

**A STUDY ON PROBLEMS OF POTATO PRODUCERS AS A BASE
LINE FOR DEVELOPING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
PROGRAMS IN BUSTAN ZONE , BEHEIRA GOVERNORATE**

A thesis

Presented to the graduate school

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degree of**

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In

Agricultural Extension

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Summary

The main objectives of this study was to assess and analyse the problems faced potato producers as a baseline for developing agricultural extension programs in bustan zone, beheira governorate

: Specific objectives of the study included

Assessment and analysis of problems related to phases of production, harvest ,and post harvest from the point of view of the two producers categories (producers with contracts and producers without contracts) in the research area -١

Identifying some characteristics of the potato producers with emphasis on information .sources related to potato crop -٢

Develop a framework for building extension programs aimed at solving problems which faced the potato producers and improving the productivity in terms of the a higher rate and the quality of product -٣

A prepared and pre-tested questionnaire was used to collect data through interview's made with two categories of potato producers. One category represents the producers,(73) who grow potato for exporting through contract with export companies, the second category .represents the producers (73)who grow potato without contracts

Many statistical methods used included percentages means, and t-test

The research is made up of four chapters :the first explains the nature and dimensions of the research problem; the second includes coverage of the reviewed literature; the third indicates the methodology and . research procedures; the fourth presents the results and discussions

.The following is-a-summary of important research findings

First: problems of production stage

The results showed that the most important problems of production are related to: crop rotation, seeds treatment ,irrigation, pest and diseases control, fertilizing, and low awareness with technical information

Second :problems of harvest and post-harvest stages

While lack of harvest machines was a common problem, there were other problems faced the producers i.e. relatively low yield and income, difficulties of marketing and /or dealing with companies and .their representatives ,and traditional storing practices

.Third :characteristics of producers

The results showed that there are significant differences between some characteristics of producers in Entilak (producers with contracts)area and producers in Bustan area i.e. level of education, family size, farm .size ,and degree of participation in potato production

On the other hand, the percentage of graduates are higher (71%) in .(Entilak than in Bustan (66%

Regarding age of respondents, the majority of producers (86.3)in Entilak area and (60.3%) in Bustan area are less than 45 years .In respect of information sources the majority of producers are using traditional sources i.e. parents, friends and neighbors. However, some of producers are participating in some extension activities i.e. panel .discussions, meetings and demonstration trials

Fourth :framework for expected extension programs in the research .area

**The outlying framework based on the results of this research consists
:of five components**

**The problems faced producers which could be solved through - ١
.changes in producers behavior**

**Extension educational objectives and messages (Educational - ٢
.(contents**

**producers characteristics as a basis for designing extension - ٣
. educational situations**

**Determining extension methods and means to be used in messages - ٤
delivery and persons who will communicate and educate the producers**

**Specifying indicators to be used in evaluation of program progress in - ٥
. general and in achieving educational objectives in particular**