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## The Efficiency of the Extension Workers in Improving the Adoption of the Environmental Friendly Methods by Small Scale Farmers

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### Abstract

Over the last twenty years, the environmental approach has been growing in the whole world considering many sectors of production. Mainly, the agricultural and food sectors focus on improving the level of quality while keeping the level of production.

The main objective of this study is to analyse the efficiency of the agricultural extension system in supporting, improving and developing the level of adoption by small scale farmers in the field of environmental friendly methods of production in Egypt.

To measure the efficiency of the extension system, a sample has been taken from the governmental extension institution (GEI), non-governmental institutions (NGEI) and farmers in the valley area of the Nile. The extension workers' levels as a connection and change agents between the extension system (GEI and NGEI) and farmers has been considered. Surveys and Focus Group Discussion were the main methods of collecting the data.

Quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis have been used to measure the success of the extension system and the main problems faced in their work. Mainly, there is a shortage and misunderstanding of the role of extension on this level by extension workers themselves.

The level of education of the extension workers has a significant effect on the communication channels and the adoption level of farmers under 0.01 according to t-test value. On the other hand it has a great effect on the participation of the extension workers in the training courses to improve their own level of efficiency, under the level 0.05 of the t-test value. Problems are mainly focused on the shortage of the needed materials; locations for meeting and advising; and the non effective co-operation between the farmers and the extension system.