

Reluctance of strawberry producers to apply organic farming practices and their causes in some villages of Ismailia Governorate

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Abstract

The research aim was to determine the degree of reluctance of strawberry farmers to apply organic farming practices, to identify the reasons for their reluctance, and the relationship between their degree of reluctance and some of the independent variables studied; The research was conducted in Ismailia Governorate, where 3 centers were selected in terms of the large area planted with strawberries namely Ismailia, Fayed, Abu Swayer, and a village was chosen in each of these centers. The total research sample was 304 respondents out of the total strawberry farmers' respondents 1436 using the Krejcie & Morgan equation. Data were collected in July 2018 using a questionnaire form by personal interview. The analytical and descriptive method was used in the study. Data was analyses by using the statistical program (SPSS), The weighted average, and the simple correlation coefficient of Pearson (t). The results were also presented in tabular form using frequencies and percentages.

The main findings of the research are as follows;

- It was found that 5.2% of the respondents with a low degree of abstinence from the application of the practices of organic agriculture for the strawberry crop, and 12.5% of them with a Medium degree of abstention, while it was found that more than two thirds of them 82.3% With high degree of abstinence. Which requires the concerned bodies of the Ministry of Agriculture, especially the Agricultural Extension Service, to increase the awareness of these farmers and to raise awareness of the importance of this important export crop and lead them to a significant economic return.
- The reasons for the reluctance of strawberry growers to apply organic farming practices were due to several reasons, which were arranged according to the weighted average as follows: The reasons for agricultural extension came in the first place with a weighted average of 3.58 degrees. With a capacity of 3.55 degrees. In third place were the reasons for the production of the organic strawberry crop with a weighted average of 3.40 degrees. Finally, the fourth reason for marketing the organic strawberry crop at a weighted average of 3.06 degrees.

- here was a significant positive relationship at a significant level of 0.01 between the degree of reluctance of the strawberry farmer to apply practices organic agriculture and each of the following independent factors are considered: participation in local development organizations, degree of informal social participation, degree of satisfaction with life in the region, and degree of attitudes towards new agricultural ideas and methods
- There is significant relation at the level of 0.05 between reluctance of the strawberry farmer to apply practices organic agriculture and each of the following independent factors, the degree of education of the respondent, and the degree of modernization.
- There was also a significant negative correlation at a significant level of 0.01 between strawberry farmers' reluctance to apply organic farming practices as a dependent factor and age variable, and a significant negative relationship at a significant level of 0.05 between the variables of; area of agricultural tenure, years of experience in farm work, and cultivated area with strawberry crop.