

PERCEPTION OF THE PROGRESSIVE FARMERS REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTENSION METHODS

A. G. Vaghela¹, G. J. Patel² and A. Biswas³

1 PG Student, Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Communication, NMCA, NAU, Navsari-396450

2 Principal, Polytechnic in Agriculture, Amirgadh - 385130

3 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Communication, CPCA, SK Nagar - 385506

Email : anandvaghela79@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in 15 villages of Sabarkantha district. Five talukas was randomly selected. The size of sample was 150 progressive farmers. Majority of the progressive farmers were middle aged, possessed primary to secondary education, had received three or more trainings, adopted agriculture + animal husbandry farming system, belonged marginal to medium size of land holding, participated in one or more social organization, medium level extension participation, medium level cosmopolitaness, had moderately favourable attitude towards extension methods, having high to very high level of achievement motivation and had moderate level perception regarding effectiveness of extension methods

Keywords: perception, progressive farmers, effectiveness, extension method

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture sector plays a vital for the food and nutritional security of the nation. The sector remains the principal source of livelihood for more than 54.60 per cent of the population though its contribution is to the line of 11.52 per cent of national GDP. India has only 2.30 per cent share in world's total land area and it has to ensure food security of its 1.30 billion populations which is about 17.50 per cent of world population. The total geographical area of India is 328.70 million hectares of which 141.40 million hectares is net sown area, while 200.90 million hectares is the gross cropped area (Anonymous, 2017).

Extension education is considered as an informal education out of school system designed to help rural people in order to satisfy their needs, interests and desires. It is a system of education which involves adult learners. This education system assists farmers in effectively utilizing the resources available to them in solving their current farm and allied problems. By offering farmers educational and material services, using effective extension methods, the extension service stimulates them to make such changes in their farm operations which will result in more efficient (ojha, 2017). Extension methods are the wheels of extension education which are important for transfer information on latest agricultural technology among farmers. Hence, it is necessary to know the farmers perception regarding effectiveness of extension methods.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To know the perception of progressive farmers regarding effectiveness of extension methods

- (2) To study the selected characteristic of progressive farmers
- (3) To ascertain the relationship between selected characteristics and perception regarding effective extension methods

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat state purposively. Five taluka was selected randomly. Three villages were selected from each taluka to make 150 respondents. The data was collected using personal interview method. The statistical measures like frequency, percentage, mean and S.D was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perception of progressive farmers regarding effective extension methods

Table 1: Perception of progressive farmers regarding effectiveness of extension methods (n=150)

Sr. No.	Level of perception	No.	Percent
1	Low (Below 98.71 score)	26	17.33
2	Medium (98.71 to 109.75 score)	100	66.67
3	High (Above 109.75 score)	24	16.00

The data in Table 1 indicated that majority of the progressive farmers (66.67 per cent) had medium level of perception regarding effectiveness of extension methods whereas low and high were 17.33 and 16 percent respectively.

Selected characteristics of the progressive farmers

Table 2: Distribution of selected characteristics of progressive farmers

(n=150)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Classification	No.	Percent
1	Age Group	Young (Below to 35 years)	54	36.00
		Middle (35 to 50 years)	77	51.33
		Old (Above 50 years)	19	12.67
2	Level of education	Illiterate	05	03.33
		Functionally literate	08	05.33
		Primary (1 st to 8 th Standard)	51	34.00
		Secondary (9 th to 10 th Standard)	43	28.67
		Higher Secondary (11 th to 12 th Standard)	21	14.00
		Graduate and above	22	14.67
3	Social participation	One training	17	11.33
		Two trainings	25	16.67
		Three trainings	58	38.67
		More than three trainings	50	33.33
4	Training received	No participation	14	09.33
		Membership in one organization	64	42.67
		Membership in more than one organizations	54	36.00
		Membership with office bearer	18	12.00
5	Farming system	Agriculture	06	04.00
		Animal Husbandry	02	01.33
		Agriculture + AH	112	74.67
		Horticulture + AH	01	00.67
		Agriculture + Horticulture + AH	26	19.33
6	Land holding	Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha)	33	22.00
		Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	52	34.67
		Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	36	24.00
		Large (More than 4.00 ha)	29	19.33
7	Extension participation (Mean = 35.63 , S.D. = 7.5)	Low (Below 28.13 score)	19	12.67
		Medium (28.13 to 43.13 score)	107	71.33
		High (Above 43.13 score)	24	16.00
8	Cosmopoliteness (Mean = 5.78, S.D.= 2.72)	Low (Below 3.06 score)	43	28.67
		Medium (3.06 to 8.5 score)	93	62.00
		High (Above 8.5)	14	09.33
9	Achievement Motivation	Very low	03	02.00
		Low	12	8.00
		Medium	27	18.00
		High	78	48.00
		Very high	36	24.00
10	Attitude toward effective extension methods (Mean = 28.02,S.D. = 9.05)	Less(Below 18.97)	21	14.00
		Moderately (18.97 to 37.07)	102	68.00
		Highly favourable (Above 37.07)	27	18.00

The data presented in Table 2 show that majority per cent of the respondents had possessed primary education, (51.33 per cent) of the respondents were in the middle followed by secondary education (28.67 per cent), graduate age group, while 36.00 per cent and 12.67 per cent of the and above (14.67 per cent), higher secondary (14.00 per respondents belonged to young and old age group. The 34.00 cent), functionally literate (5.33 per cent) and illiterate (3.33

per cent). The 38.67 per cent of the respondents received three training while, 33.33 per cent of the respondents received more than three training and 16.67 per cent of the respondents received two trainings. Only 11.33 per cent of the respondents received one training. The 42.67 per cent of the respondents had membership in one organization followed by 36.00 per cent of the respondents who had membership in more than one organization while, 12.00 per cent of the farmers were found membership with office bearer. Only 09.33 per cent of the farmers where had no membership in any social organization. Majority (74.67 per cent) of the respondents had agriculture + animal husbandry system of farming, followed by agriculture + horticulture + animal husbandry (19.33 per cent), agriculture alone (4.00 per cent) while, 1.33 per cent and 0.67 per cent of the respondents had animal husbandry and horticulture + animal husbandry system of farming. The 34.67 per cent of the respondents had small size of land holding followed by 24.00 per cent and 22.00 per cent of the respondents had medium and marginal size of land holding, respectively. Only 19.33 per cent of the respondents had large size of land holding. Majority (68.00 per cent) of respondents had moderately favourable attitude towards extension methods followed by highly favourable and less favourable attitude with 18.00 per cent and 14.00 per cent, respectively.

Association between selected characteristics of progressive farmers and perception regarding effectiveness of extension methods

Table 3: Association between selected characteristics and perception of the progressive farmers (n=150)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	'r' value
X ₁	Age	0.1449 ^{NS}
X ₂	Education	0.1653*
X ₃	Training Received	0.1902*
X ₄	Social Participation	0.1822*
X ₅	Farming System	0.1379 ^{NS}
X ₆	Land Holding	0.1776*
X ₇	Extension Participation	0.1708*
X ₈	Cosmopolitaness	0.1893*
X ₉	Achievement Motivation	0.2138**
X ₁₀	Attitude	0.2134**

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

* Significant at 0.01 level of probability

NS- Non Significant

The data presented in Table 3 indicated that education (r=0.1653), training received (r=0.1902), social participation (0.1822), land holding (r = 0.1776), extension participation (r = 0.1708) and cosmopolitaness (r = 0.1893) had positive and significant relationship with the perception of progressive farmers regarding effectiveness of extension methods while, achievement motivation (0.2138**) and attitude (0.2134**) had shown positive and highly significant association with perception of progressive farmers regarding effective extension methods. The age (0.1449^{NS}) and farming system (0.1379^{NS}) was positive but non-significant relationship with perception of progressive farmers regarding effective extension methods.

CONCLUSION

From above result it can be concluded that majority of the progressive farmers were in middle age group that majority of the progressive farmers were in middle age group, possessed primary education to secondary education level, had received three or more trainings, had agriculture + animal husbandry system of farming, had marginal to medium size of land holding, were participated in one or more social organization, had medium extension participation, had medium cosmopolitaness, had moderately favourable attitude towards extension methods, having high to very high level achievement motivation and had middle level perception regarding effectiveness of extension methods.

The education, training received, social participation, land holding, extension participation, achievement motivation and attitude are the major factor for contribution of positive and significant relationship with effectiveness of extension methods.

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