

The Reasons for Continued Farmers to Adopt Mechanical Transplanting Practices of The Rice Crop

Case Study in Kafr El - Sheikh Governorate

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Abstract

The study aimed to identify the reasons behind farmers' continuance to adopt mechanical transplanting practices of the rice crop provided by the private sector (after the government mechanization center ceased to provide the service), to identify the ways through which they obtain the Transplanting machines, to identify the farmers' knowledge of the mechanical transplanting practices, and to identify the obstacles which face the diffusion of the transplanting machine among farmers.

The study was conducted on rice farmers in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, who continue to use mechanical rice transplanting. It was difficult to draw a sample of those specific farmers who are small in number and individually scatter in a wide areas, hence the qualitative approach was adopted and the in-depth interviews was basically the main method of collecting data relying on a pre-prepared discussion points covering the study objectives. A purposive sample of 10 farmers continuing in mechanical transplanting in rice cultivation was selected.

The important findings of the study show that:

- The reasons for some farmers' to continue adopting mechanical transplanting practices were the clear relative advantages gained by using Rice mechanical transplanting practices, which manifested in saving in the amount of seeds used, saving time and effort, and saving the cost of labor which might be used in manual transplanting.
- Farmers mentioned they used to get the transplanting machine from the mechanization center "public sector" but this service has stopped since 2011, the other (only) way of calling the machine is from the private sector and it turns out that farmers have the awareness of the ways to get them and the advantages of each method.
- Farmers reported that the main obstacles that caused the collapse of the transplanting machine service from the public sector (mechanization center) are the bad conditions of the transplanting machines in the center of rice mechanization, the lack of maintenance and repair services, and the distance between the mechanization center and the owner of the machine place. Among the negative aspects of using the private sector transplanting machines, are: High costs of service compared to public

sector, low financial resources of most farmers (small farmers) the long distance between the mechanization center and the owner of the machine place, and the limited curlicue cultivated area.