A Educational Needs Assessment of Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) practices for Wheat Farmers in Khouzestan Province, Iran

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study was to examine the educational needs of Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) practices for wheat farmers in Khouzestan Province, Iran. Data were collected through personal interviews with randomly selected wheat farmers. Wheat farmers (N=5529) in the Khouzestan province, Iran were the target population for this study. A random sample of wheat farmers (n=359) was selected from three randomly selected township of Ahvaz, Dezful, and Behbahan (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970). The research design for this study was a descriptive survey method.

Major educational needs of LISA practices included: How to use crop rotation method of controlling pests, How to use legumes, How to use manures, methods of minimal tillage, How to use green manure, biological control. Overall, farmers tended not to be knowledgeable or have low levels of knowledge with respect to LISA. The most selected sources of information were extension agent, agricultural organization, TV & radio program. This findings support those of Chizari, Lindner and Zoghi (1999) who found that extension agent needed more training with respect to sustainable agricultural practices particularly in the area of the economics of sustainable agriculture and support those of Chizari, Karimi and Lindner (2002) who found, farmer tended not to be aware or have low level of awareness with respect to soil conservation technology.