RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATTITUDE OF FARMERS TOWARDS FIG AND THEIR PROFILE IN ANAND DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat state. Ten Farmers Interest Groups(FIGs) from Anand district were selected randomly, from the two Talukas namely, Anand and Borsad where, fairly good numbers of Farmers Interest Groups were available. From the Anand Taluka, villages, viz. Ravdapura, Chikhodra, Gopalpura, Sudan and Vanskhiliya, while from the Borsad Taluka, villages, viz. Singlav, Virsad, Bhadran, Motisherdi and Zarola were selected and randomly 10 respondents from each selected village were selected. Thus, a random sample of 100 farmers was selected for the study. A scale developed by department of Extension Education as presented was used to measure attitude of the farmers towards FIG. From the above results, it can be concluded that majority of the members of FIG groups had middle age group (64.00 per cent), secondary to higher secondary level of education (61.00 per cent), low to medium level of farming experience (69.00 per cent), membership in milk cooperatives (98.00 per cent), marginal to small farm holding and up to 200000 rupees of annual income (60.00 per cent), medium to very high level of extension contact (64. .00 per cent), medium to very high level of mass media exposure (67.00 per cent) and positive to highly positive overall attitude towards FIG (63.00 per cent). Attitude of the FIG member farmers towards FIG was observed negatively and highly significant with their age and negatively significant with farming experience, while it was observed positively significant with their land holding and mass media exposure. While, attitude of the FIG member farmers towards FIG was observed non-significant with their education, organizational participation, annual income and extension contact.

Keywords: *attitude, FIG, profile of FIG farmers*

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is a registered society at the district level, which works with different agriculture related institutions for sustainable agricultural development of the district. The main objective of this system is to coordinate the various agricultural research and extension activities at the district level. It is also responsible for decentralization of public agriculture technology system. An important element in the ATMA model is the involvement of farmers' organizations in decentralized decision-making, planning, priority-setting and monitoring and evaluation. Formations of Farmers' Interest Groups are an important agenda for extension services.

The formation of the Farmer's Interest Group (FIGs) with the help of public organizations, private organizations, NGOs, Para Extension Workers and private input dealers in all the blocks and villages of the district is one of the major objectives of ATMA. When the small farmers are facilitated to organize groups, trained and guided properly, they can attain tremendous development goal which would eventually make the group self-reliant and self-sufficient. The FIG is a self-managed, independent group of farmers with a shared goal and interest. The members work together to achieve one common goal by pooling their existing resources, gaining better access to other resources and to share in the resulting benefits. The Farmer's Interest Groups (FIGs) and farmer's federation help in gaining the confidence of farmers for production and fixing the price for their produce. Many groups are formed under ATMA in every district of the country, but no one has studied feelings of farmers towards FIG in the state particularly in Anand district. Under such circumstances to understand the feeling of the farmers, this study was planned with following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To study the profile of the member farmers of Farmers Interest Group

(2) To measure the attitude of member farmers towards Farmers Interest Group

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat state. Ten Farmers Interest Groups from Anand district were selected randomly, from the two Talukas namely, Anand and Borsad where, fairly good numbers of Farmers Interest Groups were available. From the Anand Taluka, villages, viz. Ravdapura, Chikhodra, Gopalpura, Sudan and Vanskhiliya, while from the Borsad Taluka, villages, viz. Singlav, Virsad, Bhadran, Motisherdi and Zarola were selected and randomly 10 respondents from each selected village were selected. Thus, a random sample of 100 farmers was selected for the study. A scale developed by our department as presented during last AGRESCO was used to measure attitude of the farmers towards FIG. This scale was developed based on methods adopted by Chauhan, *et al.* (2015*), Chauhan, *et al.* (2015) and Patel and Chauhan (2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The profile of the member farmers of Farmers Interest Group

Table 1 : The FIG member farmers according to their age

n=100

Sr. No	Age group	Number	Percent
1	Young age group (up to 30years)	20	20.00
2	Middle age group (31 to 55 years)	64	64.00
3	Old age group (Above 55 years)	16	16.00

The findings of Table 1 indicate that majority of (64.00 per cent) the member farmers of FIGs belonged to middle age group, followed by 20.00 and 16.00 per cent of them were from young age and old age groups. The result indicates that middle aged farmers due their higher and responsible role in farming than those of young and old aged farmers realized more significance to be a part of FIGs than those of young and old aged.

Table 2 : The FIG member farmers according to their level of education

n=100

Sr. No.	Educational level	Number	Percent
1	Illiterate	06	06.00
2	Primary Education (Up to 7th std.)	19	19.00
3	Secondary Education (8th to 10th std.)	44	44.00
4	Higher Secondary (11th to 12th std.)	17	17.00
5	Graduate and above	14	14.00

The Table 2 indicates that 44.00, 19.00, 17.00 and 14.00 per cent of the FIG member farmers were with secondary, primary, higher secondary and graduate levels of education, while only 6.00 per cent of them were literate. The result indicates that majority (94.00 Per cent) of the FIG members were educated up to primary or above levels.

Table- 3 : The FIG member farmers according to their farming experience n=100

Sr. No.	Farming experience	Number	Per cent
1	Low (up to 10 years)	41	41
2	Medium (11 to 20 years)	28	28
3	High (above 20 years)	31	31

The data presented in Table 3 reveal that 41.00 per cent of the FIG member farmers had up to 10 years of farming experience, while 31.00 per cent and 28.00 per cent of them had above 20 years and 11 to 20 years of experience in farming, respectively. The result indicates that irrespective levels of experienced farmers shown almost comparable interest to be a part of FIG.

Table 4 : The FIG members according to their organizational participation n = 100

Sr. No.	Institute/organization	Number	Percent
1	Gram Panchayat	03	03.00
2	Taluka Panchayat	01	01.00
3	District Panchayat	01	01.00
4	Milk Cooperative	98	98.00

The data presented in Table 4 disclose that majority (98.00 per cent) of the member farmers of FIG had participation in milk cooperatives, 3.00 of them were with membership in Gram Panchayat and one per cent each of them was member in Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat. The result reveals that 100 percent of the farmer members of FIG were active in village organization.

Table 5: The FIG member farmers according to their land holding n=100

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Per cent
1	Marginal (up to 1.00 ha)	38	38.00
2	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	22	22.00
3	Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	22	22.00
4	Large (4.01 and above)	18	18.00

It can be seen from the data in Table 5 that 38.00 per cent of the FIG members were marginal farmers, followed by 22.00 per cent each of them were small and medium land holding farmers and 18.00 per cent of them were large size of land holding farmers. The result indicates that irrespective sizes of land holding farmers demonstrated almost similar concern to be a part of FIG.

Table 6 shows that 40.00 per cent of the member farmers of FIG had above 2, 00, 000 ₹ of annual income, followed by 39.00 of them were with 1, 00, 0 01 to 2, 00, 000 ₹ and 21.00 per cent of them were with above ₹ 2, 00, 000 of annual income.

Table 6: The FIG member farmers according to their annual income n=100

Sr. No.	Category (₹)	Number	Per cent
1	Up to ₹ 100000	21	21.00
2	₹ 100001 to 200000	39	39.00
3	Above ₹ 200000	40	40.00

The result indicates that irrespective levels of income holder farmers considered FIG as an important system of famers' progress.

Table 7: The FIG member farmers according to their extension contact n= 100

Sr. No.	Category with Score	Number	Per cent
1	Very low (Up to 2.40)	22	22.00
2	Low (2.41 to 4.80)	14	14.00
3	Medium (4.81 to 7.20)	34	34.00
4	High (7.21 to 9.60)	16	16.00
5	Very high(above 9.60)	14	14.00

The data seen in Table 7 indicate that majority (64.00 per cent) of the FIG member farmers had medium to very high level of extension exposure, while 22.00 per cent of them were with very law and 14.00 per cent of them were with low level of extension exposure. The result indicates that farmers with irrespective levels of extension contact considered FIG as an important system to take benefit of growth.

Table: 8 The FIG member farmers according to their mass media exposure n=100

Sr. No.	Category with Score	Number	Per cent
1	Very low (Up to 3.60)	06	06.00
2	Low (3.70 to 7.20)	27	27.00
3	Medium (7.30 to 10.8)	27	27.00
4	High (10.9 to 14.4)	32	32.00
5	Very high(above14.5)	08	08.00

The data seen in Table 8 indicate that majority (67.00 per cent) of the FIG member farmers had medium to very high level of mass media exposure, while 27.00 per cent of them were with law and 6.00 per cent were with very low level of mass media exposure. The result indicates that farmers with irrespective levels of mass media exposure considered FIG as an essential structure to take advantages of development.

Table: 9 The FIG members according to their overall attitude towards FIG n=100

Sr. No.	Category with Score	Number	Per cent
1	Highly Negative (Up to 12)	07	07.00
2	Negative (13 to 24)	01	01.00
3	Neutral (25 to 36)	29	29.00
4	Positive (37 to 48)	55	55.00
5	Highly Positive (above 48)	08	08.00

The result seen in Table 9 indicates that majority (63.00 per cent) of the FIG member farmers had positive to highly positive overall attitude towards FIG, while 29.00 per cent of them were with neutral attitude, 7.00 per cent with highly negative and 1.0 per cent of them with negative overall attitude towards FIG. The result discloses that majority of the FIG member farmers had positive to highly positive feelings towards FIG as an important arrangement to take advantages of development. The results are complimentary with Vinaya et al. (2013), Prajapati (2017), Katole (2017) and Haseena (2017).

Relationship between attitude of farmers towards FIG and their profile

Table 10: Relationship between attitude of farmers towards FIG and their profile

n= 100

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Age	-0.450 **
2	Education	0.124
3	Farming experience	-0.401 **
4	Social participation	0.073
5	Land holding	0.237 *
6	Annual income	-0.057
7	Extension contact	-0.001
8	Mass media exposure	0.180 *

** Significant at 0.05 Level* *** Significant at 0.01 Level*

The data presented in Table 10 indicate that attitude of the FIG member farmers towards FIG was observed negatively and highly significant with their age and negatively significant with farming experience, while it was observed positively significant with their land holding and mass media exposure. The result indicates that the attitude towards the concept of FIG was observed more positive among those FIG member farmers, who were younger in age, with less experience of farming, bigger size of land holding and high level of mass media exposure. The less experienced young farmers with big size of land holding might have understood significance of FIG to make expected progress through mass media must have played for above findings. The result of the Table also indicates that attitude of the FIG member farmers towards FIG was observed non-significant with their education, organizational participation, annual income and extension contact. It shows that education, organizational participation, annual income and extension contact did not play constructive role in forming positive feeling amongst the farmers towards the concept of FIG.

CONCLUSION

From the above results, it can be concluded that majority of the members of FIG groups had middle age group (64.00 per cent), secondary to higher secondary level of education (61.00 per cent), low to medium level of farming experience (69.00 per cent), membership in milk cooperatives (98.00 per cent), marginal to small farm holding and up to 200000 ` of annual income (60.00 per cent), medium to very high level of extension contact (64. .00 per cent), medium to very high level of mass media exposure (67.00 per cent) and positive to highly positive overall attitude towards FIG (63.00 per cent). Attitude of the FIG member farmers towards FIG was observed negatively and highly significant with their age and negatively significant with farming experience, while it was observed positively significant with their land holding and mass media exposure. . The result of the Table also indicates that attitude of the FIG member farmers towards FIG was observed non-significant with their education, organizational participation, annual income and extension contact.

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