

Cultivation of potatoes in the Sahara; current situation and future prospects

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ABSTRACT:

This work aims to highlight the development of potato in the Saharan regions of Algeria, especially in Ouargla and Oued-Souf. Where, their cultivation is leading in the last decade occupying an important place among the productive regions of this crop in the national scale. Our investigation focuses through a survey on a series of 400 potato farms.

We seek to carry out a comparative diagnosis between both regions; Ouargla and Oued Souf in order to highlight the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities on the development of potatoes in farms where the enhancement of land happened. The results showed that the strengths and opportunities of one region are weaknesses and handicaps for the other. Therefore, they revealed some major differences between these two regions. The results obtained could be summarized as follow:

- The 98% of Oued Soufs farmers practice both large and small trade. On the other hand, Ouargla's represent only 25%.
- 75 % of farmers in Ouargla exploit collective drilling. Contrary to Oued Souf where 75 % of the farmers exploit individual wells with a tolerated water salinization.
- Almost all farmers in Oued Souf use the so-called "pivot spraying" irrigation system. While in Ouargla, it is only the 20% who practice this system.

These results are discussed by updated knowledge about the development of this crop.

Keywords:

Potato development, Saharan regions, Skills of knowledge, Water source, Pivot system.