

EXTENT OF FARMERS PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT EXTENSION ACTIVITIES UNDER KISAN MANDALS AND KISAN SEVA KENDRAS

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ABSTRACT

Rajasthan has launched a modified agricultural extension system namely Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendra since 1st January 1993. In this System unlike the T&V system the Village Extension Worker has to approach a group of 20 progressive farmers collectively rather than contacting 10 individual contact farmers. This group of 20 progressive farmers namely Kisan Mandal assembles once a fortnight on a fixed place and used to have discussion with Village Extension Worker on latest agricultural technologies. Besides this a Kisan Seva Kendra is established at every Village Extension Worker's headquarter to solve the urgent problems of farmers regarding input arrangements, insect and pest control etc. The study was conducted in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. A sample of 180 farmers belonging to two categories viz. mandal and non-mandal was randomly selected from three panchayat samities-Dudu, Sanganer and Viratnagar. Participation of farmers in different extension activities under Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras was considered as one of the indicators of impact over the farmers. Extent of participation was measured and results indicated that on the whole, nearly half of the mandal farmers and one third of the non-mandal farmers participated in various extension activities most often, often and some times. Further it was found that maximum participation of farmers was reported in case of demonstrations and field days and these were awarded I and II overall ranks, respectively. While less participation of the respondents was observed in case of film shows and educational tours. Hence these were given VII and VIII overall ranks respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Indian Agricultural history has gone through several changes not only in adoption of improved agricultural crop cultivation methods but also in literacy status of farmers. Various extension methods launched by the Government and NGOs could not have left an equal impact in different demographical areas of the country. Though T&V system was widely adopted throughout India, yet Rajasthan Government has to make some modifications in this system to achieve more adoption of improved technology. In January 1993, Government of Rajasthan launched the modified system of T&V with the name of Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendra. This modified system has an edge over the T&V system by overcoming the limitation of individual contact approach in T&V system and advocated for group approach by suggesting fortnightly meeting of Village Extension Worker with

Kisan Mandal which consisted of a group of 20 progressive farmers.

The another aspect of this system was to provide technical consultancy on every Thursday to farmers by Village Extension Worker on a well equipped centre known as Kisan Seva Kendra/ Agro Clinic. The participation of farmers and farm women in extension activities means they contribute actively and interact with the extension workers. Participation of the farmers in different extension activities may be taken as an indication of success of the programme. So may be the case with Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras. The impact of Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras was measured by knowing the extent of farmers participation in extension activities viz: demonstrations, farmers fair, field days, training camps, film shows, exhibitions, conferences, workshops and meetings and educational tours

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organised under Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendra.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A sample of 180 farmers belonging to two categories viz. mandal and non-mandal was selected from 9 Village Extension Worker circles. These 9 Village Extension Worker circles were selected randomly from 3 panchayat samities of Jaipur district of Rajasthan. To record the responses of the respondents in this regard a schedule was constructed by the investigator. The responses were recorded in four categories namely most often, often, sometimes and never and the scores awarded to these categories were 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The data so collected were analyzed, tabulated and interpretations were made in the light of the objective of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Participation refers as the voluntary involvement of an individual in extension activities. The extent of participation was measured with the help of a schedule developed for this purpose. Mean score of each activity was calculated and ranks were accorded in descending order. The overall mean score and overall ranks were also calculated. Data about this aspect have been presented in Table-1.

The overall mean score were also calculated by combining both the categories of respondents. Results revealed that demonstration (2.24 mean score) and field days (2.04 mean score) were awarded I and II overall ranks, respectively. In light of the description, it may be observed that demonstration, field days and farmers fair were considered as the most important activities by both the categories of respondents. Participation of farmers in different extension activities under Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras was considered as one of the indicators of impact over the farmers. Extent of participation was measured and results indicated that on the whole, nearly half of the mandal farmers and one third of the non-mandal farmers' participated in various extension activities most often, often and some times. While interviewing the farmer respondents as well as extension personnel, the reason explained by them for such findings was

that only few extension activities like demonstrations, field days etc. were carried out through Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras. The findings of Kirar et al. (2006) concluded that the demonstration was effective in changing attitude, skill and knowledge of improved/recommended practices of high yielding variety of Urd. The demonstration farmers acted as a source of information and pure seed for wider dissemination of the high yielding variety of urd for other farmers. The activities like film shows, exhibitions, farmers fair etc. were either rarely organised or not organised under Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras. This provided less opportunity to the farmers to participate in such activities. Similar results were also concluded by Sharma (1989), Veena (1990), Sudharani and Raju (1991) and Singh (1997).

In case of mandal farmers, demonstration got mean score of 2.66 and secured I rank followed by field days (2.24), farmers fair (1.17), conference/workshop/meeting (0.533.), film shows (0.477), exhibitions (0.411) and educational tours (0.277) respectively. While in case of non-mandals farmers the I, II and III ranks were accorded to demonstrations (1.82), field days (1.64) and farmers fair (0.777) respectively. Further it was found that maximum participation of farmers was reported in case of demonstrations and field days. The reason behind this may be that farmers did not believe in theories and wanted to see and verify the results with their own eyes. It is also a generalised fact that people learn more if all of their senses are involved in the learning process. The demonstrations and field days fulfill both the criteria so the participation of farmers (Mandal as well as non-mandal) was maximum in demonstrations and field days. Similar finding was also reported by Singh (1997) that demonstrations, farmers fair, and field days were considered as most important activities by both the categories of farmers. Similar results were also concluded by Sharma (1989).

The other activities in which participation of farmers was minimum were educational tours (0.122) and film shows (0.111) with VII and VIII ranks respectively. Relatively poor participation of farmers was recorded in educational tours, film shows and exhibition etc. The results so arrived may be because

Table 1. Extent of farmers' participation in different extension activities under Kisan Mandals and Kisan Seva Kendras

S. No.	Extension Activities	Number of mandal and non-mandal farmers participation in different extension activities										Over all mean score	Rank		
		Mandal Farmers (N = 90)					Non-mandal Farmers (N = 90)								
		MO (3)	O (2)	S (1)	N (0)	Mean Score	Rank	MO (3)	O (2)	S (1)	N (0)			Mean Score	Rank
1.	Demonstration	70	11	8	11	2.66	I	40	13	18	19	1.82	I	2.240	I
2.	Farmer Fair	21	13	17	39	1.17	III	15	6	13	66	0.777	III	1.973	III
3.	Filed Days	58	17	12	13	2.44	II	35	16	11	28	1.64	II	2.040	II
4.	Training	13	15	18	44	0.966	IV	-	17	3	70	0.411	V	0.577	IV
5.	Film Shows	-	13	17	60	0.477	VI	-	-	10	80	0.111	VIII	0.260	VII
6.	Exhibition	4	8	9	69	0.411	VII	-	2	8	80	0.133	VI	0.272	VI
7.	Conference/workshop/meeting	10	7	4	69	0.533	V	2	7	6	75	0.288	IV	0.410	V
8.	Educational tours	3	5	6	76	0.277	VII	-	3	5	82	0.122	VII	0.199	VIII

of lack of knowledge of farmers about such educational means. While interviewing the farmers, it was also observed that film shows, exhibitions and educational tours were rarely conducted and farmers considered these activities only for highly qualified personnel so they did not participate in such activities. Subbareddy and Channegowda (1982) concluded that less percentage of farmers participated in film shows and exhibitions. Reddy and Salvi (1990), Bhati (1995) and Singh (1997) also supported the findings.

CONCLUSION

Thus from the above explanation it may be concluded that demonstration, field days and farmers fair were considered as the most important activities by both the categories of respondents. However, relatively poor participation of farmers was recorded in educational tours, film shows and exhibition etc. It has been proved by scientists that combination of teaching methods give good results. Keeping this thing in mind it is suggested that the frequency of conducting extension activities such as farmers fair, film shows, exhibitions, educational tours etc. should be increased to improve farmers' participation.

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