

Analyzing trainees' view point for evaluating organizational aspects of workshops on 'Group Dynamics'

S.P.S. BRAR AND VISHAL KHULLAR

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

VISHAL KHULLAR
Punjab Agricultural
Management and
Extension Training
Institute, Punjab
Agricultural University
Campus, LUDHIANA,
(PUNJAB) INDIA

ABSTRACT

The objectives of the paper propose to study the impact of workshop on trainees and to know the points requiring consideration on the part of organizers and trainers. In the workshop(s), trainees were presented with the proforma containing both close-structured and open-ended questions before the commencement of the concluding session(s). Although no-response was the problem with the trainees, but majority of them indicated satisfactory gain in their information, knowledge and wisdom. On the whole, it can be said that the workshop on 'Group-Dynamics' was very successful. More than 47 % of the respondents could not find even a single weakness in the workshops. All the dimensions of the workshop were remarked as 'very good' by majority of the trainees. The workshops seem to be conducted at the near-perfection level. The study indicates satisfactory performance of the organizers of the workshop.

INTRODUCTION

It can be recalled that after the liberalization of trade in 1995, Indian economy got exposed to the direct competition in the world market. It is a well-known fact that the liberalization had a direct impact on agriculture sector of the country. Due to fragmentation of land holdings, the size of the holdings has become uneconomical. According to the Statistical Abstract of Punjab (2005), 61.6 % of the operational holdings in India are less than 2.5 acres in size. Efforts were made towards co-operative farming but it could not succeed in the region on account of its inbuilt limitations. Now, the efforts have been oriented towards group farming with a view to ensure not only proper utilization of the existing agricultural resources of the economy, but also to suit the socio-cultural and political set up of the country.

In 1998, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, started National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). Keeping in view the various constraints of the agricultural extension scenario of the country, Innovation in Technology Dissemination (ITD) was introduced as one of the components of the project. Presently, the scheme is known as reforms in agricultural extension. One of the mandates of the scheme is to promote farmer-led extension through Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs). State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs)

functioning under the ongoing project are playing the role in capacity building of the extension specialists working at grass root level to provide extension services to the farmers. Punjab Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI) is one such institute located at the campus of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and is conducting training programmes for the above stated officials.

Keeping in view the scenario discussed above, PAMETI, has been organizing the workshops on 'Group Dynamics' for agriculture extension officers from various districts and blocks of the state. The present study examines the workshops' Evaluation proforma of all those participants who have attended the workshops, with the overall objective of evaluating the workshops from trainees' views of point.

METHODOLOGY

Six workshops on the topic 'Group Dynamics' or 'Developing and Working with Farmers' Groups', as conducted by PAMETI were taken in the present study. These workshops were held at the time lapse of minimum two months and maximum nine months. The respective workshops were held in Dec. 2003, July 2004, Jan. 2005, Oct. 2005, Dec. 2005 and Sept. 2006. The number of participants were 17, 22, 19, 15, 12 and 10,

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