Effective Factors Involved in adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices in Control of Pistachio Psylla (Agonoscena tarjioni) in Semnan Province

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Introduction

Pistachio is one of important and strategically crop of Iran. Pistachio Psylla (Agonoscena tarjioni) is an important pest of the pistachio in Semnan province. To control of this pest, the agricultural office of Semnan in cooperates with extension, attempts to develop and disseminate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices to gardeners in Damghan County. Adoption of innovations related to opinions of gardeners regarding characteristics of new technology and factors such as cultural and social norms, and need for change by gardeners. It is essential for national planners and extension educators to know what technology the Pistachio gardeners are using and determine Effective Social and Extension Factors Involved in adoption of IPM in Control of Pistachio Psylla. This base-line information is essential to strategic planning for improvement of Pistachio production.

Purpose and Methodology

The purpose of this study was to examine effective factors involved in adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices in Control of Pistachio Psylla in Semnan province, Iran.

The study utilized descriptive survey research. The questionnaire and interview were used for data collection in this study. The population consisted of gardeners living in the villages where Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices conducted (N=800) . The researchers developed the survey instrument. Face and contact validity of the instrument was established using a panel of expert consisting of senior faculty members in the Department of agricultural extension and education at Zanjan University. Reliability for the overall instrument was 0.83.

Major Points or Information to be Shared

- There is a significant relationship between adoption of IPM practices and education and sources of income
- There is a significant relationship between adoption of IPM practices and cosmopolite and opinion leadership concerning biological control.
- There is a significant relationship between application of extension agent recommendations and adoption of IPM practices
- There is a significant relationship between adoption of IPM practices and individual advisory to agricultural expert.
Conclusion and Educational Importance

Agricultural extension plays an important role in Dissemination of appropriate technology such as IPM practices to Pistachio gardeners in Iran. Extension organizations can help reduce fragmentation of effort that is often observed in promoting IPM practices by fostering collaboration with other institutions. This study was primarily designed to provide baseline data to extension and other organizations involved in dissemination of recommended practices for Pistachio. Based on the effectiveness ratings gardeners expressed, extension agents should be able to improve the effectiveness of their contact system with gardeners.