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**Doctoral dissertation review of Saad Obaid Fayyadh work titled  
“*Agricultural extension as an adult education: perceptions of farmers  
and extension agents towards educational and advisory services  
provided to farmers to achieve food security and food safety*”**

In the introduction to the dissertation one can read that the supply of food, in terms of both its availability and its security has been the primary concern for all human societies over time. A country's resourcefulness in developing its agricultural sector is an indication of its ability to provide sufficient food for its population. However, the development of the agricultural sector cannot be achieved without an efficient and effective extension system. In these three short sentences one can find a fundamental justification for researching the problem the Doctoral Student have chosen to analyze. Agricultural extension services play an important role in increasing both food quantity and – which is much more important in today's world – food quality. The extension agents are often first source of knowledge about modern technologies used in agriculture and – which in opinion and knowledge of reviewer, is much more important – their influence on not only the increase of production but on the human health, society and local, regional, national or even international economies.

Considering what has been emphasized above, **dissertation address current challenges for modern agriculture as well as modern societies which are facing problems on the field of food security.** To simplify the

matter, they (societies) can choose between economies based on, for example, endogenic resources and high quality food (especially organic, regional and traditional) or build their economy at unfavorable dependence on transnational corporations, especially biotech corporations. The choice should be obvious, but when looking at the decisions of politicians of many regions or countries, it is not.

**The purpose** of the dissertation was *“to identify farmers’ and extension agents’ perceptions of the extension educational services and the advisory services provided to farmers for achieving food safety and food security”*. The purpose of the work is closely linked to its title, and both the main purpose and specific objectives allow to well determine the scope of the research problem of reviewed work and all were formulated correctly from the methodological point of view.

**The structure** of the work is appropriate for this type of dissertation. The work presented to the review consists of five chapters, including introduction and conclusion. One can see the division between theoretical and practical part of dissertation. Chapter two is based on literature review on agricultural extension education, food security and the available potentials and food quality and safety (a total of 74 pages). Chapter three shows methodology behind the own research (a total of 11 pages) and chapter four presents results and discussion of own research. The work consists of 204 numbered pages (from which 174 are substantive ones) and unnumbered appendixes. The lack of numbering of appendixes creates some difficulties for a reader or reviewer, but such a matter does not detract in any way the merit of the work. There are 4 schemes, one map and around (because some tables and figures exist in several variants) 60 tables and 51 figures – all Included in the unnumbered appendixes, which makes some difficulties in analysis.

**Bibliography** consists of 199 literature references, all directly related to the subject of dissertation. The selection of the subject's literature and its citation covered basically all aspects related to the topic of the dissertation, and the author showed excellent knowledge and good presentation of it.

The introduction to the presentation of the Doctoral Student own research results was based on reliable and comprehensive presentation of the research methodology, which deserves special emphasis. It is a proof of knowledge of methods, techniques and tools used in research.

The spatial scope of the study covers regions located in southeast of Poland, Podkarpackie Voivodeship and Lubelskie Voivodeship. **The study was carried out using descriptive cross-sectional survey.** It included measuring both intangibles (like perceptions) and tangibles (like the demographics of the farmers, the scope of advisory institutions' work, and others). **The study included both farmers and extension agents in the Southeast Poland** and *"the sample size was determined by the variation in experience, knowledge, and attitudes the researcher considered important to represent the characteristics of the farmers and extension agents in the study area"*. **Sample size of the study included 89 respondents (68 farmers and 21 extension agents), chosen randomly.** The questionnaire was prepared in a methodically appropriate manner and was based not only on literature review or available reports on the study area, but also in the pilot research and was reviewed by an expert team. The Likert scales were used to measure the perceptions of farmers and extension agents as are now described. What is more, *"descriptive statistical parameters such as frequencies, cumulative averages and percentages were used for analyzing the perceptions of farmers, extension agents, and for demographic information"*.

In general, result of the own research shows that *"farmers had a positive perception of the benefits accruing from the educational and advisory services that were set in place in order to achieve food security and food safety"*; *"there is a moderate and somewhat positive farmers' perception of the future of agriculture in Poland"*; *"farmers' perceptions were somewhat positive towards the factors influencing soil health (such as the appropriate use of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machines, and agro-chemical stations), thus, the quality and safety of agricultural production in Poland"* – this – in opinion of reviewer is probably based on the lack of knowledge within the study sample on

the negative impact of using any chemical plant protection chemicals on the health and life of humans and animals and the biological and health quality of plants. What is more, researcher concludes that *“the advisory institution should give much attention to activities and programs that farmers opine as being important”*; *“farmers believe that providing educational and training opportunities to farmers is of greater importance to them than thought of by the extension agents”*.

**To conclude**, dissertation presents a high level of content - the methodology used fully corresponds to the topic and scope of work. Comparison of the situation in both Poland and Iraq is justified by the need to create mechanisms conducive to the achievement or preservation of food self-sufficiency and food security, despite the political economic and environmental conditions differences of both countries. The goal remains the same, and the key elements of success are: fundamental education and counseling for both farmers and consumers. With this task the Author has done so well, so the purpose of the work has been fully achieved. The results obtained are of great practical importance. The food economy of both countries must be based on endogenous resources and opportunities to exploit their own potential. On the other hand, it must be able to effectively counter the pressure of global corporations whose goal is one - subjugate agriculture, food processing and consumer in each country. The Author understands this problem and the threat, so it should be emphasize again not only the logical choice of the topic of the study, but the necessity of this choice in the conditions of science, politics and economy of Iraq. The Polish experience, the results of the research work, and the own research done contribute to the presented concepts and solutions.

Taking into account the assessment of: the selection of research subjects and the topic of the dissertation, the objectives of the study and research questions, the scope of the dissertation, the sources of information and research methods, the work arrangement and the substantive and formal assessment of the work, **it must be stated that this work satisfies the requirements of the dissertation. In conclusion, I consider that the dissertation of Mr Saad**

Obaid Fayyadh work titled "*Agricultural extension as an adult education: perceptions of farmers and extension agents towards educational and advisory services provided to farmers to achieve food security and food safety*", **fulfills the requirements of promotional work for the doctorate degree**, indicated in the Act of 14 March 2003 about academic degrees and academic titles and degrees and titles in the field of arts (Dz.U. 2003 nr 65 poz. 595).

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