

IMPACT OF ON CAMPUS TRAININGS ON KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF FARMERS ABOUT LATEST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

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ABSTRACT

Training is an essential part of extension work in order to develop competence of clients. it is a sequential activity demanding systematic planning, execution and follow up. Training is a powerful tool in the hands of development professionals to catalyze human resources. The study was conducted to know impact of knowledge level of farmers. The Sample of 120 farmers was purposively selected from 6 villages of Kutiyana taluka of Porbandar district of Gujarat. The findings revealed that the majority (69.16 percent) of the respondents had low knowledge level about different aspects of latest agricultural production technologies before participating in the farmers training. These farmers were trained at Sardar Smruti Kendra, JAU, Junagadh in different aspects of latest agricultural production technologies. After training, majority of the respondents (61.66%) had medium level of knowledge level. The findings of this study highlighted that there was a significant gain in the knowledge about different aspect of latest agricultural production technologies in the training programme. The correlation between the knowledge of latest production technologies and socio-personal characteristics of trainees showed that education, occupation, mass media exposure, contact with extension agency and annual income were positively, whereas there were no relationship between age, type of family and size of land holding and knowledge of respondents about latest production technologies.

Keywords : *on campus training programme, socio-personal characteristics, knowledge level, latest production technologies.*

INTRODUCTION

Training consists largely of well-organized opportunities for participants to acquire necessary understanding and skill. Training is part of human growth and development. Right from the day child is born; training begins, consciously or unconsciously. Training has been referred to as planned instruction to guide behavior. The transfer of modern agricultural practices to the farmers with pre-conceived thought of traditional farming calls for a well-developed and organized training programmes for the farmers. Training is a critical input for quick transfer of technology and a way to improve their agriculture and to uplift their socio economic condition. With a view to implement the new agricultural strategy successfully, it is essential to provide production oriented training and education to farmers. The farmer's training fits in very well in the present context of agricultural extension strategy in India and has become significant to influence the agricultural production and development.

Realizing the importance of training and education, Government is putting more stress on it and a multipurpose approach has been adopted in the country for the training and education to the farmers and farm women. A number of agencies have been engaged in organizing training and educational programmes for the farmers and farm women. The Sardar Smruti Kendra, JAU, Junagadh has been organized short term training programme on the improved farm practices, animal husbandry, home science and allied subjects as a part of their extension activities. So, it is worthwhile necessary to investigate on "Impact of on Campus Trainings on knowledge level of farmers about latest agricultural production technologies".

OBJECTIVE

To know the impact of on campus trainings on knowledge level of farmers about latest agricultural production technologies

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken during 2017 in the Chauta, Choliyana, Kansavad, Malanka, Kotada and Ishvariya villages of Kutiyana taluka of the Porbandar district. 120 farmers were selected purposively from six villages. These farmers were trained at Sardar Smruti Kendra in different aspects of latest agricultural production technologies. A knowledge test was developed to ascertain the knowledge of farmers on various aspects of Agriculture. The gain in knowledge was operationalized as difference between the knowledge regarding various aspects of Agriculture as livelihood before and after the exposure of trainings. To measure the knowledge, a respondent was given a score of one for correct answer and zero for wrong answer. Thus, the summation of all scores treated as the knowledge of the respondents at pre-exposure stage. Similarly post-

training knowledge score was calculated separately. Suitable statistical tools and techniques were used for analysis of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant analysis have been summarized under the following heads.

Extent of knowledge about latest agricultural production technologies

To assess the effects of farmers training, the knowledge of the respondents was measured with the help of standardized, test at two periods of interval that is pre-training, immediately after training. A score of one was given for each correct answer. On the basis of score the respondents was classified as having high, medium and low level of knowledge.

Table-1: Knowledge level of respondents before and after training programme

n-120

Sr. No.	Knowledge level	Before Training		After Training	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1	Low	83	69.16	27	22.50
2	Medium	25	20.84	74	61.66
3	High	12	10.00	19	15.84

The above findings revealed that the majority (69.16 percent) of the respondents had low knowledge level about different aspects of latest agricultural production technologies followed by medium (20.84 percent). Whereas, only 10.00 percent of the respondents obtained high level of knowledge score, before participating in the farmers training.

Knowledge gained by farmers about various aspect of farming in trainings.

It indicates that before exposure of training, majority of respondents had low level of knowledge related to various aspects of latest agricultural production technologies. Some of the respondents obtained medium level of knowledge, while few of the respondents obtained high level of knowledge. It is clear from table-2, that after exposure of farmers training on various aspects of training programme, majority of the respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by high and low level of knowledge score.

In case of after training on different aspects of latest agricultural production technologies, majority of the respondents (61.66 percent) had medium level of knowledge score, followed by 22.50 percent low level of knowledge score. While 15.84 percent of them obtained higher level of knowledge score related to different aspects of latest production technologies.

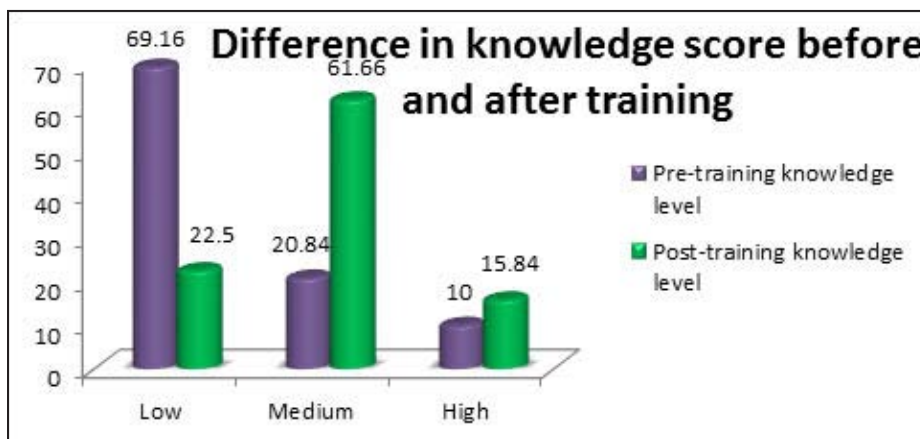


Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to the knowledge level on various aspects of latest production technologies n-120

Sr. No.	Name of the technologies	Level of Knowledge	Pre-training		Post-training	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Production of quality seedlings	Low	81	67.50	23	19.17
		Medium	27	22.50	80	66.67
		High	12	10.00	17	14.16
2	Nursery techniques	Low	90	75.00	11	09.17
		Medium	18	15.00	77	64.17
		High	12	10.00	32	26.66
3	Cultivation of vegetables	Low	75	62.50	17	14.16
		Medium	34	28.34	48	40.00
		High	11	09.16	55	45.84
4	Cultivation of fruits	Low	74	61.67	18	15.00
		Medium	31	25.83	39	32.50
		High	15	12.50	63	52.50
5	Plant protection measures	Low	73	60.84	19	15.84
		Medium	29	24.16	66	55.00
		High	18	15.00	35	29.16
6	Drip irrigation and fertigation	Low	88	73.33	14	11.67
		Medium	20	16.67	82	68.33
		High	12	10.00	24	20.00
7	Usage of water soluble fertilizers	Low	96	80.00	13	10.84
		Medium	15	12.50	78	65.00
		High	9	07.50	29	24.16
8	Harvest and post-harvest techniques	Low	82	68.34	23	19.16
		Medium	27	22.50	75	62.50
		High	11	09.16	22	18.34
9	Scheme of Agri + Horti Department	Low	72	60.00	16	13.33
		Medium	33	27.50	61	50.84
		High	15	12.50	43	35.83
10	Group approach(SHG/FIG)	Low	64	53.33	18	15.00
		Medium	29	24.16	54	45.00
		High	27	22.50	48	40.00

After exposure of farmers training on various aspects of agricultural technologies, majority of the respondents got high level of knowledge production of quality seedlings (14.16 %), nursery techniques (26.66 %), cultivation of vegetables (45.84 %), cultivation of fruits (52.50 %), plant protection measures (29.16 %), drip irrigation and fertigation (20.00 %), usage of water soluble fertilizers (24.16 %), harvest and post-harvest techniques (18.34 %), scheme of Agri+Horti department (35.83 %) and group approach (SHG/FIG) (40.00 %).

Relationship between socio-personal characteristics and knowledge gain on latest agricultural production technologies

The data depicted in table-3 showed the correlation between knowledge of latest agricultural production technologies and socio-personal characteristics of trainees. The attributes like education, occupation, mass media exposure, contact with extension agency and annual income had positive and highly significant correlation with

Table-3 : Correlation co-efficient between knowledge level of latest agricultural production technologies and socio-personal characteristics n-120

Sr. No.	Variable	Correlation co-efficient
X ₁	Age	0.8139 ^{NS}
X ₂	Education	0.9231 ^{**}
X ₃	Family type	0.8235 ^{NS}
X ₄	Size of land holding	0.7256 ^{NS}
X ₅	Occupation	0.8922 ^{**}
X ₆	Mass media exposure	0.9632 ^{**}
X ₇	Contact with extension agency	0.8922 ^{**}
X ₈	Annual income	0.9234 ^{**}

*= Significant at 0.05 level ** =Significant at 0.01 level
NS = Not significant

knowledge of respondents. Whereas, age, type of family and size of land holding were having non-significant relationship with knowledge gain about latest agricultural production technologies.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of the farmers had shown the medium level of knowledge on latest agricultural production technologies. Only 10.00 percent of the respondents obtained high level of knowledge score, before participating in the farmers training. While 15.84 percent of them obtained higher level of knowledge score related to different aspects of latest production technologies. The attributes like education, occupation, mass media exposure,

contact with extension agency and annual income had positive and highly significant correlation with knowledge of respondents. The significant increase of knowledge level of farmers may be due to the training methodology adopted and also continuous effort made by the trainers. Surely after the training programme, farmers will disseminate the technologies to the other farmers at village level and solve the problems very efficiently.

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