

Attitude of Tribal Farmers Towards Well Recharging

V. M. Patel¹, J. J. Mistry² and Bipin A. Sutariya³

1 Assistant Professor, Polytechnic in Agriculture, SDAU, Khedbrahma - 383255

2 SMS (Extension Education), KVK, SDAU, Khedbrahma - 383255

3 Block Technology Manager, Khedbrahma, ATMA, Sabarkantha - 383255

Email : sutariya.bipin@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Agriculture along with animal husbandry is a main occupation of tribal farmers. Well recharging in hilly rain fed area is most important for water conservation. Thus, the study on attitude of tribal farmers towards well recharging was conducted in Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district with 100 respondents. The majority of the respondents were middle aged, educated up to secondary level, agriculture and animal husbandry as a main occupation and earning more than one lac rupees per annum. The attitude of tribal farmers towards well recharging showed that the well recharging is a boon to farmers, well recharging is relevant to farmers need, well recharging programme is for the benefit of big farmers only and special programme on well recharging will not make any difference.

Keywords: Attitude, Well recharging, Tribal farmers

INTRODUCTION

Land and water are most important resource in agriculture. Due to vagaries of monsoon water is becoming a limiting factor in agriculture. Well recharge is an important practices to be followed for water conservation. Tribal farmers are irrigating their field through open wells since old generations. The main source of irrigation of tribal farmers is open well. Tribal farmers are living in hilly area. There is a scope of well recharging in this area. But it was observed that tribal farmers are not adopting well recharging practices. Thus it was felt necessary to know the attitude of tribal farmers towards well recharging. Thus present study ‘ Attitude of tribal farmer towards well recharging ‘ was conducted with following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To study the profile of the tribal farmers
- (ii) To study the attitude of tribal farmers towards well recharging

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted purposively in

Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district. Ten villages were selected randomly from Khedbrahma taluka. Ten respondents who had open well for irrigation were selected from each village at random. In all total 100 respondents were selected. Keeping in view the objectives of the study the interview schedule was developed with the help of experts. To measure the attitude of farmers towards well recharging scale developed by Thakkar and A. O. Ker (2000) was used with due modifications. Total 22 statements were selected to measure attitude of the tribal farmers. Against each of 22 statements there were five columns’ representing a five point continuum of agreement and disagreement to the statements. The point on the continuum were strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with weights of 5,4,3,2, and 1 for positive statements and 1,2,3,4 and 5 for negative statements, respectively. After calculating the total score and mean score of each item of index, the rank values were assigned. The attitude was categorized based on range of mean scores; 3.97 to 4.69 for ‘high level’, 3.25 to 3.96 for medium level and 2.53 to 3.24 for ‘low level’. The data regarding the profile of the farmers were analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**Profile of the tribal farmers****Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their profile****(n=100)**

Sr. No.	Attribute	Classification	Frequency	Percent
1	Age	Young (Up to 35 years)	28	28.00
		Middle (35 to 50 years)	52	52.00
		Old (above 50 years)	20	20.00
2	Education	Illiterate	34	34.00
		Primary education (Up to VIIth standard)	29	29.00
		Secondary education(VIIIth to XIIth standard)	33	33.00
		College education	04	04.00
3	Land holding	Marginal farmers (Up to 1.0 ha.)	49	49.00
		Small farmers (1.1 to 2.0 ha.)	41	41.00
		Medium farmers (2.1 to 3.0 ha.)	06	06.00
		Big farmers (above 3.0 ha.)	04	04.00
4	Animal possession	Bullock	72	72.00
		Buffalo	51	51.00
		Cow	59	59.00
		Goat	62	62.00
5	Occupation	Farming alone	08	08.00
		Farming + Animal husbandry	76	76.00
		Farming + Service	09	09.00
		Farming + Business	02	02.00
		Farming + Animal husbandry + Business	05	05.00
6	Annual Income	Low (Up to ₹ 50000)	14	14.00
		Medium (₹ 50001 to ₹ 100000)	32	32.00
		High (above ₹ 100001 and above)	54	54.00

From Table 1 it is revealed that 52.00 per cent of respondents were from middle age group. The 34.00 per cent of the respondents were illiterate and 33.00 per cent had education of secondary level. The 49.00 per cent respondents were marginal farmers having 0.1 to 1.0 ha land while 41.00 per cent respondents were small farmers having 1.01 to 2.0 ha land holding. In case of animal possess they had bullock (72.00 per cent), Buffalo (51.00 per cent), cow (59.00 per cent) and goat (62.00 per cent). The main occupation of tribal farmers was agriculture with animal husbandry. More than half number of respondents (54.00 per cent) had their annual income above ₹ one lakh.

Attitude of tribal farmers towards well recharging is presented in Table 2. The mean score in the range of 3.97 to 4.69 indicates high level of attitude. The findings revealed that the high level of attitude of tribal farmers towards well recharging includes well recharging is a boon to farmers (4.69), followed by well recharging is relevant to farmers need (4.58), well recharging programme is for the

benefit of big farmers only (4.47), special programme on well recharging will not make any difference (4.36), due to recharging well become dead (4.35), well recharging practice does not provide good return every year (4.26), money spent on well recharging is sheer waste (4.17), well recharging create conflicts among neighboring farmers (4.16) and after all well recharging practices is profitable (4.07).

The mean score in the range of 3.25 to 3.96 indicates medium level of attitude. It includes the well recharging has established greater rapport between farmers and officials and after recharging well natural flow of water is disturbed or ceased due to silting (3.94), well recharging helps to improve socio-economic condition of farmer (3.88), well recharging increases the employment opportunities to people in rural areas (3.69), well recharging develops self reliance among farmer for irrigation water and well recharging conserves rain water and check drought condition (3.68) and well recharging increases the knowledge of farmers about efficient use of water (3.63).

Table 2 : Mean scores and their relative ranks on various statements of attitude of tribal farmers n=100

Sr. No.	Attitude statements	Mean score	Per cent
1	Well recharging is a real boon to farmers	4.69	1
2	Well recharging is relevant to the need of the farmers	4.58	2
3	*Well recharging programme is only for the benefits of big farmers	4.47	3
4	*Special training programme on well recharging will not make any difference	4.36	4
5	*Due to recharging well become dead	4.35	5
6	* Well recharging practice does not provide good return every year	4.26	6
7	*Money spent on well recharging is sheer waste	4.17	7
8	*Well recharging create conflicts among neighboring farmers	4.16	8
9	After all well recharging practices is profitable	4.07	9
10	The well recharging has established greater rapport between farmers and officials	3.94	10
11	*After recharging well natural flow of water is disturbed or ceased due to silting	3.94	10
12	Well recharging helps to improve socio-economic condition of farmer	3.88	11
13	Well recharging increases the employment opportunities to people in rural areas	3.69	12
14	Well recharging develops self reliance among farmer for irrigation water	3.68	13
15	Well recharging conserves rain water and check drought condition	3.68	13
16	Well recharging increases the knowledge of farmers about efficient use of water	3.63	14
17	*Subsidy is not motivating force for well recharging	3.18	15
18	*There is no proved well recharging practice	3.13	16
19	Well recharging decreases the water salinity in well	2.89	17
20	*Only educated farmers can adopt well recharging practice	2.65	18
21	Well recharging is self inspiring activity	2.53	19
22	Well recharging is practicable to adopt	2.53	19

* Negative statement

The mean score in the range of 2.53 to 3.24 indicates low level of attitude. It includes subsidy is not motivating force for well recharging, there is no proved well recharging practice, well recharging decreases the water salinity in well, only educated farmers can adopt well recharging practice, well recharging is self inspiring activity and well recharging is practicable to adopt.

CONCLUSION

From the above study it can be concluded that majority (52.00 %) of respondents belonged to middle age group and 62.00 per cent educated up to secondary level. Majority (49.00 %) of the respondents were marginal farmers and dealing with farming and animal husbandry (79.00%). The high level attitude of tribal farmer towards well recharging includes well recharge is areal boon to farmer, well recharging is relevant to the need of the farmers, well recharging programme is only for the benefits of big farmers, due to

recharging well become dead and well recharging practice does not provide good return every year. The medium level attitude of tribal farmer towards well recharging includes well recharging has established greater rapport between farmers and officials and after recharging well natural flow of water is disturbed or ceased due to silting, well recharging helps to improve socio-economic condition of farmer and well recharging increases the employment opportunities to people in rural areas. The low level attitude of tribal farmer towards well recharging includes subsidy is not motivating force for well recharging, there is no proved well recharging practice and well recharging decreases the water salinity in well, only educated farmers can adopt well recharging practice.

REFERENCE

Thakarar D. M. and Kher A. O. (1999-2000). A scale to measure attitude of farmers towards well recharging. *Guj. J. Ext. Edu.* 10 & 11: 45-48.