

Impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra training on adoption of vermicompost technology by participant farmers in north Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The study conducted in the jurisdiction of KVK, Bijapur district of Karnataka state during 2006-07 revealed that, trained farmers had medium to high level of adoption. Technologies which required less skill, low cost and easy to adopt were fully adopted by farmers. Education, media and extension participation, innovativeness, scientific orientation acted as a catalyst to gain knowledge, which in turn influenced the adoption. The constraints faced by trained farmers were non-availability of raw materials, lack of handling skills and lack of finance to expand the production. Knowledge gained and exposure to technology during the training session has positive impact on trained farmers in adoption of vermicompost technology.

INTRODUCTION

Training of farmer is a critical input for the rapid transfer of agriculture technology to their fields. It is a way of modernizing their farms on one hand and improving their socio-economic conditions on the other hand. To increase the food production at the rate of at least three % per year, the efforts of government organizations alone is not sufficient. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi during the fifth five year plan, launched an innovative project for imparting training in agriculture and allied areas to the farmers, school drop outs and field level extension functionaries in the country by establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The first KVK, on pilot basis was established in 1994 at Pondicherry under the administrative control of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (Choudhary, 1999). Since then, 536 KVKs have been established in the country during the last 30 years (Anonymous, 2006). KVKs are being run under the state Agriculture Universities, ICAR Institutes, central Universities and NGO's.

These KVKs have been assigned to take up the responsibilities of technology evaluation and impact assessment, demonstration of technology on the farmers field, organizing training courses for the extension functionaries to update their knowledge and skills and conduct training for the farmers. One of the

mandates is to organize short and long term vocational training courses in Agriculture and allied activities for the farmers with the emphasis on "learning by doing" for higher production on farm and generating self-employment.

In this back drop, the present study was designed with the following specific objectives to know the adoption behaviour of trained farmers about vermicompost technology, to find out the correlation between socio-personal and psychological characteristics and adoption level of trained farmers and to study the constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of vermicompost technology.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted during 2006-07 in the jurisdiction of KVK, Bijapur. A list of farmers who were undergone training on vermicompost technology was obtained from KVK, Bijapur. Highest number of trainees were observed from six villages viz., Yamal, Utnal, Telagi, Akalwadi, Managoli and Tikota. Ten trained farmers from each village were randomly selected. Thus, the total sample size of the study constituted 60 respondents. A teacher made test was developed to know the adoption level and constraints faced by trained farmers. The data were collected using pre-tested interview schedule and the same was analysed with the help of frequency,

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