

Farmers' awareness of the impact of the new Corona virus on agricultural activity in Sahel Al-Tina area

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Abstract

The research aimed to identify the sources of knowledge of farmers with the emerging corona virus in the research area, the degree of their application of measures to prevent infection, and their knowledge of its impact on agricultural activity, and to determine the correlation between them and the studied independent variables, and their contribution ratios in explaining the total variance thereof, and finally their knowledge of the efforts of those in charge of extension work. To reduce its impact on agricultural activity in the research area.

This research was conducted in Sahel Al-Tina area, which is located on the reins of Al-Salam Canal and administratively affiliated to Port Said Governorate, on a regular random sample of farmers in the three largest villages in the region in terms of the number of farmers benefiting from it with a percentage (5%) of (170) respondents distributed taking into account the percentages of their presence in those The villages selected for the research, and field data were collected using a personal interview questionnaire form that was previously prepared and initially tested during the months of July and August 2020, and the tabular display was used in its analysis with frequencies, percentages, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, mode, Pearson simple correlation coefficient, and multiple gradient ascending correlation and regression model.

The most important results of the search were as follows:

- All of the paragraphs related to the emerging corona virus on television, and publications on the emerging corona virus on the personal page on the social networking application Facebook, and conversations between friends and neighbors about the emerging corona virus through the mobile phone network topped the list of information sources for respondents in the search area in percentages They amounted to (88.8%, 77.6%, 62.9%) of the total respondents for each of them, respectively.
- The respondents apply a number of measures to prevent the emerging corona virus in the research area, including health culture measures, the most important of which is washing hands constantly with soap and

water for 30 seconds (84.1%), and spatial distancing measures, the most important of which is the commitment to implement the ban dates announced by the government (88.8 %), food safety and healthy nutrition procedures, the most important of which are cleaning and sterilizing tools used in cooking food (85.3%) of the respondents.

- Agricultural activity in the research area is affected as a result of the new Corona virus by a number of items, led by the increase in the prices of some agricultural production requirements, especially chemical fertilizers in the region, the increase in the prices of transporting agricultural products to and from the region, and the high cost of agricultural labor in the region by percentages of (57.6%, 46 5% and 45.3%) of the total respondents for each of them, respectively.
- There are eight independent variables that collectively contribute to the predictive ability to explain the variation in the degree of respondents' application of measures to prevent infection with the emerging coronavirus in the research area, with a percentage of (60.6%), of which (12.8%) are attributed to the variable degree of openness to the outside world. And (11.6%) is attributable to the variable degree of official social participation, (9.7%) is due to the variable degree of readiness for change, (8.5%) is due to the variable degree of ambition, and (6.9%) is attributable to the variable degree of willingness to change. To the variable degree of voluntary social participation, (5.4%) attributed to the variable number of years of experience with agricultural work, (3.7%) attributed to the age variable, (1.9%) attributed to the variable degree of tendency towards agricultural extension.
- The field of awareness of ways to obtain the requirements of agricultural production in the region, awareness of the specific dates for implementing agricultural operations for the existing crops in the region, and awareness of the mechanisms of marketing agricultural products in the region, through electronic means of communication, is the list of activities carried out by those in charge of agricultural extension work in the research area in light of the presence of a virus The new corona virus in percentages (70.6%, 64.1%, 57.1%) of the total respondents for each of them, respectively.

The research concluded with formulating recommendations to increase farmers' awareness of the impact of the new Corona virus on agricultural activity in the research area, and to increase the efforts of those in charge of agricultural extension work towards reducing this impact by strengthening digital agricultural extension services and following electronic means of communication.

