



The Importance of Technology Audit in Agricultural Extension System in Iran

Ahmad Rezvanfar¹, Erfan Alimirzaei*²

¹Professor in Agricultural Extension and Education, University of Tehran, Iran

²Ph.D. student in Agricultural Extension, University of Tehran, Iran

e.alimirzaei@gmail.com

While agricultural development is a multi-disciplinary and very complex process, it seems that most of the agricultural systems are focused on the technological aspects of this process and more specifically on the hardware subdivision. So that, using a variety of simple and complex technologies couple with a wide range of small and great changes in various aspects of stakeholders' life is the dominant feature of agricultural systems in the current era. However, research findings show that in most subdivisions of agriculture, the productivity of technology is still low and technological gap between rich and marginal area increases in agricultural societies continuously. Moreover the undesirable outcomes from applying some of the modern agricultural technologies, especially in social and environmental aspects, everyday bring up a new controversy. Undoubtedly, technological sustainable development in agricultural sector as any other part of the country through the trial and error or by passive imports of technology cannot be achieved. By contrast, it only will be possible through applying an efficient management based on an integrated, scientific, systematic and situation- specific framework. In this situation, technology audit as one of the most important functions of technology management is an ongoing process which helps making appropriate decisions and policies to achieving agricultural technology development. In this respect, present article which is done through a documentary study, intends to study the role and importance of technology audit in improving the services of agricultural extension system. The results of the review show that technology audit in agricultural extension system as one of the main components of agricultural knowledge and information system which has been contributed to technology development in agricultural sector from long ago, is very important in both internal and external dimensions. So that, through a precision analysis of the context and recognizing the strengths and weaknesses in addition to identifying opportunities and threats, this process helps to making appropriate management decisions in the field of technology and prepares an information basis which is needed for innovation, appropriate strategy determination and sustainable technology development in agricultural sector.

Key words: agricultural knowledge and information system, agricultural extension, technology management, technology audit.