

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBAL MAIZE GROWERS AND THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ORGANIC FARMING

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted in Vadodara district of Gujarat state. The findings of this investigation reveal that independent variables like, education, size of land holding, annual income, herd size, social participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, scientific orientation, risk orientation, economic motivation, market orientation and knowledge had positive and highly significant correlation with attitude towards organic farming in maize crop. The variables like age and size of family showed negative but non-significant relationship with attitude towards organic farming in maize crop.

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming may be defined as a production system, which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives. To the maximum extent feasible, organic farming system relies upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, legumes, green manures, off-farm organic wastes, mechanical cultivation, mineral bearing rocks and aspects of biological pest control to maintain soil productivity and tilth, to supply plant nutrients and to control insects, weeds and other pests

After the green revolution was launched in India, substantial increase in the production of food grains was achieved through the use of improved crop varieties and higher extent of inputs like fertilizers and plant protection chemicals. But it has now been realized that the increase in production was achieved at the cost of soil health. In fact, about 60 per cent of our agricultural land currently under cultivation suffers from indiscriminate use of irrigation water and chemical fertilizers. Most of the growth in the food production during

the green revolution period is attributed to the higher fertilizer use. In view of all such things, organic farming is gaining momentum now-a-days. For adoption of organic farming, several characteristics on part of farmers play important role. Considering this, an attempt has been made in this investigation to ascertain the relationship if any, between the selected characteristics of tribal maize growers and their attitude towards organic farming.

METHODOLOGY

Vadodara district was chosen for the study. Total 120 tribal maize growers doing animal husbandry and cultivating the maize crop for last 5 years were selected by proportionate random sampling as respondents. The data were collected with the help of well-structured, pre-tested, Gujarati version interview schedule through personal contact. Relationship between selected characteristics of tribal maize growers and their attitude towards organic farming was determined with help of Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation.

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FINDINGS

The action of individual farmer is governed by personal, social, economic, psychological and cultural factors involved in situation. In adoption of organic farming also, such factors can't be ignored. In view of this, relationship between attitude of tribal maize grower towards organic farming with their selected characteristics was worked out; the results of which are presented in Table-1.

Table-1 : Relationship between the selected characteristics of tribal maize growers and their attitude towards organic farming practices in maize crop
n = 120

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	'r' value
1	Age	-0.125(NS)
2	Education	0.329**
3	Size of family	-0.046 (NS)
4	Social participation	0.280**
5	size of Land holding	0.409**
6	Annual income	0.265**
7	Herd size	0.377**
8	Scientific orientation	0.328**
9	Economic motivation	0.261**
10	Risk orientation	0.364**
11	Market orientation	0.774**
12	Knowledge level	0.301**
13	Extension contact	0.306**
14	Mass media exposure	0.244**

NS = non significant at 0.05 level, * = significant at 0.05 level, ** = significant at 0.01 level

It is obvious from the data presented in the Table that variables like, education, size of land holding, annual income, herd size, social participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, scientific

orientation, risk orientation, economic motivation, market orientation and knowledge had positive and highly significant correlation with attitude towards organic farming in maize crop. It clearly indicates that with increase in education, size of land holding, annual income, herd size, social participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, scientific orientation, risk orientation, economic motivation, market orientation and knowledge of the tribal maize growers, they were more likely to adopt organic farming or in other words, their attitude towards organic farming increased. The variable like age and size of family didn't exert any significant relationship with the attitude of tribal maize grower towards organic farming. It is indicative of the fact that age and size of family are not important variables and they do not influence the attitude of tribal maize growers towards organic farming.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above findings that the independent variables viz. education, size of land holding, annual income, herd size, social participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, scientific orientation, risk orientation, economic motivation, market orientation and knowledge had positive and highly significant correlation with attitude of tribal maize growers towards organic farming whereas age and size of family of the attitude of tribal maize grower had negative and non-significant correlation with their attitude towards organic farming.

REFERENCE

Karl, Pearson. (1978). Hand Book of Agricultural Statistics .284-285

Decision decides direction , direction decides destiny.