

Knowledge and Attitude of Agricultural Extension Workers toward Integrated Farming System, In Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesian government issues a policy of Integrated Farming System (IFS) to solve agricultural problems and environmental degradation. Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW), as agent change, have important role for disseminating to farmers in term of agricultural development. Therefore, they also need information supply from any sources such as newspaper, journal of agriculture research, agricultural magazine, and internet for enhancing their knowledge about IFS. This research purposes to: describe personal characteristics of AEW and access of information channels, determine the knowledge of AEW towards IFS, determine the attitude of AEW toward IFS and examine the relationship among those variables. The total of 184 AEW from Sleman and Bantul districts located in Yogyakarta Province were randomly selected as sample. Data are collected and presented through frequency, percentage and mean. Furthermore, Spearman and Pearson Correlation test are employed to test hypotheses. The result indicates that AEW have overall knowledge toward IFS at high level. Finding also shows that AEW are at high level of attitude toward AEW. Correlation statistical analysis using Spearman and Pearson reveals that gender, age, working experience, and number of information channels accessed have significant relationship with knowledge toward IFS (0.05). Another statistical analysis confirms that knowledge of AEW toward IFS has significant relationship with attitude of AEW toward IFS (0.01). The whole results depict that the policy of IFS issued by government has responded positively with AEW by attaining higher level of knowledge and attitude toward IFS. The effort of AEW by accessing information channels indicates their needs for enriching supply information about IFS. It recommends that government should provide the information source by using many channels for AEW in order to implement the policy of IFS.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Access of Information Channels, Agricultural Extension Workers, Integrated Farming System