

PROBLEMS FACED BY INPUT DEALERS DURING DAESI PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

In India, most of the extension work is carried out by the Public sector i.e. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and some other agencies. At the national level, the ratio of extension workers to farmers is very low as against the recommended ratio. It is necessary that both the private and public extension system should work together as one unit. Agri-input dealers in the country are the prime source of farm information to the farming community, besides the supply of inputs. National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, (MANAGE) Hyderabad, designed a one-year diploma course entitled 'Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers' (DAESI) which imparts relevant and location-specific agricultural education to equip these input dealers with sufficient knowledge to transform them into para-extension professionals so as to enable them to address the day-to-day problems being faced by the farmers at field level. The objective of the study was to find out the problems faced by the input dealers in DAESI. The study was conducted on 120 input dealers from 3 different types of National training Institutes (NTIs), organizing DAESI training programme including KVK, Tabiji, Ajmer, ARS, Navgoan, Alwar and SIAM, Jaipur. The major problems faced by the input dealers were that the courses were too lengthy, less number of field visits to different institutions and Agro- industries, resource persons invited for lectures were not competent, classroom sessions were too long to concentrate, no proper arrangement for drinking water, classroom performance and attendance marks were not counted and difficulty in paying course fees.

Keywords: Input dealers, problems, MANAGE

INTRODUCTION

The agriculture sector in India is expected to generate better momentum in the next few years due to increased investments in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, warehousing and cold storage. The two important factors for the development of Agriculture are, research and extension (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2019). In India, the task of transfer of technology is being performed mainly by the Agriculture supervisors of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC and FW), at the grass root level, Subject matter specialists of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other extension functionaries of the NGOs. According to Davis *et al.* (2010), the extension worker to farmer ratio in India is 1: 5000 (estimated 60 thousand workers) which is far wider than Ethiopia (1:476) and China (1:625).

Thus there is a major scarcity of the extension officers at various levels in India. Further, one extension officer serve 1162 operational holdings, i.e. the ratio of extension workers to operational holding is low at 1:1162 at the national level as against recommended 1:750. (Nandi

and Nedumaran, 2019; Kalasariya *et al.*, 2022; Kalasariya, *et al.*, 2022; Madhu *et al.*, 2022; Aneeshsha *et al.*, 2021). It is in this context, the National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE) had designed a one-year diploma course titled 'Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI)', which imparts relevant and location-specific agricultural education to equip these input dealers with sufficient knowledge to transform them into para-extension professionals so as to enable them to address the day-to-day problems being faced by the farmers at field level. (Guidelines of DAESI programme, MANAGE, 2014, www.manage.gov.in)

DAESI has been designed in such a way that the input dealer can pursue the programme without adversely affecting his day-to-day business. The programme is spread over a period of 48 weeks, with 40 classroom sessions and 08 field visits to various institutions and farmers' fields. The classroom sessions and field visits are conducted on Sundays or local market holidays. The field visits are intended to acquaint the input dealers with location-specific field problems and expose them to relevant technologies. Each batch comprises of 40 input dealers.

OBJECTIVE

To know the problems faced by input dealers during DAESI programme

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the NTIs under the jurisdiction of Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner, District Jaipur (Rajasthan) that includes 8 Districts i.e. Jaipur, Sikar, Alwar, Dausa, Tonk, Ajmer, Bhartpur and Dholpur, which are organizing DAESI programme during 2019 to 2020. Three NTIs namely SIAM, Jaipur 2nd batch, KVK Tabiji, Ajmer and ARS Navgaon, Alwar were selected randomly for the present study, in order to have a wider representation. Under each batch of DAESI programme, the no. of trainees is restricted to 40 input dealers only. As this no. was small therefore all the 40 input dealers, from three selected NTIs i.e. SIAM 2nd batch, Jaipur, KVK Ajmer and ARS Navgaon, Alwar were included in the study, making a total of 120 respondents

During DAESI programme, the input dealers might be facing a no. of problems in different fields like fee structure for course, duration and timing of classes, infrastructure facilities and method of teaching etc. Therefore an attempt was made under this study, to identify the problems faced by the input dealers so that necessary reforms can be made to improve the quality of DAESI programme. For this purpose a list of all possible problems was prepared with the help of available literature, personal experience and experts' opinion, under two broad categories as follows:

I) Technical problems

II) Administrative problems

The responses of the input dealers were recorded on a three point continuum ranging from most important, important and less important constraint and scores 3, 2, 1 were assigned respectively. The problems were interpreted as follows:

A) Most important problem - Most severe problem

B) Important problem - Severe problem

C) Less important problem - Not a severe problem

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Technical Problems faced by the input dealers during DAESI programme

Under technical problems faced by input dealers during DAESI programme, 28 statements related to the Course content (theory and practical), faculty and method of teaching

and duration and timing of training programme were framed. The results are presented in the table 1 and 2.

The results of technical problems faced by the input dealers, presented in table 1 are discussed under following sub heads:

Problems related to course content (Theory)

Perusal of overall results of Course content related to theory section has revealed that majority (39.16 per cent) of input dealers felt 'Courses are too lengthy' as the most severe problem. Further, 50.83 per cent of the input dealers felt that 'Syllabus has irrelevant courses' is a severe problem and over 31.66 per cent of the input dealers realized 'Syllabus has irrelevant courses' as not a severe problem. Thus it can be interpreted from the results that the course content of DAESI programme is too lengthy. The reason may be that, it is a 48 weeks programme and it is difficult for any business man to spare that much of time for the course. Another problem reported was that the course material is not made available in Hindi, may be due to the reason that the guest faculties invited for the lecture under DAESI programme are mostly teachers from Agricultural universities, so they might have prepared their presentations in English and must have explained in Hindi. Still, it is suggested that the respective NTIs should take appropriate action to solve such problems raised by the trainees to improve the quality of the programme.

Problems related to Course content (Practical)

The perusal of overall results related to practical have revealed that majority of the input dealers (38.33 per cent) felt 'Less number of field visits to different institutions and Agro- industries' as the most severe, 48.33 per cent input dealers have submitted 'Practical is difficult to memorize' as a severe problem and over 30.00 per cent of the input dealers have expressed 'Technical skills are not practiced in practical classes', 'Assignments and records are not evaluated on time' and 'No regularity in visits' are not severe problems. Thus it can be concluded that more number of visits should be organized to different institutions and Agro- industries. The reason for organizing less number of visits may be that the provision under DAESI programme is to organize only eight sessions for practical and field visits.

Other technical problems faced by the input Dealers during DAESI programme

The results regarding other technical problems related to faculty, method of teaching etc. are presented in table 2.

Table 1: Distribution of input dealers as per the technical problems (Course content- Theory and Practical) faced by them during DAESI programme (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Technical problems (Course content) faced by the input dealers | NTIs | | | | | | | | | | | | Overall n=120 | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|--|--|
| | | KVK, Ajmer n ₁ =40 | | | ARS, ALWAR n ₂ = 40 | | | SIAM, Jaipur n ₃ =40 | | | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | | | |
| | | Most severe Problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | | | | | | |
| A. Course content | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| i) Theory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Courses are too lengthy | 16 (40.00) | 18 (45.00) | 6 (15.00) | 16 (40.00) | 15 (37.50) | 9 (22.50) | 15 (37.50) | 17 (42.50) | 8 (20.00) | 15 (37.50) | 47 (39.16) | 50 (41.66) | 23 (19.16) | | |
| 2 | Syllabus has irrelevant courses | 6 (15.00) | 21 (52.50) | 13 (32.50) | 5 (12.50) | 21 (52.50) | 14 (35.00) | 19 (47.50) | 10 (25.00) | 11 (27.50) | 19 (47.50) | 21 (17.50) | 61 (50.83) | 38 (31.66) | | |
| 3 | General aspects of Agriculture are not taught | 12 (30.00) | 22 (55.00) | 6 (15.00) | 16 (40.00) | 14 (35.00) | 10 (25.00) | 19 (47.50) | 14 (35.00) | 7 (17.50) | 19 (47.50) | 42 (35.00) | 55 (45.83) | 23 (19.16) | | |
| 4 | It does not cover all chapters | 5 (12.50) | 27 (67.50) | 8 (20.00) | 14 (35.00) | 16 (40.00) | 10 (25.00) | 17 (42.50) | 16 (40.00) | 7 (17.50) | 17 (42.50) | 35 (29.16) | 60 (50.00) | 25 (20.83) | | |
| 5 | Course do not help in better running of business | 10 (25.00) | 22 (55.00) | 8 (20.00) | 19 (47.50) | 10 (25.00) | 11 (27.50) | 17 (42.50) | 14 (35.00) | 9 (22.50) | 17 (42.50) | 43 (35.83) | 49 (40.83) | 28 (23.33) | | |
| 6 | Audio visual aids are not properly used | 9 (22.50) | 23 (57.50) | 8 (20.00) | 17 (42.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 13 (32.50) | 12 (30.00) | 15 (37.50) | 39 (32.50) | 50 (41.66) | 31 (25.83) | | |
| 7 | Course material is not available in Hindi | 12 (30.00) | 20 (50.00) | 8 (20.00) | 17 (42.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 16 (40.00) | 10 (25.00) | 14 (35.00) | 45 (37.50) | 46 (38.33) | 29 (24.16) | | |
| ii) Practical | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Less number of skill oriented classes are conducted | 7 (17.50) | 21 (52.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 18 (45.00) | 11 (27.50) | 18 (45.00) | 13 (32.50) | 9 (22.50) | 18 (45.00) | 31 (25.83) | 57 (47.50) | 32 (26.66) | | |
| 9 | Technical skills are not practiced in practical | 8 (20.00) | 24 (60.00) | 8 (20.00) | 11 (27.50) | 16 (40.00) | 13 (32.50) | 16 (40.00) | 8 (20.00) | 15 (37.50) | 17 (42.50) | 27 (22.50) | 57 (47.50) | 36 (30.00) | | |
| 10 | Demonstrations are not conducted | 9 (22.50) | 23 (57.50) | 8 (20.00) | 11 (27.50) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 12 (30.00) | 13 (32.50) | 35 (29.16) | 50 (41.66) | 35 (29.16) | | |
| 11 | Practical is difficult to memorize | 11 (27.50) | 23 (57.50) | 6 (15.00) | 15 (37.50) | 17 (42.50) | 8 (20.00) | 17 (42.50) | 11 (27.50) | 11 (27.50) | 18 (45.00) | 37 (30.83) | 58 (48.33) | 25 (20.83) | | |
| 12 | Less number of visits to different institutions and Agro – industries | 12 (30.00) | 22 (55.00) | 6 (15.00) | 17 (42.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 17 (42.50) | 9 (22.50) | 14 (35.00) | 46 (38.33) | 48 (40.00) | 26 (21.66) | | |
| 13 | Assignments and presentations makes syllabus lengthy and hectic | 10 (25.00) | 24 (60.00) | 6 (15.00) | 15 (37.50) | 12 (30.00) | 13 (32.50) | 12 (30.00) | 14 (35.00) | 7 (17.50) | 19 (47.50) | 39 (32.50) | 55 (45.83) | 26 (21.66) | | |
| 14 | Assignments and records are not evaluated on time | 11 (27.50) | 16 (40.00) | 13 (32.50) | 10 (25.00) | 15 (37.50) | 15 (37.50) | 15 (37.50) | 14 (35.00) | 8 (20.00) | 18 (45.00) | 35 (29.16) | 49 (40.83) | 36 (30.00) | | |
| 15 | Transport facilities are not available for visits | 10 (25.00) | 19 (47.50) | 11 (27.50) | 18 (45.00) | 12 (30.00) | 10 (25.00) | 12 (30.00) | 16 (40.00) | 8 (20.00) | 16 (40.00) | 44 (36.66) | 47 (39.16) | 29 (24.16) | | |
| 16 | No regularity in visits | 7 (17.50) | 20 (50.00) | 13 (32.50) | 11 (27.50) | 18 (45.00) | 11 (27.50) | 18 (45.00) | 12 (30.00) | 12 (30.00) | 16 (40.00) | 30 (25.00) | 54 (45.00) | 36 (30.00) | | |
| 17 | Visits are not so required and are not useful | 9 (22.50) | 22 (55.00) | 9 (22.50) | 13 (32.50) | 13 (32.50) | 14 (35.00) | 13 (32.50) | 13 (32.50) | 10 (25.00) | 17 (42.50) | 35 (29.16) | 52 (43.33) | 33 (27.50) | | |
| 18 | No free access to computers and internet | 12 (30.00) | 21 (52.50) | 7 (17.50) | 9 (22.50) | 19 (47.50) | 12 (30.00) | 19 (47.50) | 14 (35.00) | 12 (30.00) | 14 (35.00) | 35 (29.16) | 54 (45.00) | 31 (25.83) | | |

(Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages)

TABLE 2: Distribution of input dealers as per the other technical problems faced by them during DAESI programme

| Sr. No. | Other technical problems faced by the input dealers | NTIs | | | | | | | | | | | | Overall n=120 | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | | KVK, Ajmer n ₁ =40 | | | | ARS, ALWAR n ₂ = 40 | | | | SIAM, Jaipur n ₃ =40 | | | | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem |
| | | Most severe Problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | Most severe problem | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | | | | | |
| Faculty and methods of teaching | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Resource persons invited for lectures are not competent | 11 (27.50) | 21 (52.50) | 8 (20.00) | 13 (32.50) | 12 (30.00) | 15 (37.50) | 16 (40.00) | 13 (32.50) | 11 (27.50) | 11 (27.50) | 40 (33.33) | 46 (38.33) | 34 (28.33) | | |
| 2 | Resource persons don't use local language in class | 7 (17.50) | 21 (52.50) | 12 (30.00) | 12 (30.00) | 10 (25.00) | 18 (45.00) | 14 (35.00) | 11 (27.50) | 15 (37.50) | 11 (27.50) | 33 (27.50) | 42 (35.00) | 45 (37.50) | | |
| 3 | Experts do not create a friendly environment | 8 (20.00) | 22 (55.00) | 10 (25.00) | 11 (27.50) | 16 (40.00) | 13 (32.50) | 14 (35.00) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 12 (30.00) | 33 (27.50) | 52 (43.33) | 35 (29.16) | | |
| 4 | No space for 'question- answer' session | 8 (20.00) | 21 (52.50) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 17 (42.50) | 13 (32.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 16 (40.00) | 33 (27.50) | 48 (40.00) | 39 (32.50) | | |
| 5 | Lecturers do not know the use of audio visual aids | 7 (17.50) | 21 (52.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 17 (42.50) | 13 (32.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 16 (40.00) | 31 (25.83) | 49 (40.83) | 40 (33.33) | | |
| 6 | Same resource persons are invited repeatedly | 9 (22.50) | 18 (45.00) | 13 (32.50) | 9 (22.50) | 15 (37.50) | 16 (40.00) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 13 (32.50) | 13 (32.50) | 32 (26.66) | 46 (38.33) | 42 (35.00) | | |
| Duration/ timing of DAESI training | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Programme (48 weeks) is too long | 13 (32.50) | 18 (45.00) | 9 (22.50) | 16 (40.00) | 11 (27.50) | 13 (32.50) | 18 (45.00) | 11 (27.50) | 11 (27.50) | 11 (27.50) | 47 (39.16) | 40 (33.33) | 33 (27.50) | | |
| 8 | Classroom session (3 hour) is too long to concentrate | 12 (30.00) | 18 (45.00) | 10 (25.00) | 20 (50.00) | 8 (20.00) | 12 (30.00) | 19 (47.50) | 8 (20.00) | 10 (25.00) | 11 (27.50) | 51 (42.50) | 37 (30.83) | 32 (26.66) | | |
| 9 | Classes on Sundays/ market holidays affects business | 13 (32.50) | 18 (45.00) | 9 (22.50) | 12 (30.00) | 14 (35.00) | 14 (35.00) | 13 (32.50) | 14 (35.00) | 9 (22.50) | 9 (22.50) | 38 (31.66) | 41 (34.16) | 41 (34.16) | | |
| 10 | Difficulty in memorizing things | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 12 (30.00) | 16 (40.00) | 20 (50.00) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 9 (22.50) | 46 (38.33) | 36 (30.00) | 38 (31.66) | | |

Problems related to faculty and method of teaching

Perusal of the table 2 reveal that as far as the overall results are concerned 33.33 per cent input dealers have realized 'Resource persons invited for lectures are not competent' as the most severe problem, 43.33 per cent have expressed 'Experts do not create a friendly environment' as a severe problem and 37.50 per cent input dealers have submitted 'Resource persons don't use local language in classroom' as not a severe problem. Thus it is suggested that the NTIs and facilitators of DAESI programme should make an effort to invite experienced and competent resource persons only to deliver the lectures, who can create a friendly teaching- learning environment, as there is a provision of paying travelling allowance/ transport facility also to the guest faculty in DAESI programme.

Problems related to duration/ timing of DAESI training

The perusal of overall results have shown that majority of the input dealers i.e. 42.50 per cent felt 'Classroom session is too long to concentrate' as the most severe problem faced by them, 34.16 per cent of the input dealers have expressed 'Classes on Sundays/ market holidays affects businesses as a severe problem faced by them and 34.16 per cent of the input dealers have felt 'Classes on Sundays/ market holidays affects business' as not a severe problem. Thus it can be concluded that the major problems faced by the input dealers were the duration of classroom session which is three hours is too long to concentrate. This may be because most of the input dealers were middle aged and have left school years ago. Further as classes are conducted once a week only, it is difficult for the input dealers to maintain continuity. The duration of the programme (48 weeks) also seems quite long therefore the authorities should take appropriate refinement.

Administrative problems faced by input dealers under DAESI programme

In order to ascertain some possible administrative problems faced by input dealers under DAESI programme related to infrastructure facilities at the centre, method of evaluation and some other problems, a list of all relevant problems having 16 statements was prepared and the results are presented in Table 3 and are discussed under different sub heads:

The results regarding the administrative problems faced by the input dealers presented in table 3 are discussed under the following sub heads:

Problems related to infrastructure facilities available at the centre

Perusal of overall results have shown that 34.16

per cent of the input dealers felt 'No proper arrangement for drinking water' as the most severe problem, 42.50 per cent have expressed 'Suffocating classrooms' as a severe problem and 36.66 per cent of the input dealers have expressed 'Poor quality food' and 'No availability of generators' is not a severe problem. Thus it can be concluded that for majority of the statements, the input dealers were found to face either severe problem or not a severe problem, which indicates that all the three NTIs selected under study, are trying their best to provide good infrastructure facilities to the trainees but the improvement is still required, as around 30.00 per cent to 40.00 per cent of the input dealers have realized that these problems were either severe or most severe. Further, majority of the input dealers have also expressed frequent power cuts and poor quality food as the major problems. Thus the NTIs should take such problems very seriously and should make all efforts to solve them.

Problems related to the methods of evaluation

The overall results reveal that 29.16 per cent of the input dealers have expressed 'Classroom performance and attendance marks are not counted' as the most severe problem, 44.16 per cent of the input dealers felt 'Practical exams are not being evaluated', 'Evaluation is biased' and 'No debate and declamation activities' as severe problems and 38.33 per cent input dealers had conveyed 'Evaluation is not useful' as not a severe problem. Thus it can be concluded that majority of the input dealers were satisfied with the evaluation system. Many of them realized that classroom performance and marks for attendance were not being counted. They should be counted as these may motivate input dealers to attend classes regularly. Biometric system may also be used to make attendance counting easier.

Other problems

Perusal of overall results have shown that majority of the input dealers (39.16 per cent) have expressed 'Paying course fee is difficult' as the most severe problem, 40.83 per cent input dealers felt 'Biasness in the selection of the trainees' as a severe problem and 30.00 per cent of the input dealers had conveyed 'Paying course fee is difficult' as not a severe problem. Thus it can be concluded that course fee should either be reduced or exempted. Further, the references of the guest faculties should be shared with the trainees for future reference.

(n=120)

Table 3: Distribution of input dealers as per the administrative problems faced by the input dealers

| Sr. No. | Administrative problems faced by the input dealers | NTIs | | | | | | | | | | | | Overall n=120 | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | | KV/K, Ajmer n ₁ =40 | | | | ARS, ALWAR n ₂ =40 | | | | SIAM, Jaipur n ₃ =40 | | | | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem |
| | | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | | Most severe problem | Severe problem | Not a severe problem | | | | |
| a) Infrastructure facilities at the centre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Poor quality food | 10 (25.00) | 19 (47.50) | 11 (27.50) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 17 (42.50) | 10 (25.00) | 14 (35.00) | 16 (40.00) | 31 (25.83) | 45 (37.50) | 44 (36.66) | | | |
| 2 | No proper arrangement for drinking water | 8 (20.00) | 19 (47.50) | 13 (32.50) | 16 (40.00) | 8 (20.00) | 16 (40.00) | 17 (42.50) | 13 (32.50) | 10 (25.00) | 41 (34.16) | 40 (33.33) | 39 (32.50) | | | |
| 3 | Frequent power cuts | 7 (17.50) | 19 (47.50) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 16 (40.00) | 9 (22.50) | 15 (37.50) | 11 (27.50) | 14 (35.00) | 37 (30.83) | 46 (38.33) | 37 (30.83) | | | |
| 4 | No availability of generators | 9 (22.50) | 18 (45.00) | 13 (32.50) | 9 (22.50) | 11 (27.50) | 20 (50.00) | 16 (40.00) | 13 (32.50) | 11 (27.50) | 34 (28.33) | 42 (35.00) | 44 (36.66) | | | |
| 5 | No comfortable chairs | 8 (20.00) | 20 (50.00) | 12 (30.00) | 13 (32.50) | 14 (35.00) | 13 (32.50) | 15 (37.50) | 14 (35.00) | 11 (27.50) | 36 (30.00) | 48 (40.00) | 36 (30.00) | | | |
| 6 | Suffocating classrooms | 8 (20.00) | 20 (50.00) | 12 (30.00) | 12 (30.00) | 16 (40.00) | 12 (30.00) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 11 (27.50) | 34 (28.33) | 51 (42.50) | 35 (29.16) | | | |
| 7 | Washrooms are not maintained | 9 (22.50) | 19 (47.50) | 12 (30.00) | 11 (27.50) | 12 (30.00) | 17 (42.50) | 16 (40.00) | 17 (42.50) | 7 (17.50) | 36 (30.00) | 48 (40.00) | 36 (30.00) | | | |
| b) Methods of Evaluation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Practical exams are not evaluated | 9 (22.50) | 21 (52.50) | 10 (25.00) | 4 (10.00) | 18 (45.00) | 18 (45.00) | 16 (40.00) | 14 (35.00) | 10 (25.00) | 29 (24.16) | 53 (44.16) | 38 (31.66) | | | |
| 9 | Evaluation is biased | 7 (17.50) | 21 (52.50) | 12 (30.00) | 5 (12.50) | 18 (45.00) | 17 (42.50) | 14 (35.00) | 14 (35.00) | 12 (30.00) | 26 (21.66) | 53 (44.16) | 41 (34.16) | | | |
| 10 | Classroom performance and attendance marks are not counted | 10 (25.00) | 20 (50.00) | 10 (25.00) | 10 (25.00) | 14 (35.00) | 16 (40.00) | 15 (37.50) | 16 (40.00) | 9 (22.50) | 35 (29.16) | 50 (41.66) | 35 (29.16) | | | |
| 11 | No debate and declamation activities | 8 (20.00) | 19 (47.50) | 13 (32.50) | 5 (12.50) | 19 (47.50) | 16 (40.00) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 11 (27.50) | 27 (22.50) | 53 (44.16) | 40 (33.33) | | | |
| 12 | Evaluation is not useful | 8 (20.00) | 18 (45.00) | 14 (35.00) | 5 (12.50) | 16 (40.00) | 19 (47.50) | 12 (30.00) | 15 (37.50) | 13 (32.50) | 25 (20.83) | 49 (40.83) | 46 (38.33) | | | |
| 13 | Dissatisfactory results reduces morale | 10 (25.00) | 20 (50.00) | 10 (25.00) | 7 (17.50) | 19 (47.50) | 14 (35.00) | 15 (37.50) | 13 (32.50) | 12 (30.00) | 32 (26.66) | 52 (43.33) | 36 (30.00) | | | |
| c) Other problems | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Paying (Rs. 20,000/ Rs. 10,000) course fee is difficult | 14 (35.00) | 17 (42.50) | 9 (22.50) | 15 (37.50) | 8 (20.00) | 17 (42.50) | 18 (45.00) | 12 (30.00) | 10 (25.00) | 47 (39.16) | 37 (30.83) | 36 (30.00) | | | |
| 15 | No mechanism of contacts with resource person after the diploma programme | 11 (27.50) | 21 (52.50) | 8 (20.00) | 14 (35.00) | 10 (25.00) | 16 (40.00) | 17 (42.50) | 15 (37.50) | 8 (20.00) | 42 (35.00) | 46 (38.33) | 32 (26.66) | | | |
| 16 | Biasness in the selection of the trainees | 10 (25.00) | 20 (50.00) | 10 (25.00) | 12 (30.00) | 12 (30.00) | 16 (40.00) | 17 (42.50) | 17 (42.50) | 6 (15.00) | 39 (32.50) | 49 (40.83) | 32 (26.66) | | | |

(Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages)

Thus it can be concluded that the course fees of the programme should either be exempted or reduced else the programme should be sponsored by some agency that can bear the fees of the input dealers. Further some follow up measures should be taken after the completion of the training programme through SMSs or telephone calls or any other source. Contact details should be made available for the input dealers to contact resource persons in case they need some advice in future.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

CONCLUSION

The study clearly showed the various problems faced by the agri- input dealers during DAESI programme. It is expected to help the custodians to plan and implement this programme in such a way that the input dealers could drag maximum benefits out of this programme and could achieve the predetermined objective.

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