

## RESEARCH NOTE

### **Training Needs of Banana Growers of Kheda District of Gujarat State**

**Talati Jayesh**<sup>1</sup>

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Scientific farming implies shift from traditional methods of cultivations to new techno-based methods of production. therefore, farmers are require to be made fully aware and knowledgeable about latest developed technolgies for its better use in farming system to have desired yield. Since last decade consumption of fruits have desired yield. Since last decade consumption of fruits has been increasing to a considerable extent. Among all the fruits, banana occupies a special place as it is available throughout the year and at cheaper rate in all the parts of the country. Gujarat state contributes about 15 per cent of total banana production of the country. The major area under banana cultivation found in Vadodara, Kheda, Surat and Bharuch districts. According to the data of 1989-90, the cultivation of banana in Kheda district largely found in Borsad and Anand Talukas. For successful cultivation of banana, farmers of the area are required to be made aware about the latest development by imparting proper training. To develop an effective training programme, it is essential to identify the training needs of the banana growers. Keeping these facts in view, a study entitled "Training Needs of Banana Growers of Kheda District of Gujarat State" was undertaken with the following specific objectives :

1. To identify the training needs of the banana growers.

2. To study the relationship between socio-economic characteristics and training needs of banana growers.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Kheda district of Gujarat State, because it stands second in area and production in banana crop. Two talukas from the district, five villages from each taluka and ten respondents from each village were randomly selected which constituted total sample of 100 banana growers.

The data were collected by personal interview of the banana growers with the help of interview schedule. The training needs of the banana growers was measured by applying three point rating scale "most needed", "somewhat needed" and "not needed" with the score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The training need was ascertained on the basis of knowledge possessed and various recommended practices adopted by the banana growers. To lay down the need hierarchy, the mean score for each item was calculated on the basis of which ranks were assigned to them. To find out the relationship of socio-economic characteristics with the training needs of the banana growers, the co-efficient of correlation (Pearson's product moment correlation test) 'r' was used. As this measures the extent and direction of the association between independent and dependent variables.

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<sup>1</sup> Ex. P.G. student, B.A.C.A., Anand.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The information relating to the training needs of banana growers for important cultural practices is given in the Table 1.

It may be inferred from the results obtained from Table 1 that, out of seven cultural practices, the practices required more attention were 'treatment of suckers', 'knowledge about improved varieties', and 'selection of suckers' as these practices obtained first, second and third rank respectively for imparting training to the respondents.

Banana is mainly propagated vegetatively by means of suckers which is considered to be the seed material for multiplication. Therefore, suckers require proper and careful selection and treat-

ment for successful banana cultivation. Very few improved varieties have been recommended for this area and hence, banana growers aware about only recommended varieties for the area. They might not be interested for the varieties recommended for the other areas. These are why selection and treatment of suckers and knowledge about improved varieties of banana were considered as those areas in which training is needed most.

A critical examination of the data presented in Table 2 revealed that :

1. Out of seven socio-economic characteristics, age was found to be positively and significantly related with the training needs of banana growers.
2. Education was found to be negatively

**Table 1. Training needs of the Respondents for important Cultural Practices for Banana Cultivation.**

N = 100						
Sr. No.	Cultural Practices	Degrass of Training			Mean score	Rank
		Most needed (per cent)	Somewhat needed (per cent)	Not needed (per cent)		
1	Knowledge about improved varieties	73	0	27	2.46	II
2	Recommended variety grown	14	0	86	1.28	VII
3	Selection of suckers	50	41	9	2.41	III
4	Treatment of suckers	70	18	12	2.58	I
5	Proper time of planting suckers	49	27	24	2.25	IV
6	Distance of planting	13	6	81	1.32	VI
7	Time and stage of harvesting Banana	17	31	52	1.65	V

**Table 2. Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and training needs of the banana growers.**

		N = 100
Sr. No.	Characteristics of the Repondents	Correlation co- efficient value with training needs
1.	Age	0.29940 *
2.	Education	- 0.69961 *
3.	Occupation	- 0.09745 NS
4.	Land holding	- 0.17560 NS
5.	Social participation	0.03177 NS
6.	Irrigation facilities	0.14490 NS
7.	Annual income	- 0.13595 NS

\* = Significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS = Non-significant.

and significantly related with the training needs of banana growers.

3. Whereas occupation, land holding, social participation, irrigation facilities and annual income were not found to be related with the training needs of banana growers.

The relationship observed may be due to the fact that, as age of a person increases, his knowledge becomes obsolete and he might not be aware about the latest technology. This might be due to the fact that education develops the mental faculty of an individual and increases ability together knowledge and skill from different sources.

### CONCLUSION

As regards the training needs for different cultural practices, the practices required more attention were "treatment of suckers", "knowledge about improved varieties" and "selection of suckers" for imparting training to the respondents. Out of seven socio-economic characteristics only age was found to be positively and significantly related with training needs of banana growers, while education was found to be negatively and significantly related with training needs of banana growers under study. It means that age and education significantly exerted their influence on training needs of banana growers.