To Assess the Role of Farm Advisors in Informing Farmers about Reducing Wastes in Wheat Production (Case Study, Qazvin Province, Iran)

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Abstract:
Every year more than 30 percent of agricultural production is being wasted and a major reason could be methods of cultivation and harvest which is being used by farmers. In order to reduce the waste and increase production of wheat, Ministry of Agriculture started a program to hire university graduated students to work as farm advisors and train farmers the methods to increase production and reduce waste. The major purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of farm advisors in reducing wastes in wheat production in Qazvin Province. The population for the study was 112 farm advisors in Qazvin Province and data collected by using a questionnaire. The data was analyzed by using statistical methods in SPSS. The results of the study showed there was a meaningful relation between reducing waste as dependent variable and number of contacts with experts in Ministry of Agriculture during cultivation and harvest period, number of contacts with extension experts, number of contacts with researchers, adaptability of training courses to improve skills of farm advisors, adaptability of university education, educational tools, formal methods of teaching, awareness of farm advisors about factors caused wastes in cultivation period, awareness of farm advisors about methods of reducing wastes as independent variables. It was also found out that methods of supervising the activities of farmers had positive impacts on effectiveness of farm advisors.

Key Words: Farm Advisors, Waste Reduction, Wheat, Effectiveness.

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