



THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL CRISES IN SUGAR BEET AREA

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed basically at: describing the actual situation of agricultural crises in the study area and mechanisms of agricultural extension to face them, describing the levels of agricultural crises management and studying the differences between extension agents and farmers' points of view with respect to the agricultural crises management level in the study area, estimating the gap size between the actual and optimal levels of agricultural crises management in the study area, identifying the level of respondent farmers utilization of extension activities in the field of facing the agricultural crises and factors correlated to it, and finally identifying the obstacles of the role of agricultural extension in agricultural crises management and suggestions to face them from the agricultural agents and farmers points of view.

The study was conducted in Sugar Beet on two different categories of respondents, the first category was the population of agricultural agents in Sugar Beet area (24 agricultural agents), the second category was a systematic random sample of farmers in: Baghdad, Taha El-ameen and Salama Hegazy villages (165 farmers representing 30% of the total number of farmers in the three villages). Data were collected through personal interviews with the selected respondents using a question-

naire. The statistical analyzing tools used in the study were: Pearson's correlation coefficient, t-test, in addition to frequencies, percentages, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and alpha coefficient.

The most important findings were

First: The most important agricultural crises in the study area from the agricultural agents point of view were: shortage of irrigation water, climate changes, shortage of agricultural fertilizers, difficulties of agricultural crops marketing, the spread of bird flu disease, shortage of agricultural pesticides, pollution of irrigation water, spread of agricultural pests, spread of diseases of agricultural animals, shortage of veterinary services, agricultural environment pollution and the poor condition of agricultural drainage.

Second: According to describing the agricultural crises management levels, the findings showed that about 70.8% of respondent agricultural agents clarified that this level was moderate in the study area, while that 64.8% of respondent farmers clarified that this level was low. The findings showed also that there were significant differences between the two average degrees expressing the agricultural agents and farmers' points of view in respect to agricultural crises management level in the study area.

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Third: According to the gap size between the actual and optimal levels of agricultural crises management in the study area, the findings showed that the ratio gap was about 36.5%, 52.0% from the agricultural agents and farmers points of view respectively.

Fourth: About 47.9% of respondent farmers showed that their utilization level of extension activities in the field of facing the agricultural crises was low. The findings showed also that there was a positive significant correlation relationship

between farmers' utilization level of extension activities in the field of facing agricultural crises and the following variables: age, educational level, family size, aspiration level, leadership status, public awareness level, organizations membership and cultural openness.

Fifth: The findings also represented some obstacles of the role of agricultural extension in agricultural crises management and suggestions to face them from the agricultural agents and farmers points of view.