

Effective factors in increasing crop yield and approaches for extension agents

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Nowadays, demand for food is increasing as a result of population growth. Thus, we must increase crop production. Improving crop yield per unit area is one of the main factors which increased crop production. Increasing crop yield per unit area is strongly related with knowledge, expertise and skills of farmers. Extensional methods make desired changes in knowledge and skills used by farmers. In other words, the main way to upgrade farmer's knowledge and skills is the use of extensional methods. In this study, based on the available resources about agronomy and agricultural extension and education, the effects of different factors in increasing crop yield were reviewed. This study follows a descriptive-analytical method and uses a library-documentary technique for the information gathering. The result shows that agricultural extension and education can help better water management and fertilizer use by farmers. In addition, it can also help to introduce high yielding varieties with tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses, encourage farmers to use various farming systems such as intercropping and crop rotation and present farm mechanization services to farmers. As a result of these factors, crop yield per unit area and its productivity increase. Based on recognized factors about crop yield improvement, the related approaches will be presented to extension agents.

Keywords: crop productivity, extension, intercropping, stress, yield