IMPACT OF INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING ON FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Assessment of impact is generally regarded as an essential part of any project and is equally applicable to the institutional training programmes. The present research was intended to study the impact of institutional training programmes on farmers' knowledge about groundnut production technology. The knowledge level of trained and untrained farmers about groundnut production technology was measured. There was a substantial net gain in knowledge about improved groundnut production technology. The results reflected that the knowledge level of trained farmers was superior as compared to untrained farmers. This itself express the impact of institutional training programmes about groundnut production technology.

INTRODUCTION

The transfer of modern agricultural practices to the farmers with pre-conceived thought of traditional farming calls for a well developed and organized training programmes for the farmers. Training is a critical input for quick transfer of technology and a way to improve their agriculture and to uplift their socio economic condition. Keeping this fact in view, many Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been started all over the country. In this context, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Targhadia (Rajkot) was started from the October 2000 to train farmers of Rajkot district.

The past studies clearly indicated that training is an important medium to impart the latest technical know how to the farmers. Keeping this in view,it was felt worth while to study the impact of institutional training programme on knowledge of farmers about groundnut production technology. The present study was conducted with the following specific objectives:

1. To study the selected characteristics of the trained and untrained farmers.

2. To assess the knowledge level of the trained and untrained farmers regarding the groundnut production technology.

3. To ascertain the association between the characteristics of the trained and untrained farmers and their level of knowledge about groundnut production technology.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in fifteen villages from Kotda Sangani taluka of Rajkot district in Gujarat. The villages which comes under the working area of KVK, Targhadia (Rajkot) were selected purposively. Total 30 trained and 30 untrained farmers were randomly selected from the selected villages as respondents. Thus the study was confined to 30 trained and 30 untrained farmers. An interview schedule was developed and used

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for collection of data through personal contact. The knowledge test developed by Trivedi and Patel (1997) was used with slight modification to measure the knowledge level of trained and untrained farmers. The data were statistically analysed and interpreted according to objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of trained and untrained farmers

The responses of trained and untrained farmers were subjected to statistical test to find out the difference between two groups of the farmers with respect to 7 selected characteristics. The details in this regards are presented in tablt-1.

The data in Table-1 revealed that the calculated Z- value for age, annual income and yield of trained and untrained farmers

which was non significant at 0.05 level. So it can be concluded that there was non significant difference between the characteristics of trained and untrained farmers viz., education, size of land holding, social participation and extension participation. While in case of age, negative and significant difference was found between trained and untrained farmers. The annual income and groundnut yield were found similar with both the group of farmers.

Level of knowledge of trained and untrained farmers about improved Groundnut production technology

The distribution of trained and untrained farmers according to their knowledge level is presented in table- 2.

The data presented in Table-2 clearly indicated that a majority (70.00%) trained and nearly one half (53.34%) of untrained

Table 1 : Comparison between the characteristics of trained and untrained farmers   N=60

Sr. No.	Variable	Unit	Mean Value		Mean Difference	Z-Value
			Trained	Untrained		
1.	Age	Score	1.833	2.233	-0.4	2.33*
2.	Education	Score	1.300	1.100	0.2	0.97**NS**
3.	Size of land holding	Score	1.366	1.266	0.1	0.77 **NS**
4.	Annual income	Score	2.567	2.133	0.434	2.57*
5.	Social participation	Score	0.666	0.600	0.066	0.39 **NS**
6.	Extension participation	Per cent	39.23	34.63	4.6	1.37 **NS**
7.	Yield	Score	1.900	1.63	0.27	2.12*

* Significant at 0.05 level   (More than 1.96 - Significant)
NS Non Significant   (Less than 1.96)

was 2.33, 2.57 and 2.12, respectively which was significant at 0.05 level. While the Z-value of education, size if land holding, social participation and extension participation was 0.97, 0.77, 0.39 and 1.37, respectively

farmers had medium level of knowledge. 20.00 per cent and 23.33 per cent of trained and untrained farmers, respectively comes under the group of high level of knowledge followed by 10.00 per cent and 23.33 per

cent under the low knowledge level group, respectively.

The mean knowledge score of trained and untrained farmers were 74.32 and 27.66 with a standard deviation 4.31 and 4.76, respectively. Thus trained farmers were superior in knowledge of groundnut production technology as compared to untrained farmers.

Association between characteristics of trained and untrained farmers and their knowledge of improved groundnut production technology

With a view to find out the association between level of knowledge of trained and untrained farmers and their selected characteristic as shown in Table 3, correlation co-efficient (r value) was used.

The data presented in table -3 observed that there was a negative and non significance association between knowledge level of trained and untrained farmers about groundnut production technology and their selected characteristics viz., age annual income and yield of groundnut. Social participation had positive and non significant association with the level of knowledge. In case of education, positive and highly significant association was observed between the level of knowledge about groundnut production technology for trained and untrained farmers. Size of land holding

had positive and non significant association with trained farmers as well as negative and significant association with level of knowledge of untrained farmers. The extension participation index had negative for trained farmers and positive for untrained farmers and both non significantly associated with the level of knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that the trained farmers had better level of knowledge about groundnut production technology as compared to untrained farmers.There was a negative and non significant association between knowledge level of trained and untrained farmers about groundnut production technology and their selected characteristics viz., age, annual income and yield. Social participation had positive and non-significant association with level of knowledge of trained and untrained farmers. In case of education, positive and highly significant association was observed between level of knowledge about groundnut production technology for trained and untrained farmers. Size if land holding had positive and non-significant association with trained farmers as well as negative and significant association with level of knowledge of untrained farmers. Extension participation index had negative for trained farmers and positive for untrained farmers

Table 3 : Association between characteristics of trained and untrained farmers and their knowledge of improved groundnut production technology   N=60

Sr.No.	Characteristics	r-Value	
		Trained	Untrained
1.	Age	-0.2186 NS	-0.1475 NS
2.	Education	0.7530 **	0.7076 **
3.	Size of land holding	0.1007 NS	-0.3712 *
4.	Annual income	-0.1403 NS	-0.2273 NS
5.	Social participation	0.3060 NS	0.2473 NS
6.	Extension participation	-0.1554 NS	0.2529 NS
7.	Yield	-0.1292 NS	-0.3237 NS

*   *Significant at 0.05 level   Critical value between 0.361 to 0.463*
** *Significant at 0.01 level   Critical value more than 0.463*
NS Non-significant   Critical value less than 0.361

and both non-significantly associated with the level of knowledge.

Since untrained farmers had lower level of knowledge as compared to trained farmers. Training would be the most appropriate method for making aware of production technology to the farmers. Hence, the training institutes such as KVKs, SSKs, FTCs, etc. should increase training programmes and give first priority to untrained farmers.

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