with a non-fuzzy model. In the case of non-fuzzy model, goal programming (GP) formulation is used because GP is capable of handling multiple objectives and it is recognized as a useful tool for agricultural planning. This comparison indicates that the fuzzy linear multi-objectives model is

superior to the non-fuzzy linear techniques such as linear and goal programming models.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra  
Malaysia memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falasfah

**APLIKASI PENDEKATAN FUZZY DI DALAM PERANCANGAN  
PENGELUARAN PERTANIAN DI LEGEH ATRAK, IRAN**

Oleh

**SEYED AHMAD MOHADDES HOSSEINI**

**December 2005**

**Pengerusi: Profesor Mohd Ghazali Mohayidin, PhD**

**Fakulti: Pertanian**

Legeh Atrak terletak di timur laut Iran dan pengeluaran pertanian adalah aktiviti utama di sini. Kerajaan Iran mempunyai strategi pembangunan pertanian lestari di kesemua legeh di negara ini, termasuklah di Atrak. Tujuan utama strategi kerajaan Iran adalah untuk memulakan pembangunan pertanian yang lestari yang bukan hanya mengeluarkan komoditi pertanian dan menyediakan peluang pekerjaan kepada rakyatnya, tetapi juga melindungi persekitaran semulajadi daripada kemusnahan. Strategi kerajaan Iran ini yang digunakan di legeh-legeh, termasuklah di Atrak, adalah kerana kawasan ini mengalami kesan hakisan tanah yang teruk. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan kerangka untuk perancangan





pengeluaran pertanian yang lestari untuk legeh-legeh, terutamanya di Atrak.

Legeh adalah kawasan luas di mana perancangan pengeluaran pertanian selalunya mempunyai pelbagai objektif termasuklah objektif dari segi ekonomi, sosial dan alam sekitar. Ketidakpastian memainkan peranan yang amat penting di dalam perancangan pertanian kerana sesetengah faktor pengeluaran pertanian tidak boleh dikawal sepenuhnya dan sesetengah input atau parameter seperti permintaan, sumber-sumber, kos dan fungsi objektif adalah tidak tepat. Kajian ini membangunkan dan mengaplikasikan model program matematik fuzzy pelbagai objektif ke atas perancangan pembangunan pertanian di legeh Atrak. Model ini merangkumi tiga objektif iaitu memaksimumkan untung, memaksimumkan guna tenagakerja dan meminimumkan hakisan, dan kesemua ini adalah tertakluk kepada 89 kekangan.

Model ini memfokuskan ke arah perancangan pengeluaran pertanian untuk menentukan corak tanaman yang optimal dalam jangka masa pendek dan perancangan legeh Atrak dalam jangkamasa sederhana. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa tanaman yang paling penting yang disarankan di dalam perancangan optimal dalam jangka masa pendek dan sederhana adalah gandum, tanaman dusun (anggur dan lain-lain) dan alfalfa. Dibandingkan dengan corak tanaman sedia ada,

keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa, sekiranya pelan optimal ini dilaksanakan, nilai keuntungan optimum dan guna tenagakerja akan masing-masing meningkat sebanyak 16.12 dan 0.53 peratus dan hakisan tanah akan turun sebanyak 19.88 peratus. Angka ini mungkin tidak menunjukkan perubahan yang ketara kepada corak tanaman yang sedia ada, tetapi ia boleh meningkatkan pendapatan petani, dan mencapai pembangunan pertanian lestari. Legeh Atrak mempunyai lapan zon, dan kajian ini menentukan corak tanaman untuk kesemua zon.

Model ini juga diaplikasikan kepada beberapa senario iaitu melihat kepada keseimbangan yang berbeza di antara objektif yang berbeza dan bercanggah (menggunakan wajaran yang berbeza). Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa keuntungan yang tinggi mampu untuk dicapai semasa cuba untuk mengawal hakisan dan meningkatkan guna tenagakerja, dan terdapat kompromi di antara objektif ekonomi, sosial dan alam sekitar. Di samping itu, kajian turut mendapati bahawa sekiranya pembuat keputusan ingin meningkatkan tahap gunatenagakerja, keuntungan akan menurun dan kesan hakisan akan meningkat. Oleh yang demikian, pembuat keputusan tidak seharusnya mengharapkan peningkatan guna tenagakerja di legeh Atrak. Apabila objektif berbeza diberikan wajaran yang sama, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa objektif sosial (guna tenagakerja) dan objektif alam sekitar

(kesan hakisan) adalah lebih mampu untuk dicapai berbanding objektif ekonomi (keuntungan) di legeh Atrak.

Kajian ini turut membandingkan keputusan dari model fuzzy dengan keputusan dari model bukan fuzzy. Di dalam model bukan fuzzy, sistem program objektif (GP) telah digunakan kerana sistem GP ini boleh digunakan untuk pelbagai objektif dan ianya dikenali sebagai alat yang berguna dalam perancangan pertanian. Perbandingan ini menunjukkan bahawa model linear fuzzy pelbagai objektif hanya lebih bagus sedikit daripada teknik-teknik linear bukan fuzzy yang lain seperti model linear dan model sistem program objektif.

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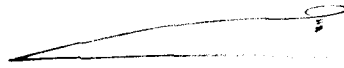


Finally, thanks to my dear wife for her love, moral support and patience for long time, and my daughter Zahra who are sharing in my study. My thanks are also to our families specially my mother in-law for their help and moral support.



## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



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**SEYED AHMAD MOHADDES HOSSEINI**

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
APPROVAL	xiv
DECLARATION	xvi
LIST OF TABLES	xx
LIST OF FIGURES	xxiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxvi
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
1 INTRODUCTION	1.1
1.1 Introduction	1.1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	1.10
1.3 Objective of the Study	1.15
1.4 Research Hypothesis	1.15
1.4 Significance of the Study	1.16
1.5 Thesis Organization	1.17
2 AN OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN IRAN	
2.1 Background	2.1
2.1.1 Land Characteristics	2.1
2.1.2 Population and Manpower	2.3
2.1.3 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	2.4
2.1.4 Land Resources	2.6
2.1.5 Water Resources	2.8
2.1.6 Agricultural Production	2.13
2.1.7 Natural Resources	2.23
2.1.8 Watersheds of Iran	2.25
2.2 Agricultural Policy	2.27
2.2.1 Prices Support	2.27
2.2.2 Rural Development	2.29
2.3 Agricultural Planning in Iran	2.30
2.3.1 National Cropping Plan (NCP)	2.31
2.3.2 Comprehensive Studies for Rehabilitation and Development of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSR DANR)	2.33
2.3.3 Land-use Planning II (LUP II)	2.34





	2.3.4 Sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources National Action Program (NAP-SMLWR)	2.36
3	LITERATURE REVIEW	
3.1	Definition of Fuzzy	3.1
3.1.1	Fuzzy Sets Theory	3.3
3.1.2	Degree of Membership	3.6
3.1.3	Decision Making In Fuzzy Environment	3.9
3.1.4	Summary	3.11
3.2	Methods Applied for Agricultural Production Planning	3.12
3.2.1	Single Objective	3.12
3.2.2	Multi-Objective Programming (MOP)	3.22
3.2.3	Summary	3.42
4	STUDY AREA AND DATABASE	
4.1	Introduction	4.1
4.2	Name and Area of Hydrological Units	4.3
4.3	Climate	4.4
4.3.1.	Precipitation	4.4
4.3.2.	Temperature and Evaporation	4.7
4.4	Population and Manpower	4.11
4.5	Land Classification	4.12
4.6	Land Use	4.14
4.7	Natural Resources	4.16
4.8	Animal Husbandry production	4.19
4.8.1.	Industry Animal Husbandry	4.19
4.8.2.	Conventional Animal Husbandry	4.23
4.9	Water Resources	4.26
4.10	Water Requirement	4.29
4.11	Current Cropping Pattern in Atrak Watershed	4.30
4.11.1.	Wheat and barley	4.31
4.11.2.	Alfalfa	4.32
4.11.3.	Grape	4.32
4.12.	Production Cost, Revenue and Profit of Crops	4.34
5	METHODOLOGY AND MODEL DEVELOPMENT	
5.1	Introduction	5.1
5.2	Database	5.2
5.3	Formulation of the Problem	5.3
5.4	Decision Variables	5.6
5.5	Objective Functions	5.14
5.5.1	Profit Maximization	5.14
5.5.2	Labor Employment Maximization	5.17
5.5.3	Erosion Minimization	5.18
5.6	Constraints	5.26



	5.6.1	Land Availability Constraints	5.26
	5.6.2	Minimum Surface of Produce Constraints	5.27
	5.6.3	Water Availability Constraints	5.28
5.7		Fuzzy Formulation	5.30
	5.7.1	Membership Functions for the Constraints	5.37
6		RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
	6.1	Suggested Cropping Pattern	6.1
	6.2	Comparison of Cropping Pattern Before and After Optimization	6.4
	6.3	Weights in Objectives Functions	6.10
	6.4	Trade-Off	6.14
	6.5	Comparison of Fuzzy and Non-Fuzzy Approaches	6.19
	6.6	Cropping Pattern for Middle Term Planning	6.21
	6.7	Comparison Results among Hydrological Units	6.27
	6.7.1	Ghoochan-Shirvan	6.27
	6.7.2	Bojnord	6.28
	6.7.3	Maneh	6.29
	6.7.4	Samarghan	6.30
	6.7.5	Ghoorymeydan	6.31
	6.7.6	Maraveh- Tapeh	6.32
	6.7.7	Ghlaman-Raz	6.33
	6.7.8	Hootan-Chat	6.35
7		SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	
	7.1	Summary of Findings	7.1
	7.2	Conclusion	7.8
	7.3	Policy Implication	7.11
	7.4	Limitation of the Study	7.15
	7.5	Suggestions for Future Work	7.16
		REFERENCES	R.1
		APPENDIX	A.1
		BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	B.1



## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 Population of Employed Citizen, 2002	2.4
2.2 Value Added of Economic Activities by Major Economic Sectors at Current Prices, Billion Rls, 2000-2002	2.5
2.3 Cultivated Area of Crops & Orchards, 000 ha,1992-2000	2.7
2.4 Agricultural Land Area on Holding, by Size, 2000	2.8
2.5 Statistics on Large Reservoir Dams, million m <sup>3</sup> , 1996-2002	2.10
2.6 Underground Water Resources and their Annual Discharge, Million m <sup>3</sup> , 1990-2000	2.12
2.7 Area under Cultivation and Production of Principal Annual Crops,1996-2002	2.16
2.8 Area under Cultivation and Production of Selected Perennial, 2002	2.18
2.9 Livestock and Poultry Production in Iran, 1986-2002	2.20
2.10 Catches and Production of Various Aquatics by Species, 1986-2002	2.22
2.11 Rangeland Area, 2003	2.24
2.12 Forest Areas, 2002	2.25
2.13 Area and Overland Flow Coefficient on Main Basins, 2002	2.26
2.14 Volume of Precipitation in Main Basins, Billion m <sup>3</sup> ,1991-2002	2.26
3.1 The Pay off Table of Positive Ideal Solution	3.35
4.1 Name and Area of Hydrological Units in n Atrak Olya Watershed	4.3
4.2 Precipitation in Atrak Olya by Hydrological Unit, 2002	4.6
4.3 Rainfall Distribution of the Atrak (Olya) Watershed, 2002	4.7
4.4 Temperature in Atrak Olya by Hydrological Unit, 2002	4.9



4.5	Average of Evaporation in Atrak Watershed by Hydrological Unit, 2002	4.9
4.6	Average of Evaporation in Atrak Olya by Hydrological Unit, 2002	4.10
4.7	Population in Atrak Olya by Hydrological Unit, 2002-2010	4.11
4.8	Classification of Land in Atrak (Olya) Watershed, 1995	4.14
4.9	Land Allocation for Different Uses in Atrak Olya by Hydrological Unit, 2005	4.16
4.10	Different Plant Types of Rangeland on the Basis of Fodder of Exploitation Capability and Their AU, 1995	4.18
4.11	Livestock Population and Animal Units in Atrak Olya Watershed, 2002	4.20
4.12	Total Red Meat and Milk Production of Livestock in Atrak Olya Watershed, 2002	4.20
4.13	Livestock Population and Animal Units in Atrak Olya Watershed by Hydrological Unit, 2002	4.21
4.14	Total Water Resources Evaluations in Atrak Olya watershed by Hydrological, Million m <sup>3</sup> , 2002	4.26
4.15	Annual Charge and Discharge of Underground Water Resources and Water Resources by hydrological unit, Million m <sup>3</sup> , 2002	4.27
4.16	Optimum Water Requirement for Different Crops in Ghoochan-Shirvan, m <sup>3</sup> per hectare	4.29
4.17	Surface Area Irrigated Crops in Atrak watershed, 2002	4.33
4.18	Profit Values of Cultivation Crops in Eight sub zones, Rls per hectare, 2002	4.35
4.19	Ranking of Crops According to Profit Level in Ghoochan-Shirvan, 2002	4.36
5.1	Decision Variables in Eight Sub- Zone in this Studay	5.11
5.2	Profit Coefficients for Each Decision Variable, Rls per hectare, 2002	5.15



5.3	Labor Requirement for Different Crops and Crop Rotations, 2002	5.17
5.4	C Factors for Crop and Crop Rotation in Sub Zones	2.24
5.5	Irrigated Land in Hydrologic Units, 2002	5.26
5.6	Land Use in Atrak Watershed, 2002	5.28
5.7	Optimum Water Requirement for Different Crop Rotation in Ghoochan-Shirvan, m <sup>3</sup> per hectare, 1995	5.30
5.8	Pay Off Table of Positive Ideal Solution	5.31
5.9	Part of X in Payoff Table of Positive Ideal Solution	5.33
5.10	The Determination of the Fuzzy Membership for Objectives and Constraints	5.42
6.1	Suggested Cropping Pattern for Atrak Watershed by Hydrological Unit	6.4
6.2	Crops Rotations Recommendation for Short Term Planning for Atrak watershed	6.5
6.3	Cropping Pattern Before and After Optimization	6.6
6.4	Objective Function Values and Satisfaction Levels for Different Weight Distributions	6.14
6.5	Summary Output of Regression between Profit and Erosion	6.16
6.6	Summary Output of Regression Model between Profit and Employment	6.19
6.7	Crop Rotations Recommendation for Mid Term Planning for Atrak Watershed	6.22
6.8	Cropping Pattern after Considering the Tolerance in Atrak Watershed	6.23
6.9	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, after Optimization and After Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Atrak Watershed	6.24
6.10	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Ghoochan-Shirvan	6.28



6.11	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Bojnord	6.29
6.12	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Maneh	6.30
6.13	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Samarghan	6.31
6.14	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Ghoorymeydan	6.31
6.15	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Maraveh-Tapeh	6.33
6.16	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Ghlaman-Raz	6.34
6.17	Comparison of Cropping Pattern before Optimization, After Optimization and after Optimization & Considering the Tolerance in Hootan-Chat	6.35



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
1.1 Planning in a System Perspective	1.4
2.1 Sectorial Value-added of GDP of Iran	2.5
3.1 Diagram of Fuzzy Membership for Age	3.8
3.2 Flowchart of Fuzzy Approach Methodology	3.36
4.1 Map of Iran Showing the Study area	4.2
4.2 Mean Monthly Rainfall (mm) in Atrak watershed	4.6
4.3 Ombrothermic Curve of Ghoochan-Shirvan	4.10
4.4 Map of Land Use in Atrak Watershed	4.15
4.5 Red and Milk production in Artak Olya Watershed	4.22
4.6 The Current Cropping Pattern in the Atrak Watershed	4.32
4.7 Ranking of Crops According to Profitable Ghoochan-Shirvan	4.36
5.1 Diagram of Membership Function for Profit Maximization Objective	5.36
5.2 Diagram of Membership Function for Employment Maximization Objective	5.36
5.3 Diagram of Membership Function for Soil Erosion Minimization Objective	5.37
5.4 Membership Functions, Non-Increasing and Non-Decreasing	5.39
6.1 The Suggested Cropping Pattern for Atrak Watershed	6.4
6.2 Cropping Pattern Before and After Optimization	6.7
6.3 Profit, Labor Requirement and Erosion Before and After Optimization	6.8
6.4 Trade off Between Profit and Erosion	6.17

