RESEARCH NOTE

Training needs of rice farmers from Konkan Region of Maharashtra State

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INTRODUCTION

The major food crop of the farmers from Konkan region is rice. The State Department of Agriculture, Zilla Parishads, and the Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth are the main Government institutions functioning for the overall development of the farmers in the region. They are supported by many non-government voluntary organisations as well as various private organisation. Training of farmers in improved technologies of rice cultivation is one such activity being implemented in the region. But systematic efforts to assess the training of the social researchers in the region. The present study was, therefore, conducted with the objective of assessing the intensity of training needs of rice growers with respect to the main areas of rice cultivation.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in the Development Block of the College of Agriculture, Dapoli, comprising of fifty-nine villages from Dapoli, Khed and Chiplun tahsils of Ratnagiri district of which ten villages, and twenty rice growing farmers from each selected village were chosen randomly. Thus, in all 200 rice growers were interviewed personally.

To measure the intensity of training needs, ten major areas and 43 sub-areas of rice cultivation were identified. The scores of 3,2 and 1 were assigned for the responses namely most needed, needed and not needed, respectively. The score for training need in each of the identified sub-areas of rice cultivation was worked out. Considering these scores, the cumulative score for each main area was worked out.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The information pertaining to the training needs of farmers about major and sub areas of rice cultivation is given in Table 1.

Table 1 : Intensity of training needs of the farmers about the main areas of rice cultivation.

Sr.No.	Main areas	Score
1.	Plant protection measures	577
2.	Seed treatment	575

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Sr.No.	Main areas	Score
3.	Fertilizers	575
4.	High yielding varieties	569
5.	Water management techniques	558
6.	Improved implements	527
7.	Interculturing	436
8.	Nursery management	420
9.	Transplanting	411
10.	Post-harvest technology	367

It becomes clear from Table 1 that the intensity of training needs as perceived by the farmers was highest in respect of the major areas namely plant protection, seed treatment and fertilizers. This was followed by use of high yielding varieties, water management in respect of other major areas of rice cultivation was perceived to be less important by the farmers.

Heavy rains and cloudy weather in the Konkan region are very congenial for the occurence of pests and diseases. So, new plant protection schedules are quite frequently recommended for control of pests and diseases. Secondly, selection of proper seed and its treatment is one of the important steps in obtaining higher yield and to prevent the occurence of seed-borne disease. The number of fertilizers are available in the market in different forms and many a time the farmers are not aware about their composition and recommended dose. It might be due to these facts, that the farmers have expressed need for training in the areas of plant protection, seed treatment, fertilizer application on the priority basis. On the other hand, as majority of the sample farmers were marginal and small farmers, they might have perceived least need for training in respect of post harvest technology, transplanting, rice nursery management and interculturing.

CONCLUSIONS

The farmers had perceived five major areas of rice cultivation namely plant protection, seed treatment, fertilizer application, use of high yielding varieties and water management as most important areas of training in rice cultivation. The scientists and the extension agencies involved in planning and organization of training classes should lay more emphasis on these aspects while imparting training to the farmers about rice cultivation.