

Role of agriculture extension in access to agro-ecosystems health(Case study: agro-ecosystems in Birjand region)

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The most important prerequisite to achieve a sustainable agriculture and health of agro-ecosystems is including both an insight and knowledge of sustainable agriculture in farms and applying it by farmers. This issue is categorized as one of organizational and social domains of agricultural activities. Agriculture extension is deemed as one of the main parameters in organizational and social domains of agricultural activities that directly and indirectly affects the access to agro-ecosystems health. Consequently, a research was made in 2012 to assess the role of agriculture extension indicator in health of agro-ecosystems in Birjand region during 1991 and 2011. The results indicated a rising trend of this indicator from early period of the study till its climax in 2005. Additionally, the indicator showed a correlation rate of 0.721**, 0.634**, 0.668**, and 0.656** with the indicators of water use efficiency improvement, the use of appropriate technologies, the yield, and use of cultural and biological control, respectively, during separate studies.

Keywords: agro-ecosystem health, Sustainable agriculture, extension, indicator, yield