Role of agricultural extension and RASs systems toImprove production and quality of tea

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Iran is one of the major tea producer and consumer. About 70 thousand people who are living in Gilan and Mazandaran provinces are dependent on tea cultivation and for some of them tea is theonly source of income.Also the tea industry in Iran is one of the manufacturing which is less dependent on foreign countries and it have a great potential to play an important role in the marketing and increasing job opportunity at the national level. However, because most of the gardens are less than acre and also yeoman farming system, green tea leaf production rate in the country in recent years has been quite descending.In addition, inconsistencies in crop production units (garden and factory) and their lack of communication with the markets have caused problems especially in terms of quality. We have to benefit from capabilities of the agricultural extension systems and rural advisory services to improve tea production. So, the goal of this research is to study the role and capabilities of agricultural extension systems and rural advisory services to improve production and quality of tea. The research method is browsing electronic resources and library resources. First of all we investigate the quality and quantity of the tea crop which has produced in the country, the potentials and problems and deficiencies, and then we try to discuss the roles and capabilities of agricultural extension systems to improve tea production.

Key words: tea cultivation, tea quality, agricultural extension systems, rural advisory services