



## **Investigation of the Effect of Extension Model Sites on Gardeners' Knowledge, Attitude and skills toward Pesticides Reduction in Peach Gardens in the Asadabad County**

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Commercialization of agricultural activities and being followed by widespread use of agricultural herbicides in agricultural production has had devastating effects on the environment and human health. So that today's agricultural production with minimal chemicals has a great importance to protecting the environment and human health. Therefore the main purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of extension model sites on Asadabad county gardeners' knowledge, attitude and skills toward pesticides reduction in peach gardens. The statistical population of the study includes two groups of Asadabad county peach growers who were participated in extension model sites and those who not participated. The samples were selected randomly. Data gathering process was done by questionnaire. The questionnaire was first validated by a panel of experts and then finalized after a pilot test process through calculating Cronbach Alpha coefficient. The calculated Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was 0.80 that shows a high reliability of the research tool. Results indicated the gardeners' knowledge, attitude and skills were moderate towards pesticides reduction in peach gardens. Also, the results showed that there are significant difference between two groups of gardeners in terms of knowledge, attitude and skills towards pesticides reduction, So that participating gardeners in extension model sites had more technical knowledge, more positive attitudes and more skills compared with other gardeners about reducing their use of chemical pesticides. Finally based on the results, some recommendations have been given.

**Key Words:** Extension Model Sites, Knowledge, Attitude, skills, Pesticides Reduction