Agricultural Education Needs and Problems of Farmers in Veguitas-Corozal, Guanarito Municipality, Portuguesa State, Venezuela

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Abstract

Determining the problems or needs of the community and the knowledge level of the people for whom educational programs are being planned are important steps in the planning process. The relationships between the characteristics of the farmers and their educational needs are relevant factors to develop an effective training program. By knowing the educational needs of farmers, educational programs can be designed to help farmers increase their skills and knowledge and enable them to use new agricultural technology. The Rural Establishment Veguitas-Corozal was studied. It is located in the Guanarito municipality, Portuguesa state. Around 200 families are settled in small plots. The majority of the farmers are devoted to extensive double purpose cattle raising. The study was designed to identify the members of the community and the major problems of the rural establishment. Also, the study was designed to determine the perceived agricultural education needs of farmers. A descriptive correlational research model was used. A sample of 126 farmers was included in the study. A Rural Rapid Assessment was conducted with the community to determine and classify the major problems. An instrument was designed to determine educational needs by collecting data on the farmers’ perceptions of the level of importance and the amount of knowledge in several agricultural areas. The Borich formula was used to calculate the perceived educational needs. The community identified and classified 17 major problems. The top ten educational needs were related to production diversification, electric fences, artificial insemination, soil and water conservation. Identifying the problems of the community and the educational needs of the farmers, Extension, or planning personnel could be able to develop appropriate programs for the whole community.