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Awareness among Farmers about Krishi Vigyan Kendra - Knowledge Resource Centre in Tapi district

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in jurisdiction of KVK – Vyara, Tapi district of South Gujarat. Total 160 respondents from adopted and non-adopted villages of KVK, Vyara were taken. The teacher's made interview schedule was used for the data collection. The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in the light of the objectives. The statistical measures like frequency, percentage, Mean and S.D. were used. The result showed that majority of the respondent found to have medium level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages and Non- Adopted villages.

Keywords: *Awarness, KVK*

INTRODUCTION

The first KVK, on a pilot basis, was established in1974 at Pondicherry under the administrative control of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The mandates of KVKs are as follows – Conducting "On-Farm Testing" for identifying technologies in terms of location specific sustainable land use systems, Organising training to update the extension personnel with emerging advances in agricultural research on regular basis, Organising short and long term training courses in agriculture and allied vocations for the farmers and rural youths with emphasis on "Learning by doing" for higher production on farms and generating self-employment, Organising Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) on various crops to generate production data and feed back information.

In order to achieve the above mandates, the following broad objectives would help the KVKs to develop their specific objectives – To promptly demonstrate the latest agricultural technologies to the farmers as well as extension workers of State Departments of Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Fishery/ Animal Science/ NGOs with a view to reduce the time lag between the technology generation and its adoption, To test and verify the technologies in the socio-economic conditions of the farmers with a view to study the production constraints and to modify the technologies to make them appropriate, To impart trainings to the practising farmers/ farm women, rural youth and field level extension functionaries by following the methods of "Teaching by doing" and "Learning by doing', To back-up with training and communication supports to the district level development departments viz; Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Fisheries/ Animal science and NGOs in their extension programmes.

The KVKs, thus are the down-to-earth institutions committed to vocational training, transfer of latest technologies, on farm research and thus, serving as the light house for overall rural development in the district. The activities of the KVK include technology assessment, refinement and transfer, aiming to bridge the gap between the technology developed at the research institutions and its adoption at the field level by the farmers through demonstration of technology/ products etc. and training of farmers, rural youths and extension personnel. On the basis of "India-2002", there were 578 rural districts spread over the country and this figure has further been raised to 602 districts as per the latest data available on the internet report of NIC.

In view of continuous increase in the number of districts, it is agreed to have one KVK in each district by the end of Xth plan. Realising the importance of technology assessment, refinement and transfer, the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 500 crores specifically for the establishment of new KVKs during Xth plan period. The DDG(AE) during the 11th EFC meeting of Xth plan, held in New Delhi on 30th Sept. 2003 out lined the importance of two issues in the context of the present scenario of agriculture in India- (i) the technologies have to be assessed and refined before their transfer and (ii) a programme approach involving various technology components relevant to the farmers in varying farming situations will be required for a perceptible change. The concept of technology assessment and refinement is based on participatory mode ensuring greater scientists-farmer linkage and access to agricultural technologies generated by research systems to the farming community. For this, the role of KVKs are of immense importance for overall agricultural and rural development through its various research and technology transfer mechanisms. The new mandate i.e. KVK as Knowledge resource centre was added in 2009.

Keeping all these views in mind, the research study "Awareness among farmers about Knowledge Resource Centre established by Krishi vigyan" was taken with following objectives. :

(1) To study the personal profile of the respondents *viz*. Age, Education, Social participation, Extension participation, Annual Income, occupation, Land Holding and economic motivation .

(2) To study the awareness among farmers of adopted and non-adopted villages of KVK-Tapi about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK.

(3) To ascertain the relationship between dependent and independent variables.

METHODOLOGY

Vyara and Songadh taluka were selected purposively. Eight villages from Vyara taluka and two villages from Songadh taluka were selected purposively as these villages were adopted by KVK. While ten villages from Vyara and Songadh taluka were selected as they are neighboring villages of the adopted villages(Non-adopted). 8 respondents were selected from each village of ten adopted villages and 8 respondents were selected from each village of ten non-adopted villages by random sampling technique. Thus, total number of respondents was 160. The teacher's made interview schedule was used for the data collection. The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in the light of the objectives. The statistical measures like frequency, percentage, Mean and S.D. were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the respondents:

The findings of these selected characteristics have been presented in the following section:

Age

From the data presented in Table 1(1) show that nearly one-half (49.00 per cent) of the respondents was in middle age group followed by 23.00 per cent of the respondents belonging young age group and 18.00 per cent were under old age group in Adopted villages, while majority (46.00 per cent) of the respondents was in old age group followed by 36.00 per cent of the respondents belonging middle age group and 18.00 per cent were under young age group in Non-Adopted villages.

Education

A perusal of data presented in Table 1(2) reveal that major segment (46.00 per cent) of the respondents were educated up to primary school level followed by 19.00, 10.00, 8.00 and 6.00 had an education up to middle school level, up to college and above college, up to high school level education and illiterate respectively in Adopted villages while, majority (39.00 per cent) of the respondents were educated up to primary school level followed by 25.00, 20.00, 9.00 and 7.00 were illiterate, up to middle school level, up to college and above college and up to high school level education respectively in Non-Adopted villages . This information gives indication that the literacy rate in tribal area is still very low.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their personal characteristics n=160

Sr. No.	Personal Characteristics	Adopted Villages (80)		Non-Adopted Villages (80)	
		Number of respondents	Per cent	Number of respondents	Per cent
1	**Age group**				
1	Young (up to 35 years)	23	29	14	18
2	Middle (36 to 50 years)	39	49	29	36
3	Old (50 years and above)	18	22	37	46
2	**Level of Education**				
1	Illiterate	06	07	20	25
2	Up to primary school level	37	46	31	39
3	Up to middle school level	19	24	16	20
4	Up to high school level	08	10	06	07
5	Up to college and above college	10	13	07	09
3	**Social Participation**				
1	Participated	72	90	63	79
2	Not participated	08	10	17	21
4	**Extension Participation**				
1	Not participated	02	03	30	38
2	Participated in one activity	09	11	50	62
3	Participated in more than one activity	69	86	00	00
5	**Annual Income**				
1	Above Rs. 2,00,000/-	03	04	05	06
2	Rs. 1,50,001 to 2,00,000	01	01	0	0
3	Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000	09	11	03	04
4	Rs. 50,001 to 1,00,000	25	31	26	32
5	Up to Rs. 50,000	42	53	46	58
6	**Occupation**				
1	Farming	08	10	13	17
2	Animal Husbandary	01	01	02	03
3	Farming + Animal Husbandary	66	82	63	79
4	Service + Farming	02	03	01	01
5	Farming + Business	03	04	0	0
7	**Land Holding**				
1	> 10 ha	01	01	0	0
2	4.01 – 10.00 ha	03	04	06	07
3	2.01 – 4.00 ha	06	07	16	20
4	1.01 – 2.00 ha	35	44	26	33
5	0.01 – 1.00 ha	35	44	32	40
8.	**Economic motivation for Adopted villages**				
1	Low economic motivation (< 16 score)	15	19	--	--
2	Medium economic motivation (16-18 score)	60	75	--	--
3	High economic motivation (> 18 score)	05	06	--	--
		Mean-17			S.D. -1
9	**Economic motivation for Non-Adopted villages**				
1	Low economic motivation (< 14 score)	--	--	11	14
2	Medium economic motivation (14-18 score)	--	--	69	86
3	High economic motivation (> 18 score)	--	--	0	0
		Mean-16			S.D. -2

Social participation

The data in Table 1(3) revealed that majority (90.00 per cent and) of the respondents were participated in social activities and 10.00 per cent of the respondents were not participated in social activities in Adopted villages while, majority (79.00 per cent) of the respondents were participated in social activities and 21.00 per cent of the respondents were not participated in social activities in Non-Adopted villages.

Extension participation

From the data presented in Table 1(4) it was observed that majority (86.00 per cent) of the respondents were participated in more than one activity followed by 11.00 per cent and 3.00 per cent of the respondents were participated in one activity and not participated in any activity respectively in Adopted villages while, majority (62.00 per cent) of the respondents were participated in one activity followed by 38.00 per cent were not participated in any activity in Non-Adopted villages.

Annual Income

It is apparent from Table 1(5) that more than one-half (53.00 per cent) of the respondents had annual income up to ₹ 50,000/- followed by 31.00 per cent, 11.00 per cent and 4.00 per cent and 1.00 per cent of the respondents had annual income between ₹ 50,001 to 1,00,000, ₹ 1,00,001 to 1,50,000, above ₹ 2,00,000 and ₹ 1,50,001 to 2,00,000 respectively in Adopted villages while, majority (58.00 per cent) of the respondents had annual income up to ₹ 50,000/- followed by 32.00 per cent, 6.00 per cent and 4.00 per cent of the respondents had annual income between ₹ 50,001 to 1,00,000, above ₹ 2,00,000 and ₹ 1,00,001 to 1,50,000 respectively whereas, none of them had an annual income between ₹ 1,50,001 to 2,00,000 in Non-Adopted villages.

Occupation

The data presented in Table 1(6) reveal that majority (82.00 per cent) of the respondents were engaged in farming + Animal Husbandry as main occupation followed by 10.00 per cent, 4.00 per cent and 3.00 per cent of the respondents were engaged in farming, Farming + Business and Service + Farming respectively whereas, only 1.00 per cent of the respondents had Animal Husbandry as main occupation in Adopted villages while, majority (79.00 per cent) of the respondents were engaged in farming + Animal Husbandry as main occupation followed by 17.00 per cent, 3.00 per cent and 1.00 per cent of the respondents were engaged in farming, Animal Husbandry and Service + Farming respectively whereas, none of them had Farming + Business as main occupation in Non-Adopted villages.

Land holding

It is evident from the data in Table 1(7) that equal proportion (44.00 per cent) of the respondents possessed 0.01 – 1.00 ha and 1.01 – 2.00 ha of land followed by 7.00 per cent, 4.00 per cent and 1.00 per cent of the respondents possessed 2.01 – 4.00 ha, 4.01 – 10.00 ha and > 10 ha of land respectively in Adopted villages while, majority (40.00 percent) of the respondents possessed 0.01 – 1.00 ha of land followed by 33.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 7.00 per cent of the respondents possessed 1.01 – 2.00 ha, 2.01 – 4.00 ha and 4.01 – 10.00 respectively whereas, none of them possessed > 10 ha of land in Non-Adopted villages.

Economic motivation for Adopted villages

The date presented in Table 1(8) portray that three-fourth (75.00 per cent) of the respondents were found to have middle level of economic motivation and 19.00 per cent and 6.00 per cent of the respondents had low and high level of economic motivation respectively in Adopted villages.

Economic motivation for Non-Adopted villages

The data presented in Table 1(9) reveal that majority (86.00 per cent) of the respondents were found to have middle level of economic motivation and 14.00 per cent of the respondents had low level of economic motivation and none of them had high level of economic motivation in Non-Adopted villages.

Awareness among farmers about knowledge resource centre established by KVK:

The findings of these selected characteristics have been presented in the following section:

Awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre

A perusal of data presented in Table 2 indicate that nearly three-fourth (74.00 per cent) of the respondents were found to have medium level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK and an equal (13.00 per cent) number of respondents had low and high level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages while, more than one-half (57.00 per cent) of the respondents were found to have medium level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK whereas, 40.00 per cent and 3.00 per cent of respondents had low and high level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non- Adopted villages.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents According to their awareness n=160

S.N.	Level of awareness	Number of respondents	Per cent
1	Low level of awareness (< 65 score)	10	13
2	Medium level of awareness (65-85 score)	60	74
3	High level of awareness (> 85 score)	10	13
Mean-75			S.D. -10
1	Low level of awareness (< 30 score)	32	40
2	Medium level of awareness (30-54 score)	46	57
3	High level of awareness (> 54 score)	02	03
Mean-42			S.D. -12

Association between personal profile of the respondents of the Adopted and Non-Adopted villages and their extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK

The correlation coefficient of nine variables of respondents of the Adopted and Non-Adopted villages with their extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK is furnished in Table 3.

Table 3: Association between personal profile of the respondents of the Adopted and Non-Adopted villages and their extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK n=160

Sr.	Variables	Adopted villages	Non-Adopted villages
		'*r*' value	**'*r*' value**
1	Age	0.04234	-0.09586
2	Education	-0.03918	0.32165 **
3	Caste	-0.05218	0.02895
4	Social participation	0.08375	0.17591
5	Extension participation	0.26801 *	0.52391 **
6	Annual income	0.04050	0.28623 *
7	Occupation	-0.09794	0.10476
8	Land holding	-0.14979	0.06174
9	Economic motivation	0.07695	-0.08845

* Significant at 5 per cent level

** Highly significant at 1 per cent level

Age and extent of awareness

The data presented in table 3 shows that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** =0.04234) was found non-significant. It means there was no association between age and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages.

The data presented in table 3 shows that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = -0.09586) was found negative and non-significant. It means there was no association between age and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non-Adopted villages.

Education and extent of awareness

The data in table 3 indicates that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** =-0.03918) was found negative and non-significant. It reflects that there was no association between education and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages.

The data in table 3 indicates that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** =0.32165**) was found highly significant. It reflects that there was association between education and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non-Adopted villages.

Caste and extent of awareness

On the basis of the data presented in table 3 specify that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = -0.05218) was found negative and non-significant. It indicates that there was no association between caste and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages.

On the basis of the data presented in table 3 specify that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = 0.02895) was found non-significant. It indicates that there was no association between caste and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages.

Social participation and extent of awareness

On the basis of the data presented in table 3 specify that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = 0.08375) was found non-significant. It indicates that there was no association between social participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages.

On the basis of the data presented in table 3 specify that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = 0.17591) was found non-significant. It indicates that there was no association between social participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non-Adopted villages.

Extension participation and extent of awareness

On the basis of the data presented in table 3 specify that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = 0.26801) was found significant. It indicates that there was significant association between Extension participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages.

On the basis of the data presented in table 3 specify that the calculated value of correlation coefficient (***r*** = 0.52391**) was found highly significant. It indicates that there was significant association between Extension participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non-Adopted villages.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it could be concluded that majority of the respondents were in middle age group, educated up to primary school level, participated in social activities, participated in more than one extension activity, annual income up to Rs.50,000/-, engaged in farming + Animal Husbandry as main occupation, equal proportion of the respondents possessed 0.01 – 2.00 ha, found to have middle level of economic motivation and found to have medium level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages whereas, majority of the respondents was in old age group, educated up to primary school level, participated in social activities, participated in one extension activity, annual income up to Rs. 50,000/-, engaged in farming + Animal Husbandry as main occupation, possessed 0.01 – 1.00 ha of land and found to have middle level of economic in Non-Adopted villages and more than one-half of the respondents were found to have medium level of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non- Adopted villages. There was no association between age, education, cast, social participation, annual income, occupation, land holding, economic participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK but there was significant association found between extension participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Adopted villages whereas, there was no association between age, cast, social participation, extension participation, occupation, land holding, economic participation and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK but there was association between education, extension participation, annual income and extent of awareness about Knowledge Resource Centre established by KVK in Non-Adopted villages.

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