UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

Stockbridge School of Agriculture

Bowditch Hall
201 Natural Resources Road
Amherst, MA 01003-9294

February 28, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I welcome the opportunity to write this letter on behalf of Mr. Roohollah Abbasi Shureshjani.

I met with Mr. Abbasi when he came to the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a visiting scholar in 2016. Mr. Abbasi, my graduate student, and I discussed the applicability of Application of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) to assess performance efficiency of various crop cultivars/varieties. Our discussion resulted further in a collaborative publication entitled "Application of Data Envelopment Analysis to Assess Performance Efficiency of Eight Faba Bean Varieties." This paper has been accepted for publication by "Agronomy Journal" which is one the most prestigious journal in agronomy and crop science worldwide. The associate editor commented that "I enjoyed reading about the application of DEA to faba bean, as it is a novel technique with broad application to plant breeding."

Mr. Abbasi has continued his collaboration with my lab and currently we are working on another manuscript where 24 brewing barley cultivars are being evaluated for their grain yield as well as their various malting characteristics.

I have enjoyed working with Mr. Abbasi and I hope his collaboration with my lab continues for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Masoud Hashemi, PhD

Extension Professor

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