Farmers usage websites to obtain agricultural information in some villages in Al Gharbia governorate

Shady Abdel Salam Mohamed El Tantawy
Mona Fathy Salama   Naglaa Abdel Samie Imara
Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center

Abstract

The aim of this research was to identify the farmers usage of the websites to obtain the agricultural information, as well as the level of their confidence in the agricultural information available on the websites, in addition to determining the relative importance of the agricultural information that the farmers want to obtain from the websites from their point of view, as well as identify the obstacles that face them when using websites to obtain agricultural information from their point of view.

This research was conducted in Gharbia governorate as one of Egypt's main governorates for the cultivation of traditional and non-traditional crops such as vegetables, fruit, medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as animal and poultry production, in addition there are 17 agricultural extension centers equipped with means of information and communications technology (computers and the Internet). Two districts (Qotour and Mahalla al-Kubra) were chosen randomly among the governorate districts. This was followed by a random selection of two villages from each district. Thus Meet El-Sheikh and Elsheen were selected in Qotour district while Damro and El-Sagaia were selected in Mahalla Al-Kubra districts. A random sample of 200 respondents was selected, representing 10% of the total farmers in each of villages. The data were collected using the questionnaire form during the interview. Frequencies, percentages, the arithmetic mean, standard deviation, and weighted average were used in data analysis and presentation of the results.

The main results may be summarized as follows:

1. 51% of the respondents had a low level of websites usage to obtain agricultural information.

2- 48% of the respondents had low levels of confidence in the agricultural information available on the websites.

3- The most important agricultural information that the farmers wanted to obtain from the websites from their point of view was ranked in descending order according to the weighted average as follows: selection of improved seed (2.73 degrees), followed by the adaption to the hazard effects of climate changes on agricultural crops (2.70 degrees), while the modern methods of growing agricultural crops ranked third at (2.60 degrees).

4 - There are thirteen obstacles face farmers in terms of the usage of websites to obtain agricultural information from their point of view, and were ranked descending as follows: weakness of the foreign language to explore the agricultural websites (95%), knowledge lack of computer operations (91%), the lack of agricultural extension officers specialized in websites explore (88%).