

OPINION AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS REGRADING KRUSHI MAHOTSAV

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Navsari district of Gujarat state. 20 villages were selected from two talukas of Navsari district. Respondents of the present study were beneficiary farmers of Krushi Mahotsav Programme which is organized every year by Government of Gujarat. Simple random sampling method was used to identify 200 respondents for the study. The study revealed that majority of the farmers had medium level of opinion about Krushi Mahotsav, while for improvement of programme majority of the farmers suggested that in programme emphasis should be given on small and marginal farmers and ranked first, followed by Krushi Mahotsav must be organized before onset of monsoon, more number of farmers should include for distribution of seed kits.

INTRODUCTION

India is predominantly an agricultural country nearly 82 per cent of its population lives in rural area and engaged in agriculture and allied sectors. For effective growth and development of agriculture sector particularly in rural area, it is necessary to establish contacts with the farmers and provided them new technologies. Scientific research has no longer crystallization into the four walls of Lab; it must percolates down to the stakeholders by informing them about the findings of experiments done at University-Plots and Farms. Keeping this in view Gujarat has modeled Krushi Mahotsav and was first successfully tried in 2005 and continues every year to establish mass contact with farmers. It is the most enlightened initiative and India's one of the biggest extension initiatives so far. Gujarat has achieved Agricultural Growth rate at 9.6 per cent and have carved a niche in the field of Agricultural Development in India. (Anonymous, 2009). During Krushi Mahotsav the 'Krushi Rath's' cover entire state and visits each village of Gujarat. A multi-disciplinary team of scientists are present on each *rath*. The *raths* are major vehicle for directly promoting scientific

farming and improved agricultural practices to the farmers within their own villages. (Raval, 2010).

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Navsari district of Gujarat state. The ex-post facto research design was used for the study. Two talukas Navsari and Jalalpore of Navsari district were selected purposely. Ten villages from each taluka along with ten farmers from each village were selected randomly. A random sampling method was used to obtain the respondents from the identified villages. In this way (100+100) 200 respondents were selected for the study. Simple statistics viz. mean and standard deviation were used to analyze and categorized the collected data.

FINDINGS

Opinions of the farmers about Krushi Mahotsav

Opinion indicates the personal view which may not necessarily based on the fact or knowledge. The data regarding the opinion of the farmers about Krushi Mahotsav were collected and grouped into three categories viz., lower level of opinion (up to 20 score), medium level of opinion (between 21 to

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22 score), higher level of opinion (above 22 score). The collected data are presented in Table 1.

Table-1: Distribution of farmers according to their level of opinion

n=200

Sr. No.	Level of opinion about Krushi Mahotsav	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lower level of opinion	33	16.50
2	Medium level of opinion	96	48.00
3	Higher level of opinion	71	35.50

The data presented in table-1 revealed that majority (48.00 per cent) of the farmers had medium level of opinion about Krushi Mahotsav followed by 35.50 and 16.50 per cent farmers had higher and lower level of opinion about Krushi Mahotsav respectively. From the above table it can be concluded that more than two fifth of the farmers (83.00 per cent) had medium to higher level of opinion about Krushi Mahotsav therefore we can say that this programme has developed good rapport among the farmers community of

Gujarat state.

2 Suggestions given by the farmers to improve the programme

The respondents were requested to express their suggestions to improve the programme. The frequency for each suggestion was calculated and converted into percentage, and then rank was assigned. The suggestion receiving high percentage was considered as an important one. The data in this regards presented in the table 2.

Table-2 : Suggestions given by the farmers to improve the programme

n= 200

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Main emphasis given on small and marginal farmers	180	90	I
2	More facilities provided to the fruit growers	80	40	V
3	Include more number of farmers for distribution of seed kits	164	82	III
4	Motivate farmers to participate in Krushi Mahotsav	148	74	IV
5	Krushi Mahotsav must be organized at proper time (Before onset of monsoon)	174	87	II

It was evident from the Table 2 that majority of the farmers were suggested that emphasis should be given on small and marginal farmers (90.00 per cent) and ranked first followed by Krushi Mahotsav must be organized at proper time (Before on set of monsoon) (87.00 per cent) and ranked second, include more number of farmers for distribution of seed kits (82.00 per cent) ranked third, motivate farmers to participate in Krushi Mahotsav (74.00 per cent) ranked fourth, and more facilities should be provided to the fruit growers (40.00 per cent) ranked fifth.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of results obtained in the present study it can be concluded that majority of the respondents had medium to higher level of opinion about Krushi Mahotsav and they

suggested that emphasis should be given on small and marginal farmers in programme and followed by Krushi Mahotsav must be organized before onset of monsoon, include more number of farmers for distribution of seed kits, farmers should be motivated to participate in Krushi Mahotsav and more facilities should be provided to the fruit growers. These all were considered as important suggestions for further improvement in Krushi Mahotsav programme.

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