

Farmers' Knowledge of Agricultural Land Improvement and Maintenance Techniques in Some Villages at EL–Minia Governorate

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Abstract

This research aimed mainly to determine knowledge level of farmers respondents concerning technical recommendations of agricultural land improvement and maintenance techniques, also to identify Knowledge Resources of farmers respondents in this field, then suggest an extension action plan for developing agricultural land improvement and maintenance techniques, and finally to identify the problems facing farmers respondents in the field of improving and maintaining agricultural land.

The research was conducted in El–Minia Governorate as one of the distinguished agricultural areas in Egypt. Three distracts were chosen .They were Bani Mazar , El – Minia,Malawy .A village was chosen randomly from each district. According to Kregcie and Morgan equation, the sample was amounted 358 farmers Respondents, representing 6.3% of the overall total population of 5645 farmers, which has been selected systematic randomly in the same above–mentioned ratio from the three studied villages :91 respondents from El– Gindia ,188 respondents from Saft El – Khamar and 79 respondents from Quolapa. Data were collected by using a pretested Personal interview questionnaire during June 2020. Arithmetic mean , frequencies ,and percentages in tabular presentation were used also to analyze and show data.

The results showed that:

- The total mean of farmers' respondents' knowledge degree has reached 1.01 degree by percentage 51%. , Which means that the level of knowledge of the farmers was totally intermediate.
- There are multiplicities and diversity in the knowledge sources of the studied technical recommendations which are divided into two sections as follows:

A–Resources relating to agriculture extension device.

- The extension worker contributes by 6% of awareness and informing farmers' respondents with the total studied technical recommendations which amounting to 102 items. This reflects their limited role in this area.
- The officials of the Agricultural cooperatives contribute by 8% of awareness and informing farmers respondents with the total studied technical recommendations. This means also weakness of their role in this area.

B–Another knowledge resources

The personal experience contributes by about 35.5 % of awareness and informing farmers' respondents with the total studied technical recommendations. This means intermediate percentages of this resource in this field.

- Family and neighbors contribute by 33 % of awareness and informing farmers respondents with the total studied technical recommendations. This is extremely a limited role in this field.

Engineers of land improving and maintaining contribute by 20.5% of awareness and informing farmers respondents with the total studied technical recommendations. This is extremely alimited role in this field.

The problems facing farmers respondents in the field of improving and maintaining agricultural land were: firstly, concerning soil problems:an

increase in the prices of renting agricultural equipment, cheating in pesticides and their high prices, lack of provision of agricultural gypsum, the lack of provision of soil analysis laboratories , increase in the costs of some improvements in the agriculture lands, and the increase in the wages of the workers.

Secondly, concerning agricultural extension device problems: the lack of the officials' interest concerning awareness of farmers in improving and maintaining their agricultural land, the weakness of the agricultural extension role in improving and maintaining the agricultural land and the small number of the agricultural guides ,the shortage of agricultural leaflets concerning the techniques of improving and maintaining the agriculture land..