CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED AND SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY BENEFICIARY FARMERS OF ATMA

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) has now become the most important institutional mechanism at district level for implementation of agricultural extension reforms. The study was conducted in 2 districts viz. Junagadh and Amreli out of 11 district of Saurashtra. Five respondents from each village of ATMA beneficiary, thus, total 24 villages were selected randomly. Total 120 beneficiary farmers of ATMA were selected. The study revealed that the highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that the knowledge and information gain during the exposure visit to other states is not applicable in local situation and demonstrations are not found effective as it cannot be compared with the practices (79.16 per cent) followed by the demonstrator were important constraints faced by beneficiary farmers of ATMA (68.33 per cent). Whereas, important suggestion given by the beneficiary farmers of ATMA were; latest information regarding agricultural technology should be provided during training programme (88.33 per cent), interested youths should be selected at as FIG members (81.66 per cent) and more need focused trainings should be arranged (78.33 per cent).

Keywords: *ATMA, constraints and suggestions, beneficiary farmer.*

INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) strategy calls for integrated approach wherein different stakeholders come closer to plan, organize, and execute, the activities to take full advantage of the technologies demonstrated in the operational area. Therefore, the critical analysis of coordination process is crucial to seek the problems of the stakeholders involved in ATMA in the district. ATMA is a registered society of key stakeholders responsible for technology dissemination at the district level, involving in agricultural and allied activities, for its sustainable development (MANAGE, 2007). Thus, as it is unique approach of drawing major stakeholders under a roof, it is gainful to know the consequences of it activities. Keeping this in view, the present study was conducted entitled "Constraints Encountered and Suggestions offered by Beneficiary Farmer of ATMA" of the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

(a) To seek the constraints faced by the beneficiary farmers of ATMA project.

(b) To find out the suggestions related to approaching benefits of ATMA by the farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Saurashtra region. Out of 11 district of Saurashtra, 2 districts viz. Junagadh and Amreli were selected purposively for the study. Three talukas viz, Mendarada, Visavadr and Bhesan from Junagadh and Bagasara, Kukavav and Amreli from Amreli district were selected. Thus, total 6 taluka from two districts and four villages from each taluka were selected randomly. Thus, 24 villages were selected randomly from each village. Five respondents from ATMA beneficiary were selected randomly. Total 120 beneficiary farmers of ATMA were selected. The pretesting of interview schedule was conducted. The data were collected with help of well structured, pre-tested schedule through personal contact and data were compile, tabulated and analyzed to draw valid conclusions. A simple ranking technique was applied to measure the problems faced by beneficiary farmers of ATMA. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean score, rank and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All the possible constraints being faced by the beneficiary farmers were presented as under.

Table 1 : Constraints faced by farmers of ATMA **n=120**

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondents	Per cent	Rank
1	The knowledge and information gain during the exposure visit to other states are not applicable in local situation.	95	79.16	I
2	Demonstrations are not found effective as it cannot be compared with the practices followed by the demonstrator.	82	68.33	II
3	Literature and training are not sufficient to all FIG members	78	65.00	III
4	Exposure visits to research stations of Gujarat are not organized for all members.	69	57.50	IV
5	Common interested members are not selected in all FIGs.	66	55.00	V
6	Information on value addition in agriculture is provided insufficient.	49	40.83	VI
7	Honorarium and TADA to farmer member for attaining programme is less.	47	39.16	VII

The Table 1 showed that the highest rank received by the knowledge and information gain during the exposure visit to other states is not applicable in local situation (79.16 per cent). Whereas, Demonstrations are not found effective as it cannot be compared with the practices followed by the demonstrator (68.33 per cent), Literature and training are not sufficient to all FIG members (65.00 per cent), Exposure visits to research stations of Gujarat are not organized for all members (57.50 per cent), Common interested members are not selected in all FIGs (55.00 per cent), Information on value addition in agriculture is provided insufficient (40.83 per cent) and Honorarium and TADA to farmer member for attaining programme is less(39.16 per cent) received 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th rank, respectively.

Table 2 revealed the suggestions offered by the respondents for successful implementation of ATMA programme which are as below.

Table 2 : Suggestions offered by beneficiary farmers of ATMA group **n=120**

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Respondents	Per cent	Rank
1	Latest information regarding agricultural technology should be provided during training programme.	106	88.33	I
2	Interested youths should be selected at as FIG members.	98	81.66	II
3	More need focused trainings should be arranged.	94	78.33	III
4	The number of training programmes should be increased.	89	74.16	IV
5	Inputs for the demonstration should be more with increased size of unit area.	82	68.33	V
6	C D and printed materials regarding location specific technologies should be provided to all the members.	77	64.16	VI
7	More numbers of meeting of FIG members with ATMA representative are not organized.	65	54.16	VII
8	Number of FIGs should be limited but effectively working.	62	51.66	VIII
9	Action plans for extension activities should be prepared involving active members of ATMA for making plan more effective.	49	40.83	IX
10	More information should be provided about integrated farming and organic farming.	42	35.00	X

Above finding clearly indicated that the most important suggestions were; latest information regarding agricultural technology should be provided during training programme (88.33 per cent), interested youths should be selected at as FIG members (81.66 per cent), more need focused trainings should be arranged (78.33 per cent), the number of training programmes should be increase (74.16 per cent) and inputs for the demonstration should be more with increased size of unit area (68.33 per cent).

CONCLUSION

From the above research works it can be concluded that the highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that the knowledge and information gain during the exposure visit to other states is not applicable in local situation and demonstrations are not found effective as it cannot be compared with the practices followed by the demonstrator were important constraints faced by beneficiary farmers of ATMA. Whereas, important suggestion given by the beneficiary farmers of ATMA were; latest information regarding agricultural technology should be provided during training programme, interested youths should be selected at as FIG members and more need focused trainings should be arranged.

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