

CORRELATES OF MODERNIZATION OF FARMERS

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INTRODUCTION

Present age is the age of science and technology. It is recognized that if farmers are to progress, they have to be updated in knowledge, attitude & skills and are to adopt modern scientific technologies. It is therefore, necessary, to find out the ways and means for conveying innovative technologies to farmers so that, they may put those in to practice. For increasing farm productivity, use of modern inputs and adoption of latest agricultural technologies is crucial. Agricultural modernization is intimately linked with the application of science and technology in the farming.

The extent of modernization is the degree to which a farmer is modern in thinking and outlook. It had two components, general advancement regarding modern thinking and openness to new ideas and practices. Keeping the above facts in view, the present study was intended to know the extent of modernization of farmers, with the following specific objectives:

1. To study the extent of modernization of the farmers.

2. To find out the relationship between personal, socio-psychological, communicational, economic and situational characteristics of farmers and their extent of modernization.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Mehsana district of Gujarat state. Among all the talukas of Mehsana district, Mehsana and Vijapur talukas are considered as progressive in agriculture and animal husbandry. Hence, these two talukas were selected purposively for the study. Twelve villages (six villages from each taluka) were selected randomly. Proportionate random sampling technique was employed to select 120 respondents from the selected villages.

For this study, indicators of modernization like extent of use of improved agricultural technologies viz., improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, plant protection measures, improved agricultural implements and irrigation practices were selected for major crops (bajra, mustard, potato and castor) along with the use of improved dairy practices. An interview schedule was developed for collecting information. The

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their level of modernization

Level of modernization	No. of farmers	Per cent
Low	28	23.34
Medium	70	58.33
High	22	18.33
Total	120	100.00
Mean: 51.28	S.D.: 19.38	

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Table 2: Correlates of modernization of the farmers

Sr. No.	Correlates of modernization	'r' value
1.	Age	-0.23342**
2.	Education	0.41855**
3.	Social participation	0.30720**
4.	Urban orientation	0.23193**
5.	Mass media exposure	0.34224**
6.	Extension contact	0.36211**
7.	Achievement motivation	0.35846**
8.	Innovativeness	0.59629**
9.	Scientific orientation	0.40573**
10.	Risk preference	0.30496**
11.	Attitude	0.27931**
12.	Market orientation	0.23130**
13.	Annual income	0.51609**
14.	Farm size	0.17970*
15.	Farm power	0.31871**
16.	Livestock possession	0.30904**

* Significant at 0.05 per cent level of probability

**Significant at 0.01 per cent level of probability

data were tabulated and analyzed. Modernization score for each individual respondent was calculated. Correlation coefficient was used to measure relationship between dependent and independent variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

EXTENT OF MODERNIZATION

Based on the response for each statement, modernization score for each individual respondent was calculated. All the respondents were grouped into three levels of modernization. The results are depicted in Table 1.

It is apparent from the table that majority of the respondents (76.66) possessed medium to high level of modernization. While only 23.34 per cent of them had low level of modernization.

CORRELATES OF MODERNIZATION

It is obvious from Table 2 that education, social participation, urban orientation,

mass media exposure, extension contact, achievement motivation, innovativeness, scientific orientation, risk preference, attitude, market orientation, annual income, farm power and livestock possession exhibited positive and highly (0.01 level of probability) significant relationship with modernization. Farm size exhibited positive and significant relationship with modernization. Contrary to this, age exhibited negative and highly significant relationship with modernization.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it may be concluded that majority of the respondents possessed medium to high level of modernization. The innovativeness and annual income of the farmer were the key correlates of modernization beyond many others. Efforts shall be made to properly nourish the innovativeness of the farmers to make them modernize. This will add to their income and the increased income will in turn make them more modern.