

Challenges Facing Small Milk Producers in Two Villages in Beni-Suef Governorate

DR. Radwa M. Ata
Faculty of Agriculture - Cairo University

radma.mohamed@agr.cu.edu.eg

ABSTRACT

Small Milk Producers (SMPs) in Egypt are currently suffering from the absence of public Extension and Advisory Services (EASs) due to the ever-decreasing numbers of Village Extension Workers VEWs and ever-declining Governmental funding. New arrangements need to be initiated for effective provision of these services. Contract-based agreements, involving different stakeholders, represent an appropriate platform for linking SMPs with local market by providing them with their needed and demanded EASs.

This study aimed to investigate the challenges facing a platform established for linking SMPs with markets in two villages in Beni-Suef Governorate. The study was conducted in (Halabiya and Ghafar) Villages in Beni-Suef Governorate, A personal interview questionnaire was used to collect data from all the SMPs who signed a contract with two Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (and their number 107 respondents, 26 females, and 81 males from the two mentioned villages respectively), within a platform established for providing SMPs with needed knowledge and skills for improving the quantity and quality of their production. In addition to the SMPs, this platform included a private milk marketing company and dairy production experts from the public and private sectors. Frequencies and percentages were used for data presentation and analysis.

Results revealed several financial, marketing, and production challenges that face the platform. The respondents' suggested recommendations to face these challenges include: increasing prices of SMPs' products; securing timely provision of subsidized inputs, enhancing all partners' accountability, attracting more milk processing companies to join the platform; and providing SMPs with quotas of production inputs on credit through their NGOs.

Key Words: Challenges, Extension and Advisory Services, Small Milk Producers, Beni-Suef.