

An Evaluation of Training on Management of Mango Orchards

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Introduction

A three day training course on "Management of mango orchards" was organized on 7-9, January 2002 at Sardar Smruti Kendra, Junagadh in collaboration with State Bank of Saurashtra, Junagadh. Thirty farmers who borrowed loan to establish mango orchards were the participants. With a view to know the impact and usefulness of the training and to make improvements in such type of courses in future, it was decided to evaluate the training program.

The study was carried out with following objectives:

1. To study the characteristic profile of the farmer trainees.
2. To evaluate training components of the program.
3. To know the strong and weak points of the training program.
4. To seek suggestions for improvement in future program.

All the participants who belonged to Vanthali, Mendarda, Una, and Talala taluka of Junagadh district were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule.

Results and Discussions

While studying characteristic profile of the farmers, it was observed that most of the trainees (86.67 per cent) were below 50 years in age. Only 3.33 per cent respondents were illiterate. Sixty six percent of the respondents were the members or office bearers in different social organizations where as about 34 percent were associated with more than one organization. As regards to size of family above 80.00 per cent respondents had more than five members in their family, Joint type of family was found in case of 65.00 per cent farmer trainees. Sixty per cent participants possessed more than five hectares of land out of them, 93.33 percent possessed more than 2.5 hectares of irrigated land.

In case of training components intimation about the program received well in advance by all of them. Time accorded for discussion, daily lectures and field visit were found adequate. Nearly two third respondents had interested in undergoing the training. Further they expressed that the social atmosphere and physical facilities provided by the centre were satisfactory. In case of method of training, method demonstraion and field visits were favored by them.

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Table 1: Strong and weak points of the training program

				N=30
Sr. No.	Points	No.	Percent	Rank
A. Strong Points				
1.	Demonstration of grafting and field visit	27	90.00	I
2.	Key points for plant protection schedule in orchards	25	83.33	III
3.	Proper method & stage for applying fertilizers	24	86.67	II
4.	Critical stage of mango for irrigation	20	66.67	V
5.	Congenial training atmosphere	21	70.00	IV
B. Weak points				
1.	Scarce use of audio-visual aids	25	83.33	I
2.	Lecture notes were not provided	22	73.33	II
3.	Farmer's critical problems were left unsolved	18	60.00	III

It was observed from Table-1 that demonstration of grafting and field visit and proper method & stage for applying fertilizers were the strong points, whereas use of audio-visual aids was the weak point as perceived by the farmer trainees.

The trainees suggested that more training programs should be organized. More stress shall be given on method demonstration. According to them, the training was quite useful to them.