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Farmers' Awareness of Some Agricultural Extension Approaches and Their Vision Regarding the Main Features of a New Approach in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research was to study farmers' awareness of agricultural extension approaches and their vision regarding the main features of a new approach in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, through identifying the following: (1) some characteristics of respondents, (2) respondents' awareness of the studied approaches: "General agricultural extension approach", "National agricultural extension campaign approach", "Training and visit approach", and "Farming system development approach", (3) problems facing extension work from the respondents points of view, and (4) respondents vision regarding the main features of their new proposed approach.

Kafr El-Sheikh, Killen and Disouq districts were chosen randomly from Kafr El-Sheikh governorate. One village was chosen randomly from each district (El-Roda, Tawelet Nashart and Kafr El-Arab, respectively), random samples amounted to 197 respondents from the total number of farmers in the chosen villages. A well prepared and pretested questionnaire was used to collect data for this research through personal interviews. Frequencies and percentages distributions were used to analyze data.

Results of this research revealed the following:

- 1- Most of the respondents indicated that extension services offered through the various approaches under study were as follows: a- "General agricultural extension approach": provided technical recommendations pertaining to crops, seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and loans. b- "National agricultural extension campaign approach": provided technical recommendations as well as solving problems, c- "Training and visit approach": provided technical recommendations, solving problems, recommendations pertaining to land preparation and rationalization of irrigation practices d- "Farming system development approach": provided chemical fertilizers and technical recommendations.
- 2- Most of the respondents indicated that the extension methods used in the above-mentioned approaches were as follows; a- "General agricultural extension approach": used field visits, field demonstrations, extension radio and television programs., b- "National agricultural extension campaign approach": used extension radio and television programs as well as extension meetings; c- "Training and visit approach": used field visits and extension meetings; d- "farming system development approach": used extension magazines and bulletins (extension publications).
- 3- The most important positive aspects were that the studied extension approaches contributed to increasing land productivity and farm income.
- 4- The main problems facing the extension work from the respondents points of view were lack of local extension agents, especially for village basins, and insufficient training programs for extension workers.
- 5- The main features of the new approach as proposed by respondents "Farmers associations participatory approach", emphasized the establishment of farmers associations, as a means for enhancing local participation in developing and evaluating extension programs.