



Knowledge of extension personnel about horticultural recommendations on selected fruit crops

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Nasik and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra, during the year 2009-2010. The data were collected from 259 extension personnel viz., Agricultural Assistants (197), Agricultural Supervisors (39) and Agricultural Officers (23). The study revealed that more than half (54.05 per cent) of the extension personnel belonged to the category of medium knowledge level whereas, 28.57 per cent of respondents belonged to high knowledge level category and 17.37 per cent of the respondents belonged to the category of low knowledge level. The variables like education, in-service training participation in professional organizations, facilities available, job satisfaction, achievement motivation and information source use were found to be highly significant relationship with knowledge level.

Shinde, S.B. and Kolgane, B.T. (2011). Knowledge of extension personnel about horticultural recommendations on selected fruit crops. *Agric.Update*, 6(3&4): 155-160.

INTRODUCTION

Indian farmers are facing various challenges for their sustainable livelihood. Therefore, there is a need to change from traditional farming to modern farming. In the present situation, not only the state, but at national level, horticulture farming is becoming beneficial to the farming community. The efforts are undertaken for the benefit of farming community by the SAUs, governments and various development departments for generation of horticultural innovations, provision of subsidies and transfer of technology. MPKV, Rahuri has generated various horticultural innovations on high yielding varieties cultivation practices, plant protection measures and post-harvest technology. It is very much essential to create awareness among the farming community about such valuable horticultural recommendations. This work of creating awareness is undertaken by extension functionaries, the Department of Agriculture.

For effective communication of these innovations acquiring the knowledge by the extension personnel working at various levels is essential. Along with knowledge of the innovations, the extension personnel need to have knowledge of handling of different extension techniques for transfer of technology.

The extension personnel namely, Agricultural Assistants, Agricultural Supervisors and Agricultural Officers working at field level have to play a vital role in effective transfer of horticultural recommendations to the farming community. The efficiency and effectiveness of the system mainly depends upon these extension personnel who are expected to perform the duties assigned to them. It is, therefore, important that their proficiency in gaining knowledge has to be raised and maintained at a high level. In view of the crucial nature of the role that the extension personnel are expected to play in the modern horticultural production, there is need for systematic study of their knowledge in transfer of technology.

Many studies have been conducted and transfer of farm technology is general, but more studies on knowledge and effectiveness of extension staff in specific areas, especially in horticulture, is needed. Such studies may prove helpful. With these views in mind, the present study was carried out with the objective to study the background characteristics of the extension personnel, and to study the level of knowledge of extension personnel in fruit crops recommendation.

Key words :

Fruit crops,
Extension
personnel,
Knowledge level

Received:

Jul., 2011;

Revised:

Aug., 2011;

Accepted :

Oct., 2011