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IMPACT OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON ADOPTION OF ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Organic farming is a production system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic compound viz. fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives etc. This study was conducted purposively in Talwara block of Banswara district due to maximum number of trained farmers in organic farming. The total 90 trained farmers were selected for the study. Only 8.88 per cent of the respondents had high perception in organic farming before participation in training and after the participation of training this figure increased up to the 28.88 per cent. All the selected attributes of the trained farmers, except age, caste and size of family were found having significant relationship with their perception of organic farming. High cost of inputs & difficult methods for preparation were major constraints experienced by the farmer.

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is a production system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic compound viz. fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives. Organic farming does not imply the simple replacement of synthetic fertilizers and other chemical inputs with organic inputs and biologically active formulations. Instead, it envisages a comprehensive management approach to improve the health of underlying productivity of the soil, air and water exist in a stage of dynamic equilibrium and regulate the ecosystem processes in mutual harmony by complementing and supplementing each other. Organic farming does not totally exclude the elements of modern agriculture.

The various extension agencies are continuously making efforts to create awareness among the farmers about organic farming. Govt. Institutes, Non Govt. Organizations, Private agencies and KVKs are playing major role for promoting the organic farming and conducting Training Programme, Exhibition, Kisan Mela, Sangosthi and other programme for dissemination of information about organic farming with low cost and environmentally safe condition. The success of any training programme depends greatly on the perception of the trainees towards it. Hence it is worthwhile to assess the impact of organic farming training programmes in term of trainee's perception so that the farmers may adopt these technologies and enhance their production with low cost and environmentally safe condition. The success of any training programme depends greatly on the perception of the trainees towards it. Hence it is worthwhile to assess the impact of organic farming programmes in terms of trainee's perception. Keeping the above fact in to consideration

the entitled, "Impact assessment of training programs as perceived by trained farmers with regards to organic farming practices in Talwara block of Banswara district of Rajasthan" with the following specific objectives:

i) To assess the perception of training programme among the trained farmers with regards to organic farming practices.

ii) To analyze the relationship between attributes of the trained farmers and their perception of training programme about organic farming practices.

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iii) To study the constraints perceived by the farmers during adoption of organic farming practices.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The district comprises 8 blocks out of which Talwara block was selected purposively due to the maximum number of training programme (off campus as well as on campus) were organized about organic farming amongst the other blocks by the KVK Banswara because five villages were adopted by KVK and there were maximum numbers of trained farmers in the block.

A list of trained farmers was prepared and a total of 90 trained farmers were selected as respondents for the study. The collected data were analyzed with help of suitable statistical tools like per cent and correlation coefficient.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Extent of perception of training programme among the trained farmers about organic farming practices: The data presented in Table 1 revealed that in case of application of FYM / NADEP majority of the trained farmers (61.11%) had high perception in application of FYM / NADEP, followed by 33.33 per cent of trained farmers had medium and only 5.55 per cent trained farmers had low perception about application of FYM / NADEP. Regarding green manure, most of the trained farmers (45.55%) had medium perception about green manure, followed by 32.22 per cent of trained farmers had high and 27.77 per cent trained farmers had low perception about green manure. With regards to vermi-compost majority of the trained farmers (55.55%) had medium perception about vermi-compost followed by 25.55 per cent of trained farmers had high and 18.88 per cent trained farmers had low perception about vermi-compost. In case of biogas slurry majority of the trained farmers (54.44%) had medium perception about biogas slurry, followed by 27.77per cent of trained farmers had low and 17.77per cent trained farmers had high perception about biogas slurry. In case of matka khad, majority of the trained farmers (62.23%) had medium perception about matka khad, followed by 23.33 per cent of trained farmers had low and 14.45 per cent trained farmers had high perception about matka khad. Regarding azola and blue green algae, majority of the trained farmers (61.22%) had medium perception about azola and blue green algae, followed by 13.33 per cent of trained farmers had low and 11.11 per cent trained farmers had high perception about azola and blue green algae. With Regards to use of neem oil, majority of the trained farmers (48.48%) had medium perception about use of neem oil, followed by 35.55 per cent of trained farmers had high and 15.55 per cent trained farmers had low perception about use of neem oil. In case of use of cow urine, majority of the trained farmers (50.0%) had medium perception about use of cow urine, followed by 28.88 per cent of trained farmers had high and 21.11 per cent trained farmers had low perception about use of cow urine.

Table 1. Extent of perception regarding organic farming practices among the trained farmers

S. No.	Organic farming practices	Extent of perception		
		Low	Medium	High
1	Application of FYM/ NADEP	5 (5.55)	30 (33.33)	55 (61.11)
2	Green manure	20 (27.77)	41 (45.55)	29(32.22)
3	Vermi compost	17 (18.88)	50 (55.55)	23 (25.55)
4	Biogas slurry	25 (27.77)	49 (54.44)	16 (17.77)
5	Matka khad	21 (23.33)	56 (62.23)	13 (14.45)
6	Azola and blue green algae	12 (13.33)	68 (61.22)	10 (11.11)
7	Use of neem oil	14 (15.5)	44 (48.48)	32 (35.55)
8	Use of cow urine	19 (21.11)	45 (50.0)	26 (28.88)
	Mean	**20 (22.22)**	**56 (62.22)**	**25 (32.77)**

Assessment of training programmes as perceived by trained farmers with regards to organic farming practices : The data presented in Table 2 revealed that in case of before participation in training programme, most of the beneficiaries (51.11%) belonged to low perception category in relation to organic farming, followed by 40.00 per

cent of them medium perception category in relation to organic farming and only 8.88 per cent of them high perception category in relation to organic farming. Whereas, after participation in training programme, maximum number of respondents (48.88%) belonged to medium category of perception about organic farming followed by low category (28.88%) and 22.22 per cent of the respondents had high category of perception in relation to organic farming practices.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their perception in relation to organic farming practices before and after participating in training programme

S. No.	Categories	Respondents (n=90)			
		Before training		After training	
		No.	%	No.	%
1	Low	46	51.11	20	22.22
2	Medium	36	40.00	44	48.88
3	High	08	8.88	26	28.88
	Total	**90**	**100**	**90**	**100**

Thus, it may be referred that after participation of training programme, most of the respondents had medium to high perception about organic farming. This finding is in conformity with the finding of Saxena & Singh (2000).

Relationship between attributes of the trained farmers and their perception of training programme about organic farming practices: The zero order correlation coefficient of attributes of trained farmers with their perception about organic farming practices is furnished in Table 3. It can be observed from the table that correlation coefficients in respect of education (0.459), social participation (0.349), credit availability (0.339), annual income (0.281), source of information (0.354), contact with extension personnel (0.363), innovativeness (0.354), and knowledge about organic farming (0.409) were found positive and significant relationship with perception of trained farmers about organic farming practices at 1% level of probability, whereas size of land holding (0..031) and cosmopoliteness (0.217) also found significant relationship with perception of trained farmers about organic farming practice at 5% probability level, while age (0.033), caste(0.054) and size of family (0.031) were found no significant relationship with the perception of trained farmers about organic farming practices. This finding supports the view expressed by Badodiya et al (2009) and Borkar et al (2000).

Table 3. Relationship between attributes of trained farmers and their perception about organic farming Practices

S. No.	Particulars	Correlation coefficient	Rank
1	Age	0.033 NS	(X1)
2	Education	0.459**	(X2)
3	Caste	0.054NS	(X3)
4	Size of family	0.031NS	(X4)
5	Social participation	0.349**	(X5)
6	Size of land holding	0.211*	(X6)
7	Credit availability	0.339**	(X7)
8	Annual income	0.281*	(X8)
9	Source of information	0.342**	(X9)
10	Contact with extension personnel	0.363**	(X10)
11	Innovativeness	0.354**	(X11)
12	Cosmopoliteness	0.217*	(X12)
13	Knowledge about organic farming	0.409**	(X13)

* Significant at 1 % level of probability.** Significant at 5 % level of probability, NS = non significant

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to various constraints faced by them in using organic farming practices

S. No.	Constraints	Beneficiaries		Rank
		No.	%	
1	High cost of inputs	69	76.67	I
2	Difficult methods for preparation	60	66.67	II
3	Lack of input & raw materials	53	58.8	III
4	Poor financial condition	52	57.77	IV
5	Non-availability of loans in time	51	56.66	V
6	Lack of proper training at grass root level	42	46.66	VI
7	Non availability of appropriate literature	41	45.55	VII

Constraints perceived by farmers during adoption of organic farming practices: The data presented in Table 4 indicates that in the study area, high cost of inputs was major problem as experience by the farmers (76.67%) and was ranked first, 'difficult methods for preparation' reported by 66.67 per cent respondents and got second ranked. Lack of input & raw materials was reported by 58.8 per cent respondents. 'Poor financial condition' and Non-availability of loans in time were most serious problem as experience by the beneficiaries (57.77% & 56.67%) and were ranked fourth and fifth. The problem was logically true that the 46.67 per cent of the respondents reported 'lack of proper training at grass root level'. The other constraints in the descending order of seriousness were as non availability of appropriate literature (45.55%) ranked seventh.

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that only 8.88 per cent of the respondents had high perception in organic farming before participation of training and after the participation in training programme this figure is increased up to 28.88 per cent. Out of 13 independent variables 9 variables namely education, size of land holding, social participation, credit availability, annual income, source of information, contact with extension personnel, innovativeness, cosmopoliteness & knowledge about organic farming were found having significant association with dependent variable- perception of trained farmers about organic farming. In this study high cost of inputs & difficult methods of preparation of organic farming were major problem faced by the farmers during adoption of organic farming practices.

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