

Investigation of the feasibility of the nutty industries establishment in Guilan Province

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Creation and development of complementary hazelnut industries is one of the concerns of most hazelnut growers in Guilan Province. Therefore, factors influencing the hazelnut industries in this province were studied in three stages using the Delphi method. After consultations with professors and researchers at the related research institutes, 31 expert specialists were identified and ed the Jihad-e Agriculture Organization in Guilan Province and the affiliated offices of the Hazelnut Research Institute in Gilan Province as the audience researchers. Results showing that “Special support of the major and leading orchard owners with the purpose of creating complementary hazelnut industries,” “Creation of major purchasing centers for the hazelnut product in the form of Agricultural Production Cooperatives,” and “Education of experts in mechanization and in agricultural processing industries in the Province through sending them to other countries,” with approval ratings of 98.81, 96.68, and 93.74 percent, respectively, among the members in the Specialist Group of the Delphi research were the most important driving forces for the development of the hazelnut industries. Moreover, “Undesirable insurance coverage of hazelnut production and lack of a regional macro plan for the development of the agricultural processing industries in Gilan Province,” “Fluctuations in prices of hazelnut in the market and lack of formal supervision of the Government over equilibrium market price,” and “Absence of agricultural production cooperatives in the region and of the culture related to their activities,” had the approval ratings of 74.55, 94.95, and 92.32 percent, respectively, among the members of the audience researchers as the most important factors that prevented the creation of hazelnut industries in Gilan Province. Therefore, support for the major hazelnut orchard owners with the purpose of creating hazelnut industries in this Province, establishment of a centralized purchasing structure for the hazelnut product in the region, education of the experts

through sending them to prominent countries in hazelnut production such as Turkey, development of suitable insurance laws to increase the incentives for the orchard owners in qualitative and quantitative improvement of hazelnut production in Gilan Province, and stabilization of the purchase price for hazelnut at harvest time of this product, are important measures that must attract the interest of the custodians at the Jihad-e Agriculture Organization in Gilan Province.

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