

PARTICIPANTS RESPONSE ON USEFULNESS OF NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY

Rajeev Bairathi*, R. L. Soni and Ramakant Sharma*****

ABSTRACT

Considering the importance of training courses conducted at national level, the present study was carried out to find the usefulness of national level training course on post harvest technology. From the study, it was found that course content of the training programme was quite adequate as responded by the participants of the training course. Similarly, the training methodology adopted during the training programme was also found highly effective by the participants. The participants found that topics covered during training were of high utility and performance of resource persons was also perceived as highly satisfactory. The overall training programme was found very useful by the participants.

INTRODUCTION

Safe storage of food grains and pulses is of paramount importance in the present day context of food problem in the country. During storage, various factors viz; physical, biological, chemical and socio-economical problems play crucial role in the storage life of agricultural produce. Despite of the marvellous achievements of science in its application to human welfare, the problem of the safety of our farm produce still persists.

It is a matter of recent past that Post Harvest Technology acquired the status of an identified discipline of science and HYVs and in the agriculture. The production has gone but it started posing second generation problems like failure of the existing infrastructure to cope up with the large marketable surplus, heavy post harvest losses, inability of farmers to retain their surplus produce, glut in the market, slump in the prices etc. Benefits of high productivity could not percolated to the farmers who took the maximum risk in raising the crops.

The fundamental objective of Post Harvest Technology lies in minimizing the losses of cereals and perishable crops. As per the national policy, post harvest technology is being viewed as an instrument of rural reconstruction by promoting rural

agro-processing industries, generating employment to rural men, women and youth and enabling the farmers getting more return from their farm produce by Post Harvest Technology.

A national training course on Post Harvest Technology for Grains and Perishable Crops was organized at the Directorate of Extension Education (Maharaja Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur). The training was sponsored by Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Senior officers of State Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Universities attended this one-week duration training from 14 states. The present study was carried out to assess the usefulness of the national training course in terms of utility of topics, training methodology utilized and performance of resource persons. An effort was also made to get the suggestions to improve such training courses in future.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out during the national training course on post harvest technology for grains and perishable crops organised by the Directorate of Extension Education, MPUAT,

* Associate Professor, Department of Extension Education, RCA, Udaipur.

** Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banswara.

*** Assistant Professor, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tabiji, Ajmer.

Udaipur. All the senior level officers attending the workshop from all over India were provided a structured interview schedule and were asked to indicate their response on a three-point continuum scale. The sample consisted of all 31 participants.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perception of participants of the national training course on eight different aspects was gathered and presented in Table 1.

Revealing the data in Table 1, it is seen that aspects like 'course content', 'visit and practical information provided', 'training techniques', 'skill based and applicable' were appreciated by more than 87 per cent of the respondents. The reason behind such findings is that the course content was judiciously and carefully designed in consultation with the most senior and experienced faculty members. Other items like 'opportunity to learn new skill', 'latest techniques' etc., though rated favourably between 74.19 to 87.09 per cent, need attention for improvement in such type of national trainings.

The trainees were also requested to rank the different topics as per utility to their present jobs. It may be revealed from Table 2 that most of the officers found the topics to be enriching their previous knowledge, increasing their field knowledge and providing opportunity to exchange experience. New skill learning and addition of new knowledge were aspects, which were rated favourably by 74.19 per cent of the participants. This indicates that more skill-oriented aspects should be included in training programme and they should be dealt with relating to the new research in the field of concern subject.

An attempt was also made in the study to see the perception of the trainees on the use of different teaching methodology utilized by the resource persons. It is clear from the Table 3 that more than 90 per cent resource persons used some kind of teaching aids to enlighten on their respective topics. All the participants favoured participative approach and discussion technique used by resource person. This shows that use of participative approach and discussion in the training programme was of higher order in dealing with lectures. Use of audio-visual

aids and skill demonstration was also appreciated by majority of the participants. The question answer session, self practice and field visits had been proved to be average. It indicated that methodology for such training courses in the days to come be strengthened adequately with regard to question answer session, self-practice and field visits.

Table 1. Perception of trainees about the training course

(n=31)

S. No.	Particulars of training course	Favourable		Unfavourable	
1.	Course Content	27	87.09	4	12.91
2.	Visits and Practical	31	100.00	-	-
3.	Information Provided	27	87.09	4	12.91
4.	Opportunity to learn new skills	23	74.19	8	25.81
5.	Training Techniques	28	90.32	3	9.68
6.	Latest Techniques	23	74.19	8	25.81
7.	Skill Based	27	87.09	4	12.91
8.	Applicable	29	93.54	2	6.46

Table 2: Utility of topics for present job as perceived by trainees

(n=31)

S. No.	Particulars of training course	Favourable		Unfavourable	
1.	Enriched previous knowledge	28	90.32	3	9.68
2.	Added new knowledge	23	74.19	8	25.81
3.	Learnt new skills	23	74.19	8	25.81
4.	Enriched field experience	26	83.87	5	16.13
5.	Opportunity to exchange experiences	29	93.54	2	6.56

Topics included in the training course on post harvest technology were not necessarily be very

new but should be delivered in right perspectives emphasizing its relevance and technological advancement. This reflects on the performance of the resource persons. Data in Table 4 reveals that almost all the resource persons were having high convincing power and resourcefulness and had an impressive personality with good oratory and talkative nature. It was agreed by 96.77 per cent of the respondents that all the resource persons were well prepared on their respective topics. This indicates the extent sincerity of resource persons about the national training course. Sound practical knowledge, maintenance of direct contact with the participants and very good presentation by resource persons were the other characteristics, which were rated very high by over 83 per cent officers. This shows that faculty was well selected keeping in view their vast experience and expertise over the topics and they delivered lectures to the expected standard.

It is clear from the above discussion that national training course on post harvest technology was successful in fulfilling the objectives of inculcating knowledge and skills and thereby bringing behavioural changes for preparing them technologically sound for the field work, where they are expected to give more out put.

Table 3. Perception of trainees as regard to training methodology

(n=31)					
S. No.	Particulars of training course	Favourable	Unfavourable	Favourable	Unfavourable
1.	Field Visits	28	90.32	3	9.68
2.	Participative Approach	31	100.00	-	-
3.	Skill Demonstration	29	93.54	2	6.56
4.	Use of Audio-Visual Aids	29	93.54	2	6.56
5.	Discussion	31	100.00	-	-
6.	Self Practice	28	90.32	3	9.68
7.	Question Answer Session	27	87.09	4	12.91

Trainees for improvement also made some suggestions in such type of national trainings. They are enlisted as below:

1. Skill development and self-practice exercise

should be given greater emphasis.

2. Such training of long duration should be conducted for middle and lower level field functionaries.
3. Participation of more officials should be encouraged. For this, wide publicity about the dates and venue must be made.
4. Period of the training should be short for high-level officials.
5. Heterogeneous groups may be invited for such types of national trainings.
6. Training material in the form of training manual should be enriched with more research references.
7. Training in future need for more job oriented syllabi, proper distribution of time on the subjects in theory and practical and interest of the trainees.

Table 4. Perception of trainees about the performance of resource persons

(n=31)					
S. No.	Particulars of training course	Favourable	Unfavourable	Favourable	Unfavourable
1.	Well Prepared	30	96.77	1	3.33
2.	Practically Sound	26	83.87	5	16.13
3.	Very Good Presentation	26	83.87	5	16.13
4.	Impressive Personality	28	90.32	3	9.68
5.	Talkative	29	93.54	2	6.56
6.	Convincing	29	93.54	2	6.56
7.	Resourcefulness	29	93.54	2	6.56
8.	Used Teaching Aids	27	87.09	4	12.91
9.	Maintained Direct Contact	28	90.32	3	9.68

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the course content of the training on post harvest training was quite adequate. The methodology adopted during the training course was highly effective. The overall utility of the topics covered during the training was perceived as high. Similarly, the performance of the resource persons was also perceived as highly satisfactory. It is recommended that emphasis should be given

on latest, applicable and skill based training techniques. Self practice and question answer sessions must be given enough time and skill demonstration should be given weightage.

Personnel and their Effectiveness for Rural Development. *IJTD* 5 pp 37-44.
Nimje *et al* 1992. Profile of Trainees and their Performance in National Workshop. *Maha. Jour. of Extn. Edn.* 2 pp 227-23

REFERENCES

Singh, Anupriya, K. 1989. Training Profile of Extension

