TECHNICAL PACKAGES OF NUTRITION AS A TOOL TO USE ON FARM FEED RESOURSES UNDER MIXED PRODUCTION SYSTEM

By

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B.Sc. Agric. Sci. (Animal Production), Ain Shams University, 1999

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ABSTRACT

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A cross sectional survey was conducted in four governorates namely Sharkia, Menoufia, El-Fayoum and Menia. The survey covered 200 smallholders practicing animal farming under crop-livestock production system. The required data was collected through semi-structured interview with questionnaire. This study aimed at characterizing nutritional packages adoption by using the system approach. The socio-economic analysis revealed that the illiteracy level was higher (42%) in Menia governorate as compared to others. The majority of the respondents (49%) working as farmers in their lands. Daily managerial practices depend mainly on the family members; Family labor represented the highest percentage being 88%, 92%, 80%, and 86% for Sharkia, Menoufia, El-Fayoum, and Menia respectively. farmers who used silage, hay, and the untraditional green forages, have the highest animal numbers, either from indigenous cows, crossbred cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and donkeies compared to those who do not use the nutritional packages (non-adopters). Adopters of silage, hay, and untraditional green forages had the highest percentage of dairy, heifer, fattening, and growing for crossbred cows and buffaloes compared to non-adopters. Sharkia governorate had the highest number and consequently percentage of animals followed by El-Fayoum governorate. Silage adopters recorded the highest significant ($P<0.05$) value of daily milk yield (DMY) and total milk yield (TMY) for indigenous cow, crossbred cow and buffalo as compared to non-adopters. Calving interval significantly ($P<0.05$) increased for all dairy animals (indigenous cows, crossbred cows, and buffaloes) under non-adopters of nutritional packages being 387, 388.57, and 402 days for the aforementioned animals, respectively. Dairy animals reared under the Nile Delta had the

highest significant DMY versus those under the Middle Egypt, where it was 4.05, 8.52, and 7.29 kg vs 3.76, 7.74, and 6.48 kg for indigenous cows, crossbred cows, and buffaloes, respectively. In conclusion, adopters of nutritional packages had the highest animal percent and recorded the highest productivity compared to non-adopters.

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