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“CLEANER PRODUCTION INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD”

Knowledge in Sustainability: (Self-)Perceptions of Rural Extension Technicians in Santa Catarina

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Abstract

Knowledge is the basis for a sustainable attitude and, as such, of sustainability itself. This assertion – valid for any social sector – seems particularly relevant to agricultural activities, which are acknowledged as a source of environmental disturbances. A survey based on a semi-structured questionnaire was used to assess the perceptions of rural extensionists of the Western Region, Santa Catarina, Brazil. The focus was on their knowledge about agricultural sustainability as well as on their interests as regards the qualification in this matter. The technicians assessed that their present understanding of the topic is from reasonable to good, and that technical events were the principal means of obtaining the knowledge they possess. All extensionists showed interest in participating in professional training processes, showing a preference for practical activities and short courses. Most technicians consider the possibility of using their own financial resources for their own qualification.

Keywords: *Sustainable agriculture; sustainability knowledge; rural extension; agricultural production.*

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