

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Determining youth as key stakeholder in agriculture and allied sectors - a panacea to curb the exodus of farm youth

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ARTICLE CHRONICLE :

Received :

11.07.2017;

Accepted :

25.08.2017

KEY WORDS :

Determining, Stakeholder, Allied sector, Panacea, Exodus

SUMMARY : Agriculture plays a critical role in future food security of our country. With global expectations, it should play a huge role in feeding the world population, which will likely exceed nine billion by 2050. Engaging rural youth in agriculture is the only key to meet the world's food crisis. But the perceptible unenthusiastic attitude of rural youth towards agriculture is a real concern and challenge to the future of agriculture in India. Considering this point of view, a study was conducted among 160 migrant rural youths and 40 non migrant rural youth with agricultural background. The empowerment needs demanded by them to return and retain in agriculture were earthed out in order to develop a perspective model on youth as key stakeholder in agriculture and allied sector. Technological needs like training on entrepreneurial skill development (86.87%), training on effective farm management (83.75%) and social empowerment needs like creation of credit and loan scheme for youth in agriculture (96.87%), formation of farm youth self help groups (90.62%) were the vital empowerment needs essential for the migrant rural youth to actively get involved in agriculture. For non migrant rural youth, technological needs like training on post harvest technologies (100%), training on farm diversification (95.00%) and social empowerment needs like inclusion/participation in programme planning related to agriculture and rural development (100%), creation of credit and loan scheme for the youth in agriculture (92.50%) were the foremost required empowerment needs.

How to cite this article : Anamica, M. and Lavanya, P. (2017). Determining youth as key stakeholder in agriculture and allied sectors - a panacea to curb the exodus of farm youth. *Agric. Update*, 12 (TECHSEAR-10): 2947-2953.

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