

RESEARCH NOTE

**Knowledge-level of Farmers
about Social Forestry**

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Social forestry has a vital and positive role to play in bringing about rural development with regard to clean environment, fuelwood, fodder, fencing posts, small timber and employment generation through forest based activities.

The knowledge of an innovation is prerequisite for adoption. The information about various aspects of cultivation of forest and fruit trees under Social forestry help farmers in boosting dissemination process. Keeping this in mind, a study was therefore conducted to assess the knowledge of farmers about Social forestry with following specific objectives :

- 1) To assess the knowledge-level of farmers about Social forestry.
- 2) To ascertain the relationship between selected personal variables and knowledge level of respondents about Social forestry.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in three

talukas of Kheda district viz. Petlad, Bor-sad and Anand. Three villages were randomly selected from each taluka. Total fifty respondents were selected randomly from nine villages.

For the purpose of this study, knowledge was operationalized as the amount of information and understanding of the respondents regarding various aspects of Social forestry. A suitable teacher-made type test was developed to measure knowledge-level of respondents. A test had 12 items in question form and answers of the respondents to each question were marked correct or incorrect. A score of one was given to correct answer and zero to an incorrect one. The possible total score that respondent could obtain vary from 0 to 12. The Mean (\bar{X}) and Standard Deviation (S.D.) were calculated and respondents were categorized in three classes as mentioned in Table 1.

In order to ascertain the existence or

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge level.

N = 50

Knowledge score	Number	Per cent
Low (upto 4 score)	10	20.00
Medium (5 to 7)	24	48.00
High (8 and above)	16	32.00
Total	50	100.00

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Table 2. Relationships between Selected Personal variables of the Respondents and their Knowledge-level.

Relationships	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)
Age & knowledge level	-0.2925 *
Education & knowledge level	0.8504 **
Caste & Knowledge level	0.6773 **
Landholding & knowledge level	0.4215 **
Attitude & knowledge level	0.8868 **

* = Significant at 5% level

** = Significant at 1% level

** = Significant at 1% level.

Non-existence of relationships, correlation-coefficient(r) was computed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from Table 1 that, majority of the respondents (48.00 per cent) had medium level of knowledge regarding Social forestry techniques followed by high level (32.00 per cent) and low level (20.00 per cent) of the respondents respectively.

Table 2 reveals that, all of selected personal variables expressed significant correlation with knowledge-level of respondents.

Age of the respondents had negative significant correlation with knowledge-level of the respondents. The probable reason might be that old-aged farmers are more skeptical in general to adopt such relatively new technology and lack of curiosity to know such new things.

Education had positive and significant relationship within Knowledge-level. It may be due to the fact that education broaden their visions and act as an instrument for innovations.

Caste also shown positive and sig-

nificant correlation with knowledge level. The probable reason might be that higher caste people might have enjoyed relatively more privileges of higher education and wider external contacts.

Similarly, land holding also found to be in positive and significant relationship with knowledge-level. The possible reason is that large size landholders are economically sound and can afford innovative idea in their own field.

Apparently, attitude also reveals positive and significant relationship with knowledge-level. this might be due to the reason that favourable attitude induce eagerness to know newer things and gradually develop insight lead to creativity.

CONCLUSION

This findings led to conclude that large majority of the respondents had medium to high level of knowledgde about Social Forestry and their knowledge-level found to be affected by certain personal variables like : Age, Education, Land holding and Attitude of the respondents.