Impact of Training on Knowledge and Adoption of Farmers

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INTRODUCTION

Training plays an important role in transfer of latest agricultural technology to the farmers. Keeping this fact in view, the farmers training centres have been set up all over the country. The Farmers' Training Centre, Khedbrahma was started in the year 1975 to train the farmers of Sabarkantha 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 worthwhile to study the impact of institutional training programme on knowledge and adoption of tribal farmers for wheat production technology.

OBJECTIVES

(i) To study the knowledge level of trained and untrained farmers about selected improved practices of wheat corp.

(ii) To study the extent of adoption of trained and untrained farmers about improved practices of wheat crop.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in ten randomly selected villages from Khedbrahma and Bhiloda taluka of Sabarkantha district in Gujarat. The villages from which the maximum farmers received training at Farmers' Training Centre, Khedbrahma were purposively selected. Ten trained and ten untrained farmers were selected from each village. Thus, the study was confined to 100 trained and 100 untrained farmers. An interview schedule was developed and used for collection of data through personal contact. A teacher made test was developed to measure the knowledge level. Extent of adoption of wheat production technology by trained and untrained farmers was measured using the procedure developed by Sengupta (1967). The data were statistically analysed with the help of frequencies, percentages and 't' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Level of knowledge of trained and untrained farmers regarding improved practices of wheat crop

The distribution of trained and untrained farmers according to their knowledge level is presented in Table 1.

Data presented in Table 1 reveal that slightly more than three-fifth of the trained farmers (61.00 per cent) had high level of knowledge, whereas large majority of the untrained farmers (83.00 per cent) had medium level of knowledge regarding wheat production technology. The results are in line with that of Patel (1988).

The 't' test was applied to know whether the trained and untrained farmers differed significantly in respect of knowledgd about wheat production technology. The data in this regard are presented in Table 2.

A persusal of data presented in Table

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Table 1.   Distribution of trained and untrained farmers according to their knowledge of improved practices of wheat crop.

Level of knowledge	Trained farmers (N = 100)		Untrained farmers (N = 100)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Low (0 - 33)	6	6.00	12	12.00
Medium (34 - 66)	33	33.00	83	83.00
High (above 66)	61	61.00	5	5.00

Table 2.   Comparison between trained and untrained farmers in respect of their knowledge of improved practices of wheat crop.

Categories of farmers	Number	Mean knowledge score	Sampling variance(S^2)	't' value
Trained farmers	100	68.2	367.43	7.58**
Untrained farmers	100	51.75	104.23	

**Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

2 show that there was significant difference between trained and untrained farmers with respect to their knowledge level regarding improved practices of wheat crop. This finding is in conformity with the findings reported by Supe and Salode (1976) and Singh (1977).

2.   Extent of adoption by trained and untrained farmers regarding improved practices of wheat crop

The distribution of trained and untrained farmers according to their level of adoption for improved practices of wheat crop is given in Table 3.

Table 3 portray that a great majority (86.00 per cent) of the trained farmers had high extent of adoption, whereas large majority of untrained farmers (83.00 per cent) had medium extent of adoption regarding wheat production technology.

Table 3.   Distribution of trained and untrained farmers according to their extent of adoption of improved practices of wheat crop.

Extent of Adoption Quotient	Trained farmers (N = 100)		Untrained farmers (N = 100)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Low (0 - 33)	9	9.00	14	14.00
Medium (34 - 66)	5	5.00	83	83.00
High (above 66)	86	86.00	3	3.00

Table 4.   Differences in mean adoption score of trained and untrained farmers.

Categories of farmers	Number	Mean adoption score	Sampling variance (S^2)	't' value
Trained farmers	100	76.12	391.48	8.66**
Untrained farmers	100	56.54	118.62	

**Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

This finding is similar to that of Patel (1988).

The differences betweeen trained and untrained farmers with respect to adoption was calculated by mean adoption score and the difference was statistically tested using 't' test. The results of which are presented in Table 4.

It is obvious from Table 4 that 't' value was found to be significant at 0.01 level of probability, which indicates that the trained farmers had significantly higher adoption of improved practices of wheat crop than the untrained farmers.

It could thus be inferred that the training programme had played an important role in increasing the rate of adoption of trained farmers regarding the improved practices of wheat crop. The finding is in corroboration with that of Patel (1988) and Reddy (1989).

IMPLICATION

Since majority of the untrained farmers had medium level of knowledge and adoption 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 FTC, KVK, SSK etc. should increase training programmes and give first priority to untrained farmers.

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