

Impact of Lab to Land Programme on farmers' knowledge in South Gujarat

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INTRODUCTION

Transfer of farm technology to the subsistence has been the focus of Indian planners and farm scientists. Efforts have been made to transfer the technology to the tillers of soil through various media of communication either singly or in combination. The Lab to Land Programme (LLP) is one of its kind which is the latest innovative introduction and is dedicated to the bread winners of our country. This programme was started by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi on the eve of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations in the year 1979. The programme aims at transfer of proved and viable low cost technologies to the adopted farm families in order to improve their overall socio-economic condition, small and marginal farmers in particular and the others in general.

The programme is playing an important role in increasing the knowledge of the farmers as regards the improved farm technologies through its various extension activities. The explicit importance and crucial contribution of the LLP to agricultural development certainly call for a scientific study to assess the influence of the programme on knowledge level of farmers for whom the learning situations were designed. The specific objectives of this study were: (1) to

ascertain the impact of LLP on the knowledge level of adopted and non-adopted farmers and (2) to find out association between socio-economic characteristics of the adopted and non-adopted farmers and knowledge of improved farm technology.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted during the year 1990. The Gujarat Agricultural University, Navsari Campus has adopted 1169 farm families during third phase (1984 to 1986) of the programme. Out of 1169 farm families, 627 farmers were cultivating paddy crop of which 475 families were scattered in 14 villages of Valsad district and 152 families were scattered in 11 villages of Surat district. All twenty five villages are selected for the study. From each selected villages, four adopted farmers were selected randomly. Thus, 100 adopted farmers were selected for the study. To know the impact of the programme the same number of non-adopted farmers were selected by matching certain personal and socio-economic factors from the same village using random sampling. Thus, the total sample of study comprised of 200 farmers. The knowledge test developed by Jha and Singh (1970) was applied to find out the knowledge level of respondents regarding recommended package of practices of paddy crop.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge level of the respondents

It is evident from Table 1 that majority of the adopted (54.00%) and non-adopted farmers (63.00%) were in medium knowledge group. The high knowledge group

consisted of 38.00 per cent of adopted farmers as against only 2.00 per cent of non-adopted farmers. Only 8.00 per cent of adopted farmers as against 35.00 per cent of non farmers adopted were in the low knowledge group.

Table 1 : Percentage of adopted and non-adopted farmers by knowledge score

Category	Adopted farmers (n=100)	Non-adopted farmers (n=100)
Low knowledge group	8.00	35.00
Medium knowledge group	54.00	63.00
High Knowledge group	38.00	2.00
Total	100.00	100.00

`t' test was applied to know whether adopted and non-adopted farmers differ significantly in respect of their knowledge regarding paddy

cultivation and results of which are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Average scores of knowledge among adopted and non-adopted farmers

Category	N	Mean score	Standard deviation	`t' value
Adopted farmers	100	13.17	3.23	11.97**
Non-adopted farmers	100	8.50	2.18	

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

As evident from Table 2, `t' value was found to be highly significant indicating that adopted farmers had significantly higher knowledge regarding improved paddy cultivation than the non-adopted farmers. This may be because of close contacts between scientists and adopted farmers. Secondly, the adopted farmers might be more aware of improved package of practices of paddy

crop due to participation in demonstration meeting, training, etc.

Thus, it can concluded that the LLP created good impact on the minds of adopted farmers. As such, the programme was not only successful in increasing the knowledge of adopted farmers about improved paddy package of practices but also motivated them to adopt these practices.

Relationship between socio-economic characteristics of respondents and their level of knowledge.

The data in Table 3 reveal that age, size of land holding and social participation of adopted and non-adopted farmers were not related to the level of knowledge regarding improved practices of paddy crop. While

the education, image of the programme and attitude towards the programme were associated with the level of knowledge. This indicates that the adopters and non-adopters level of knowledge could be increased if they have better education, better perception about the programme and favourable attitude towards the programme.

Table 3 : Relationship between socio-economic characteristics of the adopted and non-adopted farmers and their level of knowledge regarding improved practices of paddy crop.

Sr. No.	Socio-economic characteristics	Chi-square value (χ^2)	
		Adopted farmers	Non-adopted farmers
1.	Age	06.66 NS	0.723 NS
2.	Education	21.29 **	21.64 **
3.	Family type	6.12 *	0.64 NS
4.	Family size	10.49 *	0.51 NS
5.	Size of land holding	5.89 NS	4.10 NS
6.	Social participation	3.96 NS	6.09 NS
7.	Image	30.94 **	15.50 **
8.	Attitude	28.79 **	23.73 **

NS = Non significant

* = Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** = Significant at 0.05 level of probability

CONCLUSIONS

From the findings of the present investigation, it could be concluded that the adopted farmers had significantly higher level of knowledge as compared to non-adopted farmers. Among the socio-economic char

acteristics of adopters and non-adopters, their education, image of the programme and attitude towards the programme were found associated with their level of knowledge regarding improved practices of paddy crop.

REFERENCES

- Jha, P.N. and Singh, K.N. 1970 A test to measure farmers' knowledge about High Yielding Variety Programme, Inter Discipline, 7 (i) : 65-67

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data presented in Table 1 reveal that majority of the contact farmers (74.44 per cent) and non-contact farmers (84.45 per cent) were found in medium level of knowledge. There were 15.56 per cent contact

farmers as against 2.22 per cent non-contact farmers who had high level of knowledge. Ten per cent of the contact farmers and 13.33 per cent of the non-contact farmers had low level of knowledge.

Table 1 : Knowledge level of the contact and non-contact farmers about gram production technology.

Level of knowledge	Contact farmers (N=90)		Non-contact farmers(N=90)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Low	9	10.00	12	13.33
Medium	67	74.44	76	84.45
High	14	15.56	2	2.22
Total	90	100.00	90	100.00

The 'Z' test was applied to know whether the contact and non-contact farmers differed significantly in respect of their

level of knowledge regarding recommended gram production technology. The results of which are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Comparison between the contact and non-contact farmers in respect of their knowledge regarding gram production technology.

Respondent	Number	Mean score of knowledge	Mean sum of square	'Z' value
Contact farmers	90	52.58	154.51	1.97 *
Non-contact farmers	90	48.92	156.13	

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

'Z' Value was found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability, indicating that the contact farmers had significantly higher knowledge regarding gram production technology than non-contact farmers. The probable reason for such observation might be that non-contact farmers have less extension contact, low literacy level, unavailability of farm literature and low mass media exposure than the contact farmers.

The present findings are in line with the findings of Prasad (1980) and Patel (1989).

CONCLUSIONS

It could be concluded that majority of the contact and non-contact farmers were found in medium level of knowledge. The contact farmers had significantly higher knowledge of gram production technology than the non-contact farmers.