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Opinion of Farmers Trainers about Training Programme

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Abstract

The study was conducted in the villages covered by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bichpuri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh. About20 per cent of the trainees were selected randomly from the village wise list of farmers who attended training programs conducted by KVK during two years before covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Most of the trainee farmers were of middle age group having education up to high school/intermediate and small size of holding live in nuclear family with up to five members. Village Pradhan/Sarpanch stood first in motivating the farmers to attend the training programme. Most of the trainee farmers were well satisfied with duration, timeliness and teaching methods, and course content of training and considered the training program very useful. The main suggestions given by majority of trainee farmers were, Technical competency of the trainers should be improved, method of selection for participant should be appropriate, Publicity of the training programme should be made well in advance and Facility should be provided for regular mailing of literature by the K.V.K.

Key words: Opinion, Trainees, Training programme

Introduction

Modernization of Indian agriculture greatly depends on creation of farm technology and its dissemination. India is well equipped in agricultural technology, but full use of available technology is not being made in several areas of the country. By and large, the results remain unused in laboratories and research to the farmers. Besides this, agricultural technology is changing at an increasing rate. Hence, it is necessary to select a quick system of communication to keep farmers in tune with the fast development of research technology. As most of the population in our country is engaged and depends on agriculture, we must assess and make available the latest technologies which turn agriculture to be efficient. Mass media plays an important role in increasing better functioning and creates awareness about new technologies. Amongst electronic media, radio and television have large coverage to cover maximum population and advance electronic media like multimedia has also high potential which serve as electronic exchange and ultimate modern method for transfer of information. A scientific transformation of agriculture is an important pre-requisite of rural development. Various organized efforts have been made to disseminate the agricultural technologies with greater speed one of the important components of these efforts has been the programme of farmer's training which is being run all over the country. However, it has been realized that farmer's training will have to be more pragmatic towards backward area and weaker sections of the rural society with this in view. The Government of India has established many schemes and programs to educate farmers in new

method of crop production so that the weaker sections of the rural society could make rapid progress in agriculture.

The transfer of technology system is devoted to first-line extension activities, being conducted by Scientists, for (i) demonstrating promptly the latest technology to farmers, and extension workers; (ii) testing and verifying the technologies in the socio-economic conditions of the farmers, and (iii) getting the first-hand feed-back to reorient the research, education and training systems.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra is one such Institution which aims at training the farmers, especially the deprived ones, in new agriculture Technology. For understanding the functioning and impact of KVK in agriculture development in specific area it is important to identify the motivational sources of the farmers for attending the training programme, opinion of the trainees about various aspects of the training as well as their suggestions for further improvement in future training programme[1].

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in the villages covered by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bichpuri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh and is based on the "descriptive" type of research design in which "Ex-post facto" planning stage and specific objectives were set for the inquiry. A village wise list of farmers who attended training programs conducted by KVK during two years before covid-19 pandemic lockdown was taken from the KVK office and about 20 per cent of the trainees were selected randomly. Thus, in all 96 respondent farmers from Ardaya, Ladamda, Nagla Vishnu and Nagla Dule khan villages were selected for the study.The data were collected by Informal interviews with the help of structural schedule and some open questions developed for the purpose.

Result and Discussion

1.1 Socio-personal indicators

The majority (58.33%) of the respondents belong to the middle age group (31-50 years) which is the very active span of life. The overall literacy percentage among trainee respondents was about 86 per cent and most of them were having education high school/ Intermediate level. Most of the respondents belong to upper caste (41.67%) followed by middle caste (33.33%) and lower caste (25.00%).It is elucidated from Table -1 that many of the respondents had low social participation (no membership of any organization) while23.96 percent were member of one or two organizations and only 7.29 percent were office bearers.

Table 1 Socio-personal indicators of the respondent farmers

Socio-personal indicators	Frequency	Percentage
Age groups		
Young (up to 30 yrs.)	21	21.88
Middle (31 to 50 yrs.)	56	58.33
Old (above 50)	19	19.79
Level of Education		
Illiterate	13	13.54
Up to Primary	14	14.58

High School/ Intermediate	60	62.50
Graduate and above	9	9.38
Caste background		
Upper caste	40	41.67
Middle caste	32	33.33
Lower caste	24	25.00
Social participation		
No membership	66	68.75
Member of an organization	23	23.96
Office bearer	7	7.29
Size of family		
Up to 5 members	79	82.29
>5 members	17	17.71
Type of family		
Joint	39	40.62
Nucleus	57	59.38
Size of holding(ha.)		
Marginal (below 1 ha.)	29	30.21
Small (1-2 ha.)	36	37.50
Medium (2-3 ha.)	24	25.00
Large (3-4 ha.)	7	7.29
Change agent linkage		
Weekly	54	56.25
Fortnightly	22	22.92
Monthly	12	12.50
Once in two months	8	8.33

Most of the respondents had family size less than five members (82.29%) and live in nuclear families. It was also observed that 37.50 percent of the respondents were small farmers possessed 1-2 hectare land holding followed by marginal farmers (30.21%) having holding size below one hectare while medium and large farmers were 25.00 and 7.29 percent, respectively. A glance at Table -1 also revealed that many of the respondents (trainee farmers) (56.25%) had weekly contact with change agents[2].

1.2 Source of motivation

Village Pradhan/Sarpanch stood first in motivating most of the farmers for attending the training programme, while SMS, Neighbours and friends got the second, third and fourth rank[5].

Table 2 Source of Motivation

Factors	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
VDO/VEW	14	14.58	XII
A.A.O./A.E.O.	22	22.92	VI
Progressive farmer	21	21.88	VII
Local leader	20	20.83	VIII
Relatives	16	16.67	XI
Family	23	23.96	V
Neighbours	32	33.33	III

Friends	28	29.17	IV
Village Pradhan/Sarpanch	41	42.71	I
News paper	18	18.75	X
S.M.S.	38	39.58	II
T.V./Radio	19	19.79	IX
Exhibition/Kisan Mela	16	16.67	XI
Pamphlet/Bulletins	5	5.21	XIII

Note: More than one factor was reported by the farmers hence the total percentage exceeds more than 100.

1.3 Opinion of trainees about various aspects of training programme

i. Durationof the training: About 61 per cent of the respondents (trainees) expressed that the duration of the training was adequate, whereas the remaining had the opinion that it should be long enough for better understanding.

ii. Timeliness of the trainings: Majority of the farmers were satisfied about the timeliness (right time) of the trainings, whereas about 31 per cent respondents were partially satisfied as they wanted to have this type of training at different intervals.

iii. Teaching methods: Most of the trainees had positive opinion about teaching method and considered it 'most appropriate' and 'appropriate', while only about 19 per cent trainees were not satisfied and perceived addition of film show, audio-visual aids, and comparative diagrams[3, 4].

Table 3 Opinion of the trainees about Training programme

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Duration of training		
Adequate	59	61.46
Inadequate	37	38.54
Timeliness of training		
Satisfied	51	53.12
Partially satisfied	30	31.25
Not satisfied	15	15.62
Teaching methods		
Most appropriate	44	45.83
Appropriate	34	35.42
Inappropriate	18	18.75
Usefulness of training programme		
Very useful	57	59.38
Useful	31	32.29
Least useful	8	8.33
Content of the training courses		
Adequate	56	58.33
Partially adequate	36	37.50
Inadequate	4	4.17
Boarding facility		
Most appropriate	30	31.25
Appropriate	57	59.38
Inappropriate	9	9.37
Lodging facility		
Most appropriate	34	35.42
Appropriate	50	52.08
Inappropriate	12	12.50

iv. Usefulness of training programme: A large majority of the trainees considered the training useful.

v. Content of the training courses: Course content covered during the training period was considered adequate by most of the respondents.

vi. Boarding and lodging facilities: Most of the respondents were satisfied with the boarding and lodging facilities and had the opinion that these were most appropriate or appropriate.

1.4 Suggestions given by trainees for further improvement of training programs.

In all 14 suggestions were identified after discussing the subject matter specialists, trainee farmers, concerned literature and self-observation. The trainee respondents were asked to choose at least one or multiple suggestions from the given set of suggestions based on their experience during training. The data as perceived by the respondents are presented in Table-4 which indicates that the most common suggestion as perceived by 81.25 per cent trainee respondents was that Technical competency of the trainers should be improved and it was on the top of rank order[6, 7, 8].

Table 4 Suggestions for further improvements

Suggestions	Frequency	%	Rank
The method of selection for participant should be appropriate.	77	80.21	II
Physical facilities (viz. classroom, hostel, drinking water should be well.	68	70.83	XIII
Publicity of the training programme should be made well in advance.	76	79.17	III
Duration of training should be increased from the existing period.	67	69.79	XIV
Provision of vehicle should be provided by training centre for conveyance.	70	72.92	X
More and more audio-visual aids should be used for training.	69	71.88	XII
Free sample (seeds and fertilizers etc.) should be made.	70	72.92	XI
Technical competency of the trainers should be improved.	78	81.25	I
Facility should be provided for regular mailing of literature by the K.V.K.	76	79.17	IV
Behaviour of the trainer should be better.	74	77.08	VI
Trainer should have ability to present the subject matter at the understanding level of the trainees.	74	77.08	VII
Regular visit should be made by the K.V.K. staff.	71	73.96	VIII
During training as far as possible emphasis on skill teaching should be given to provide adequate skill to the trainees.	75	78.12	V
Training group should be homogeneous (regarding education, occupation and socio-economic etc.)	71	73.96	IX

About 80 percent of respondents suggested that the method of selection for participants should be appropriate. At 3rd and 4th rank nearly 79 per cent respondent realized lack of publicity of training programme and concerning literature and suggested that Publicity of the training programme should be made well in advance as well as Facility should be provided for regular mailing of literature

by the K.V.K. Majority of the respondents were keen to skill development therefore majority of them (78.12%) suggested that During training as far as possible emphasis on skill teaching should be given to provide adequate skill to the trainees. The suggestions[9,10,11]. Behaviour of the trainer should be better, and Trainer should have ability to present the subject matter at the understanding level of the trainees, got 6th and 7th rank, as suggested by about 77 per cent respondents. For follow up the training, Regular visit should be made by the K.V.K. staff ranked 8th as suggested by about 74 per cent respondents who also realized disparity in the training groups thus suggested that Training group should be homogeneous (regarding education, occupation and socio-economic etc.). About 73 per cent of the respondents were concerned with logistic support and free samples of seeds and fertilizers and suggested that Provision of vehicle should be provided by training centre for conveyance and Free sample (seeds and fertilizers etc.) should be made. Hence, these suggestions got 10th and 11th rank among all the suggestions. Come back to method and venue of the training, More and more audio-visual aids should be used for training and Physical facilities (viz. classroom, hostel, drinking water should be well were at 12th and 13th rank as suggested by nearly 72 and 71 per cent respondents, respectively. At last, but not least nearly 70 per cent of the respondents suggested that Duration of training should be increased from the existing period.

Conclusion

The majority of the trainee farmers under study were of middle age group having education up to high school/intermediate and small size of holding live in nuclear family with up to five members. Village Pradhan/Sarpanch stood first in motivating the farmers to attend the training programme. Most of the trainee farmers were well satisfied with duration, timeliness and teaching methods, and course content of training and considered the training program very useful. The main suggestions given by majority of trainee farmers were, Technical competency of the trainers should be improved, method of selection for participant should be appropriate, Publicity of the training programme should be made well in advance and Facility should be provided for regular mailing of literature by the K.V.K.

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