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TRAINING NEEDS OF FARMERS ON GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Training helps farmers to incorporate the latest scientific advances and technology tools into their farming operations. Training improves not only the skill but also attitude and know-how of the trainees. Training is very important for farmers to increase the adoption of different agricultural innovations. Groundnut is major kharif crop of Porbandar district. Keeping this in view, the present investigation was under taken to know about the training needs of farmers about groundnut production technology. The research study was conducted in Porbandar district of Saurashtra region. From three talukas of Porbandar district, twelve villages and 120 groundnut growers were selected for the study. The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The result illuminated that majority of respondents did not have the proper know-how about groundnut production technology, especially plant protection measures, recommended doses of chemical fertilizers, use of bio agents – trichoderma and beuvaria, etc. Therefore, it is very important to strengthen the training programmes for increasing the adoption of groundnut production technology by assessing the training needs of farmers about groundnut production technology.

Keywords : *training needs, production, technology, know-how, skill*

INTRODUCTION

Among several other traits, training predominantly improves the skill, attitude and knowledge of trainees. It is vital for farmers to participate in different training programmes to incorporate the latest scientific advances and technology tools into their farming operations. Training is very important for farmers to increase the adoption of different agricultural innovations. It is very important for the capacity building of farmers to improve the performance. The utmost important part of any training programme is to assess the training needs. Therefore, training need assessment is very crucial for the any training programme (Desai et. al. 2021). It helps in identifying the present problems and future challenges to be solved through the training. In absence of training need assessment, the training conducted has not been able to meet the expectations of extension personnel (Nongtdu et al. 2012). Hence, it is foremost important to assess the training needs of groundnut farmers because groundnut is the major *kharif* crop of Porbandar district.

In the district, groundnut crop was grown in 76,200 ha area with 1,02,717 ton production and productivity of 13.48 q/ha (Annual Progress report, KVK, Khapat-2018-19). The productivity is low as compared to potential yield. The yield can be increased by adopting the scientific cultivation practices recommended by the agricultural university through imparting need-based training to the groundnut farmers. Thus, keeping this in view, the present investigation was under taken to know about the training needs of farmers about groundnut production technology.

OBJECTIVE

To find out the training needs of farmers about groundnut production technology

METHODOLOGY

The research study was conducted in Porbandar district of Saurashtra region. Three talukas- Porbandar, Ranavav and Kutiyana were selected for conducting the present investigation. From each taluka four villages were selected where groundnut crop is grown extensively. From each village, ten groundnut farmers were selected who engaged in groundnut cultivation. Accordingly, 120 respondents were selected purposively from ten villages for this study.

An interview schedule was prepared to collect the required information as per the objectives of the study. Data were collected by personal interview method. The collected data were quantified, categorized and tabulated. Analysis was carried out by using frequencies, percentages and rank.

The training needs of the groundnut farmers were worked out by ranking them according to immediate necessities felt by them and scoring of 3, 2, 1 and 0 was given to the items most needed, needed, least needed and not needed respectively. First of all, the total training need score of a particular item was calculated considering the responses expressed by all the farmers. Secondly, the mean score of a particular item was worked out by dividing the total score of their particular item with the total number of respondents. Finally, based on the mean score, the rank was assigned to the particular training field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An attempt was made to know the training needs by respondents and frequency and percentage for each training needs were calculated. Then they were ranked and presented in Table 1.

Table 1 : Training needs of the respondents with respect to major crop management operations (n=120)

Sr. No.	Training Needs	Most needed	Needed	Least needed	Not needed	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Preparation of land	48	55	15	2	269	2.24	VII
2	Application of manures and fertilizers	75	29	13	3	296	2.47	IV
3	Sowing method	78	25	15	2	299	2.49	III
4	Plant protection	83	28	08	1	313	2.61	II
5	Harvesting	62	35	16	7	272	2.27	VI
6	Use of bio agents (*Trichoderma, Beuvariya*)	94	14	08	4	318	2.65	I
7	Post-harvest technology	73	25	17	5	286	2.38	V

From the data presented in Table 1, it is observed that most important training need of farmers related to major crop management operations in groundnut crop is about the use of bio agents especially the trichoderma and beuvariya (2.65) which ranked the first followed by plant protection operations (2.61) and sowing method (2.49) ranked second and third respectively. While, application of manures and fertilizers (2.47), Post-harvest technology (2.38) and harvesting (2.27) were ranked on fourth, fifth and sixth position. The preference of groundnut farmers for the need of training about preparation of land was somewhat less which ranked seventh.

Table 2 : Preferences of farmers for venue of training programme (n=120)

Sr. No.	Training Venue	Most Needed	Needed	Least needed	Not Needed	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	80	22	14	04	298	2.48	III
2	Farmers Training Centre	73	29	12	06	289	2.41	IV
3	Research Centre	85	26	07	02	314	2.62	I
4	Village Panchayat	49	45	16	10	253	2.11	V
5	Farmer's Field	80	25	12	03	302	2.52	II

From the above table 2, it is evident that the venue for training programmes preferred by the respondents the most is research centre which ranked the first (2.62) followed by farmer's field (2.52) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (2.48) with second and third rank respectively. Whereas, farmers' preference for the venue Farmers Training Centre (2.41) and village panchayat (2.11) were ranked fourth and fifth position. It indicates that the favorable places were research centre, farmer's field and KVK for farmers to get training about groundnut production technology.

Table 3 : Preferences of groundnut farmers for duration of training programme (n=120)

Sr. No.	Training duration	Total Score	Per cent	Rank
1	Up to one day	55	45.83	I
2	Up to two days	34	28.33	II
3	Up to three days	13	10.83	III
4	Up to five days	11	09.17	IV
5	Up to ten days	07	05.83	V

The data given in table 3 indicates the preference of groundnut farmers about duration of training programme. It appears that the majority of groundnut farmers (45.83 per cent) are interested in one-day training programme. 28.33 and 10.83 per cent of farmers had preference for two and three days training period. Whereas, very less number of farmers had shown interest in long duration training programme. Only 9.17 and 5.83 percent famers had preferred up to five and ten days duration of training for groundnut crop respectively.

CONCLUSION

Training plays an important role to increase the adoption of different agricultural innovations. And therefore, training needs assessment is very crucial for any training programme. From this study, it is concluded that most important training need of farmers related to major crop management operations in groundnut crop are about the use of bio agents (1st rank) especially the trichoderma and beuvariya, plant protection operations (2nd rank) and sowing method (3rd rank) respectively. The preferable venue for training programmes were research centre (1st rank), farmer's field (2nd rank) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (3rd rank) respectively. While the majority of groundnut farmers were interested in one-day (45.83 per cent) training programme followed by 28.33 and 10.83 per cent of farmers had preference for two and three days training programmes.

IMPLICATIONS

From this study it is revealed that the major important training need area for farmers are the use of bio agents especially trichoderma and beuvariya and plant protection operations of groundnut production technology. Therefore, the extension personnel should organize trainings to aware the farmers about the use of trichoderma and beuvariya and plant protection measures of groundnut production technology.

The findings of the study should also be taken into consideration by policymakers and different stake holders for the venue and training duration preferred by the farmers. Therefore, it is advised to extension functionaries to schedule the training programme at research centre, farmers' field or KVK keeping one day duration for effective transfer of groundnut production technology.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict between author.

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