

## **Extension Role in the Field of Sustainable Agriculture in Fayoum Governorate**

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### **Abstract**

Study aimed to: determine the Perception degree of the extension workers for their expected roles in sustainable agriculture and the most important factors affecting it, measuring their actual role in the same field and the most important factors affecting it, and finally identify the problems faced the extension workers, and their suggestions to improve their performance.

Study was conducted in Fayoum governorate, on a simple random sample of extension workers reached to 112 respondents in the six districts of Fayoum, which represents about 30% of the whole extension workers. Data were collected through a personal interviews guided by a questionnaire.

Findings could be summarized as follows:

Respondents had high degree of perception for their expected roles in sustainable agriculture field as general, specially in the following fields: using plant and animal by products, rational use of irrigation water, pest control, select a suitable types of plant and animals, in addition to some activities in the field of soil conservation. Findings indicated that the activities which were less perceived by the respondents were: using natural alternatives instead of chemical pesticides (46.4%), burning weeds in suitable way (37.5%), swing of weeds and green plants in the soil to increase its fertility (31.3%). Also the perception level of the majority of respondents (93%) for their expected roles was high or average. Findings also reported that the most important activities of respondents were in the field of: rational use of irrigation water, soil conservation, following by using less toxicity pesticides (4.36), handy weed control (4.36), did not burn by-products of crops (3.89), applying integrated pest management (3.89). Respondents were less applying of the following activities: recycle water of factories before throw it in water channels (2.29), selling the products in market to increase income (2.59), the performance level of the expected roles of 76% of respondents was high (40.2%) or average (35.7%)

Findings indicated that there was a significant relationship between the perception level of respondents for their expected roles in the field of a sustainable agriculture and each of: age, upbringing, scientific qualification, professional situation, professional specialization, knowing of sustainable agriculture concept, the exposure of the information sources, and utilize of it, and performance satisfaction. Also there was a significant relationship between the performance level of respondents for their expected roles and each of: upbringing, scientific qualification, scientific specialization, knowing of sustainable agriculture concept, the exposure of information sources, and utilize of it, and the extension role in solving the problems, the performance satisfaction. Findings also reported that the most important problems facing the respondents were: shortage of financial support for the extension activities (that all respondents mentioned it), absence of job description for the

extensionists, insufficient of training courses for them, and doing non extension works that 89.3%, 80.4% reported that respectively, the most suggestions were: availability of the extension work facilities, job description for the extensionists, availability of both training courses and incentives, the co-ordination between agricultural extension and the other associations which work in the field of rural development, that 100% , 100%, 90.2% and 74.1% of respondents mentioned it respectively.