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Assessing the Educational Needs of Farmers on the Integrated Weed Management (IWM) Case: Lorestan Province, Iran

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify and assess the educational needs of farmers in Lorestan Province in the area of integrated weed management. The statistical population of the research consists of the whole rapeseed growers of Lorestan Province and 137 respondents were selected samples based on the Cochran's formula by stratified sampling method. The research tool was a researcher made questionnaire. Results of the research indicate that the knowledge level of the respondents in the area of integrated weed management related to the rapeseed product is at the intermediate to low level. The results indicate that the maximum amount of educational needs which are related to the knowledge-education modules are effect of existence of weeds in the farm and the competition between the weed and the crop in the farm. Concerning each of the items concerning the Knowledge-education needs the results indicated that sixteen categories are at a very high level and the categories of plough preparation, reduction in the output of crops, and the manual weeding are among the item of highest need. Also, studying each of the modules indicates that in case of modules for exploiting effective reducing steps on the utility of herbicides and exploiting the hygienic and preventive procedures at a very high level should be taken. The results of correlation indicates that which farmers visiting rate to agricultural extension service offices and the number of educational programs by respondents have a negative and meaningful correlation with the educational needs. While the distance of village from city has a positive correlation with the needs. In this area it is recommended to make use of mass media such as local radio and television, posters to enlighten the farmers. “Also”, in order to improve their skills holding the educational workshops and the extension visits can be influential.

Keywords: IWM, Iran, Need Assessment, Rapeseed, Weed