

## DETERMINANTS OF ATTITUDE AND CONSTRAINTS HINDERING PARTICIPATION OF FARMERS IN KRISHI MAHOTSAV

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### ABSTRACT

*The investigation was done at Anand district of Gujarat State. A random sample of 120 farmers who had participated in Krishi Mahotsav was studied. Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study. Major constraints faced by farmers were lack of training program regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav, lack of time for discussion, lack of proper market-oriented information and lack of value addition related information. Major suggestions given were training programmes should be conducted for the farmers regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav, place of organization of Krishi Mahotsav should be based on Agro-ecosystem basis rather than panchayat basis, providing market-oriented information and providing value addition related information.*

**Keywords:** constraints, farmers, krishi mahotsav, participation, suggestions

### INTRODUCTION

The present scenario of India shows that the farming is most important enterprise and farmers are an integral part in the development of our country. Though, Indian agriculture is self-sufficient in production, Indian farmer is not self-reliant to meet all his needs in the present scenario (Pratik and Vinaya, 2021). Scientific research has no use and meaning unless it is useful to its stakeholders and reaches them on time. Government of Gujarat (GOG) has adopted a novel approach i.e., Krishi Mahotsav to bridge the gap between the researchers and farmers and also fastens diffusion of technologies among the farmers. Krishi Mahotsav has aided in increase of the cultivation land and annual income of the beneficiary farmers. Gujarat farmers, in using the chemical fertilizers had moved from 13:7.5:1 Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium composition to 6.5:3.5:1, thus reducing the costs, optimising production and increasing the net income (Kapoor, 2008). Considering all the effort and time spent behind this initiative, present study was conducted to know the constraints which are faced by the farmers in participating Krishi Mahotsav, and seeks valuable suggestions from

farmers in improving the same.

### OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the determinants of farmers attitude towards Krishi Mahotsav
- (2) To identify the constraints faced by the farmers in participating Krishi Mahotsav and to seek the suggestions from the farmers to overcome the constraints faced in participation in Krishi Mahotsav

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in the Anand district of Gujarat state. A sample of 120 farmers who had participated in the Krishi Mahotsav was selected randomly from two villages each from Anand, Anklav, Borsad, Sojitra and Petlad talukas of Anand district of Gujarat state. Constraints and suggestion were studied using pretested schedule. Weighted Score and Weighted Mean Score were employed to rank the constraints and suggestions.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****Determinants of attitude of farmers towards Krishi Mahotsav****Table 1: Linear regression analysis of attitude of farmers towards Krishi Mahotsav**

(n=120)

No	Independent Variable	Partial regression coefficient	Standard error of partial regression coefficient	't' value
	Constant	16.988	6.758	2.514
X <sub>1</sub>	Age	-.046	.065	-.0704
X <sub>2</sub>	Education	-1.058	.624	-1.696
X <sub>3</sub>	Experience in farming	.060	.077	.787
X <sub>4</sub>	Social participation	.289	.647	.446
X <sub>5</sub>	Landholding	.263	.414	.635
X <sub>6</sub>	Occupation	.321	.557	.577
X <sub>7</sub>	Extension contact	.196	.165	1.189
X <sub>8</sub>	Agriculture mass media exposure	-.088	.210	-.416
X <sub>9</sub>	No of Krishi Mahotsav attended	-.074	.341	-.217
X <sub>10</sub>	Innovativeness	4.944	.853	5.794**
X <sub>11</sub>	Economic Motivation	.579	.268	2.163*
X <sub>12</sub>	Scientific orientation	.243	.100	2.424*
X <sub>13</sub>	Risk orientation	-.081	.134	-.603
	<b>R<sup>2</sup> = 0.597</b>	<b>Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 0.543</b>		

F= 10.996 \* Significant at 0.05 level of probability \*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability

From the table 1, it can be seen that the R<sup>2</sup> value is 0.597 which indicates about 59.70 per cent predication of dependent variable through the set of independents variables listed in above table. Further it can be inferred that out of thirteen independent variables, innovativeness is highly significantly correlated with attitude of farmers towards

Krishi Mahotsav while economic motivation and scientific orientation are significantly related with the attitude of farmers. It indicates that attitude of farmers can be improved by increasing innovativeness, economic motivation and scientific orientation of the farmers.

**Constraints faced by farmers in attending Krishi Mahotsav****Table 2: Constraints faced by farmers in attending Krishi Mahotsav**

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Aspect wise rank	Overall rank
<b>Technological constraints</b>				
1	Lack of training program regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav	2.79	I	I
2	Lack of time for discussion	2.75	II	II
3	Lack of proper market-oriented information	2.71	III	III
4	Lack of value addition related information	2.70	IV	IV
5	Lack of processing related information	2.65	V	VI
6	Lack of practical knowledge	2.58	VI	VIII
7	Information provided is not much up-to-date/latest	2.37	VII	XIV
8	Information provided are not location/situation specific	2.21	VIII	XVIII
<b>Farmer level constraints</b>				
9	Landless and women are not given much attention	2.54	I	IX
10	Improper timing of the programme as it is conducted during social functions and also hot weather	2.50	II	X

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Aspect wise rank	Overall rank
11	Reluctance of farmers to participate due to various reasons like distribution of input kits only to few farmers etc.	2.49	III	XI
<b>Institutional/Infrastructural constraints</b>				
12	Improper timeliness of distribution of input kits	2.66	I	V
13	Inadequate visit of Village Level Workers before and after Krishi Mahotsav	2.65	II	VI
14	Unavailability of quality inputs during Krishi Mahotsav	2.63	III	VII
15	Lack of any specific information for small and marginal farmers	2.45	IV	XII
16	Poor linkage of different organizations i.e., input dealers, seed, fertilizer and pesticide companies etc.	2.43	V	XIII
17	Time given to scientists during Krishi Mahotsav is very less to disseminate the technologies and to interact with the farmers	2.33	VI	XV
18	No presence of competent authorities for decision Making	2.32	VII	XVI
<b>Economic constraints</b>				
19	High travel cost to attend the programme due to distant location of place of Krishi Mahotsav organization	2.26	I	XVII
20	Higher cost of inputs suggested by scientists during Krishi Mahotsav	2.03	II	XIX

A look into the Table 2 depicts that the constraints faced by farmers in attending Krishi Mahotsav were divided into four sections, *i.e.*, technological constraints, farmer level constraints, institutional or infrastructural constraints and economic constraints. Considering aspect wise ranking, major 'Technological constraints' faced by farmers were: Lack of training program regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav (I) and lack of time for discussion (II). Major 'Farmer level constraints' faced by farmers were: Landless and women are not given much attention (I), improper timing of the programme as it is conducted during social functions and also hot weather (II). 'Institutional or infrastructural constraints' faced by farmers were: Improper timeliness of distribution of input kits (I) and inadequate visit of village level workers before and after Krishi Mahotsav (II). Important 'Economic constraints' faced were: High travel cost to attend the programme due to distant location of place of Krishi Mahotsav organization (I) and higher cost of inputs suggested by scientists during Krishi Mahotsav (II).

Considering overall rank, the major constraints faced by farmers were: Lack of training program regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav (I), lack of time for discussion (II), lack of proper market-oriented information (III), lack of value addition related information (IV), improper timeliness of distribution of input kits (V), lack of processing related information (VI) and inadequate visit of Village Level Workers before and after Krishi Mahotsav (VI). The findings are in line with the findings of Pratap *et al.* (2019). They have reported that non availability of desire quality of seeds, expenses of money, routine work of agriculture is disturbed, lack of food arrangement and family obligation were the major constraints perceived by the farmers. Pattnaik *et al.* (2012) have reported that timing of the program, information provided are not location specific, lack of up-to date information, lack of basic facilities and lack of much attention to landless and women were the major constraints faced by the farmers while participating in Krishi Mahotsav.

**Suggestions to Overcome the Constraints Faced by Farmers in Attending Krishi Mahotsav****Table 3: Suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by farmers in attending Krishi Mahotsav**

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Mean Score	Rank
1	Training programmes should be conducted for the farmer regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav	2.89	I
2	Place of organization of Krishi Mahotsav should be based on agro-ecosystem basis rather than panchayat basis	2.78	II
3	Providing market-oriented information	2.77	III
4	Providing value addition related information	2.77	III
5	More time should be given for the scientists to interact with the farmers during Krishi Mahotsav	2.76	IV
6	Mahotsav for agricultural and Animal husbandry should be organized separately on a different day	2.75	V
7	Proper linkage of various organizations like seed companies and input dealers etc.	2.74	VI
8	Giving more attention to women and landless labor participation in Krishi Mahotsav	2.70	VII
9	Timely distribution of input kits	2.69	VIII
10	Timing of the programme should be proper i.e. should not clash with other works of farmers	2.66	IX
11	Distribution of quality input kits to a greater number of farmers	2.62	X
12	Provision should be given to travel till the taluka	2.55	XI
13	Providing location and situation specific information	2.21	XII

Major suggestion given by farmers to overcome the constraints faced by them while participating in Krishi Mahotsav is 'Training programmes should be conducted for the farmer regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav' with mean score of 2.89. The constraint Place of organization of Krishi Mahotsav should be based on Agro-ecosystem basis rather than panchayat basis is ranked II with a means score of 2.78. Both constraints, providing market-oriented information and providing value addition related information have same means score value of 2.77 and were ranked III. Similarly other major constraints were more time should be given for the scientists to interact with the farmers during Krishi Mahotsav (IV), Mahotsav for agricultural and Animal husbandry should be organized separately on a different day (V), proper linkage of various organizations like seed companies and input dealers etc. (VI), giving more attention to women and landless labour participation in Krishi Mahotsav (VII). Pattnaik *et al.* (2012) have found that provision should be given to travel till the taluka, Krishi Rath should visit in alternative year rather

than every year, Provision of location specific and up to date information and provision should be given to travel till the taluka were the major suggestions given by farmers.

**CONCLUSION**

From the study it can be found that the independent variables contribute to 59.7 per cent of variation in the dependent variable. It can also be concluded that the major constraints that the farmers face were technological constraints as they were ranked from I to IV among four sections of constraints. Hence, these constraints that hinder their participation in Krishi Mahotsav should be addressed. Major suggestions given were training programmes should be conducted for the farmer regarding improved agricultural practices during Krishi Mahotsav, place of organization of Krishi Mahotsav should be based on Agro-ecosystem basis rather than panchayat basis, providing market-oriented information and providing value addition related information. These suggestions should be taken into consideration by the policy makers to encourage further participation of farmers.

## RECOMMENDATION

Farmers had positive outlook towards participation in Krishi Mahotsav. Further attitude and participation of the farmers can be addressing the constraints elicited by farmers. The major constraints like lack of training program regarding improved agricultural practices, lack of time for discussion, improper timeliness of distribution of input kits etc., should be addressed for further improvement the participation of farmers. Efforts should be made to lessen the magnitude of such constraints. Along with this, suggestions given by farmers for improving the functioning of Krishi Mahotsav like place of organization should be based on agro-ecosystem basis rather than panchayat basis as it increases the chance of receiving location specific information and technologies by the farmers. Market and value addition related information and linkages may be provided for further improvement in the economic status of farmers. Hence, Policy makers should address the constraints for improvement in the participation of farmers.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This is to declare that there is “No conflict of interest” among researcher.

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