

Abstract (English)

Science and Technology studies scholars argue the ways in which a technology is used cannot be understood without exploring how it is embedded in social and political contexts. In line with the notion that technologies both influence and are influenced by the social, political and cultural dynamics of their surroundings, in my project I attempt to answer the following question:

How do the livelihoods of the community transform through the introduction of the technology of Micro Irrigation?

To answer this question, I decided to look at the village of Lamlang, located in the Iranian province of Gorgan, as a case study in order to investigate the rearrangement that took place following the introduction of the Micro Irrigation technology.

Within a technology there exist a large number of heterogeneous actors that aggregate to form a network, which in turn shapes the function of the technology as well as the world around it. When a technology emerges, this newly formed network begins to stabilize and must work actively in order to ensure the technology functions well. By focusing on the Micro Irrigation System not only as a tool for delivering water, but also as a network interacting with social, cultural and political elements of the Lamlang community, this project will investigate the complexities of such a network and demonstrate how this technology, shapes the socio-cultural configurations of the entire Gorgan region.

Actor-Network Theory (ANT), which embraces technology and society as integrated elements, is the theoretical backbone of this project.

I provide an ethnographic account of the aforementioned case, focusing on five different agricultural lands in Lamlang, where the Micro Irrigation Systems are under practice. The study also employs semi-structured interviews with selected farmers and their families residing on the agriculture lands. The statistical and expert organizational data was gathered through in-depth literature research and a review of various organizations' latest documents, such as the ones available on the Statistical Centre of Iran Database of Pipe and Fitting Industry of Iran.