

Effective Factors on Farmers' Attitude toward Multifunctional Agriculture

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Abstract : The main aim of this study was to investigate the factors affecting farmers' attitude of the Shanderman District in Masal (Guilan Province in the north of Iran), towards the concepts of multifunctional agriculture. The statistical population consisted of all 4908 in Shanderman. The sample of the present study consisted of 209 subjects who were selected from the total population using the Bartlett et al. Table. Questionnaire as the main tool of data collection was divided in two parts. The first part of questionnaire consisted of farmers' profiles regarding individual, technical-agronomic, economic and social characteristics. The second part included items to identify the farmers' attitudes regarding different aspects of multifunctional agriculture. The validity of the questionnaire was assessed by professors and experts. Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the reliability ($\alpha = 0.844$), which is considered an acceptable reliability value. Overall, the average scores of attitudes towards multifunctional agriculture show a positive tendency towards multifunctional agriculture, considering farmers' attitudes of the Shanderman district ($SD = 0.53$, $M = 3.81$). Results also highlight a significant difference between farmers' income source levels ($F = 0.049$) and agricultural literature review ($F = 0.022$) toward farmers' attitudes considering multifunctional agriculture ($p < 0.05$). Pearson correlations also indicated that there is a positive relationship between positive attitudes and family size ($r = 0.154$), farmers' experience ($r = 0.246$), size of land under cultivation ($r = 0.186$), income ($r = 0.227$), and social contribution activities ($r = 0.224$). The results of multiple regression analyses showed that the variation in the dependent variable depended on the farmers' experience in agricultural activities and their social contribution activities. This means that the variables included in the regression analysis are estimated to explain 12 percent of the variation in the dependent variable.

Keywords : multifunctional agriculture, attitude, effective factor, sustainable agriculture

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