

## Knowledge of young tribal farmers about maize production technology

<sup>1</sup>  
R.R. Patel, <sup>2</sup>Dr. D.N. Pandya and <sup>3</sup>K.A. Thakkar

### INTRODUCTION

Tribal mostly use traditional pattern for their agriculture. They are in habit to use the same method from year to year. Modern inputs such as hybrid seed, insecticides, chemical fertilizers and improved implements are hardly used by them. Due to this, their farm productivity is very low. Thus, there is wide scope for increasing agricultural production by tapping of potential resources and bringing change in their traditional pattern of farming. This is only possible through diffusion of modern technology from research stations to the farmers' fields and thereby increasing their knowledge about improved technology.

For the speedy diffusion, involvement of youth in the process of transfer of technology is necessary especially among the tribal community. If youth will sound in knowledge, their knowledge will serve as guide for other farmers. The present study was, therefore, conceived with its main objective to measure the knowledge of young tribal farmers about maize production technology. Other objectives of the study were to study the sources of information utilized by the young tribal farmers for becoming aware of improved maize technology and to determine young tribal farmers' participation in extension activities.

### METHODOLOGY

Present study was conducted in Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district as the tribal population in the taluka is about 56 per cent of its total population. Eight villages were selected randomly from the taluka. Totally, 156 young tribal farmers were selected using proportionate random sampling technique.

For measuring farmer's knowledge about the maize production technology, the scale developed by Jha and Singh (1970) was administered with modification to suit the local conditions of the area under study.

In order to study the sources of information used by the young tribal farmers, they were asked to indicate sources of information utilized by them for seeking information for maize cultivation. For the measurement of extension participation, respondents were asked to indicate their participation in various extension activities.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data on sources of information utilized by young tribal farmers are presented in Table 1. Data presented in Table 1 indicate that relatives were the first in rank for getting information about maize cultivation as source. Neighbours stood second in position, while VEW secured third position.

- 
1. Asstt. Extension Educationist, Gujarat Agricultural University, Agril. School, Khedbrahma.
  2. Ex. Director of Extension Education, Gujarat Agricultural University, Ahmedabad.
  3. Associate Extension Educationist, Gujarat Agricultural University, TUP, Khedbrahma.

**Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their sources of information**  
( n = 156 )

Sr.	Sources of information	Number	Percentage	Rank
<b>Formal</b>				
1.	Co-operative Society	07	04.49	VIII
2.	Village level worker	87	55.77	III
3.	Research Station	60	38.46	IV
4.	G.S.F.C. Depot	5	3.21	IX
<b>Informal</b>				
5.	Friends	33	21.15	VI
6.	Relatives	140	89.76	I
7.	Neighbours	104	66.67	II
<b>Mass Media</b>				
8.	Literature	16	10.26	VII
9.	Radio	2	1.28	X
10.	Training Programme	45	28.25	V

Research stations and training programmes ranked fourth and fifth respectively as sources of information. Other information sources were utilized by very few farmers.

**Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their participation in extension activities.**

( n = 156 )

Sr.	Extension activities	Number	Percentage	Rank
1.	Participation by conducting crop demonstration on his own farm.	42	26.92	IV
2.	Participation in discussion held with farmers in the village by Agril. Asstt./ V.L.W./Agril. Officer	56	37.82	II
3.	Participation in extension meeting	55	35.26	III
4.	Participation in Krishi mela/farmers'day	24	15.38	VI
5.	Participation in field day on farmers' field	91	58.33	I
6.	Visiting exhibitions on agriculture	33	21.15	V
7.	Use of reading materials/literature published by extension agency	9	5.77	VII

## REFERENCES

- Jha, P.N. and Singh, K.N. 1970 A test to measure farmers' knowledge about high yielding variety programme. *Inter discipline*, 7 (1) : 65-67.
- Kumar, B. 1986 Training tribal youth for local development. Some critical issues *Ind. Jour. of Youth Affairs*, 8 (1) : 63-66.