Guj. J. Extn. Edu. VIII & IX 1997 & 1998

Impact of Short Term Training in Terms of Increase in Knowledge, Adoption and Yield of the Farmers

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INTRODUCTION

The advancement of any country can be estimated in terms of investment it makes in intellectual development (investment in education and training). For a country where 82 per cent of total population lives in over 6.5 lakhs villages and 70 per cent of the people depends on agriculture for their livelihood, the investment in man power resources development should be heavily skewed in favour of rural masses. What investment we make on the education and training of farmers, farm women and the young farmers, should be a proposition worth examining.

Emphasizing the growing needs of farmer's education and training, Gujarat Agricultural University has initiated a scheme for establishing Sardar Smruti Kendras in Gujarat from the year 1976-77. Sradar Smruti Kendra, Navsari was started in Mrach, 1978. Since than, short term training is being imparted to the farmers, farm women and young farmers. The main objective of this short term training is to produce change in farmers in respect of their present knowledge, adoption, ways of thinking, their attitudes or their conduct. But it is worth important to check whether this objective is attained or not. The present study is aimed to measure impact in terms of knowledge, adoption and yield of farmers.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the level of knowledge of trained and untrained farmers regarding improved practices of paddy crop.
2. To study the level of adoption of trained and untrained farmers regarding improved practices of paddy crop.
3. To compare the yield of paddy crop obtained by the trained and untrained farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Valsad district of Gujarat state. During January 1987 to December 1988, eight training classes of 3 days duration on crop production were organised by Sardar Smruti Kendra, Navsari. Four hundred farmers of eleven villages of Valsad diftrict were imparted training.

Out of 400 farmers, one hundred were selected by using proportionate random sampling method. The same number of untrained farmers from each village were selected randomly by obtaining list of farmers from Talati-cum-Mantri of the respective villages. In this way, in all 200 respondents were selected for the study.

For measuring the knowledge, a scale developed by Jha and Singh (1970) was

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administered with some modifications necessary for this study and for the measurement of adoption of the farmers a simple scale developed by T. Sengupta (1967) was used. The data were statictically analysed and compared with help of Fischer 't' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of knowledge of the respondents :

Table 1 reveals that majority of the trained farmers (61.00 per cent) belonged to the category of high level of knowledge whereas about three fourth (76.00 per cent) of the untrained farmers belonged to the medium level of knowledge category.

The 't' test was applied to know whether the trained and untrained farmers differed significantly in respect of their knowledge regarding improved practices of paddy crop. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 shows that trained farmers had significantly more knowledge of improved practices of paddy crop than the untrained farmers. The finding is in line with the findings reported by Nagi Reddy and Rathna Kumari (1986).

Level of adoption of the respondents :

Table 3 indicates that more than half of the trained farmers (52.00 per cent) were found in the category of high level of adoption. While in case of untrained farmers about two third (64.00 per cent) of them belonged to medium level of adoption category. The 't' test was applied and the results of which are presented in Table 4. It is evident from the data presented in Table 4 that 't' value 7.52 is highly significant indicating that trained farmers had significantly higher adoption of improved practices of paddy crop than the untrained farmers. This finding is supported by the findings of Reddy (1989).

Yield obatained by the respondents

In order to ascertain impact of short term training in respect of averge paddy yield obtained by the trained farmers, the information was collected, analysed and compared with that of untrained farmers. The data thus obtained are depicted in Table 5.

Table 5 reveals that in case of the trained farmers averge yield of paddy per acre is 1447.6 kg. while in case of the untrained farmers it is 1110.0 kg. It is also evident from the table that calculated 't' value being 4.47 is significant at 1 per cent probability level, which indicates that there was a significant differeance between the per acre yield of paddy crop obtained by trained and untrained farmers. The finding is in consonance with the finding reported by Ghosh (1982).

CONCLUSION

1. The trained farmers had significantly higher knowledge and adoption regarding improved practices of paddy crop.
2. The results also reveal that the trained farmers had obtained significantly higher average yield of paddy per acre than the untrained farmers.
3. The comparative increased knowledge, adoption and average yield might be the impact of short term training imparted to the trained farmers by Sardar Smruti Kendra, Navsari.

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their level of knowledge of improved parctices of paddy crop.

Level of knowledge	Category of farmers			
	Trained (N=100)		Untrained (N=100)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Low (0-33 Score)	4	4.00	10	10.00
Medium (34-66 Score)	35	35.00	76	76.00
High (67-100 Score)	61	61.00	14	14.00

Table 2 : Comparision between the trained and untrained farmers in respect of their level of knowledge of improved practices of paddy crop.

Category	Number	Mean Score	Sampling Varience (S^2)	't' Value
Trained farmers	100	9.52	2.8177	
Untrained farmers	100	7.26	3.3458	9.10**

** Significant at 0.01 per cent level d.f. =198

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their level of adoption of improved practices of paddy crop.

Level of adoption	Category of farmers			
	Trained (N=100)		Untrained (N=100)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Low (0-33 Score)	5	5.00	26	26.00
Medium (34-66 Score)	43	43.00	64	64.00
High (67-100 Score)	52	52.00	10	10.00

Table 4 : Comparision between the trained and untrained farmers in respect to their level of adoption of improved practices of paddy crop

Category	Number	Mean Score	Sampling Variance (S^2)	't' Value
Trained farmers	100	6.56	1.7640	
Untrained farmers	100	5.01	2.4746	7.52**

** Significant at 0.01 per cent level d.f. =198

Table 5 : Comparision between the trained and untrained farmers in respect of the average yield of paddy crop per acre obtained by them.

Category	Number	Mean Score	Sampling Variance (S^2)	't' Value
Trained farmers	100	1447.6	262252.8	
Untrained farmers	100	1110.4	306939.2	4.47**

** Significant at 0.01 per cent level d.f. =198

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