



Research Article

Constraints faced by the experts working at KVKs'

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Article Chronicle :

Received :

28.02.2012;

Revised :

14.02.2012;

Accepted :

10.03.2012

SUMMARY : The expert system can play a major role in the dissemination and adoption of useful knowledge for agriculture. Some constraints perceived by experts working at KVKs, create problem for transfer of technology. Hence, the study was carried out with an objective to know the constraints faced by the experts working at KVKs' and to seek the suggestions to overcome the constraints. The study was made the Department of Extension Education, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari (Gujarat) during the year 2009-2010. Pre-structured questionnaire was used for data collection. It was observed that non-availability of vehicle for on campus training (67.30 per cent) was the main constraint perceived by the expert working at KVKs' and followed by lack of co-operation from colleagues (64.42 per cent), multifarious duty (59.63 per cent), and non-availability of need based and location specific research (55.77 per cent). The suggestions to overcome the constraints mentioned by the experts were availability of vehicle for on and off campus for training (63.46 per cent) organization of multifarious activities based on need and time (58.63 per cent) and recommendations on location specific conditions (57.79 per cent).

How to cite this article : Kadam, M.S., Pandya, R.D., Kolgane, B.T. and Khogare, D.T. (2012). Constraints faced by the experts working at KVKs'. *Agric. Update*, 7(1&2): 102-104.

Key Words :

Constraints, Experts and KVKs'

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Expert system can be a major tool for agricultural information dissemination for technology transfer from scientists to agricultural extension workers, different group of farmers, and private investors. Thus the expert system can play a major role in the dissemination and adoption of useful knowledge leading to economic growth and higher standard of living. They are not only the vehicles to apply experts' knowledge to particular problems, but they are potentially powerful learning resources also to help users to develop their own expertise (Ganeshan, 2003).

The expert system can be replicated in community development and can be kept at different KVKs' which can spread their wings to cover a major part of the country (Islam *et al.*, 2005).

This system technique has been emerging for the last two decades and its application has proliferated into the agricultural domain in a number of sub-areas like crop management with respect to time and method of application of irrigation,

fertilizer, etc. In short, they are excellent tools for transferring agricultural technology (Ramasubramanian, 2006).

In the present day, main functions of the KVKs' are to conduct training programmes, on-farm testing (OFT), Front line demonstration (FLD), and technology refinement. In the year 2008-09, KVKs' refined 520 technologies at 2,044 locations with 20,002 OFTs and 75,825 FLDs including various crops, livestock's and fishery. Moreover, 51,774 training programme were organized with 12,42,000 farmers, including rural youths while, 2,64,485 extension programme were organized involving 8,069,061 farmers, through which 5,102 improved livestock strains of dairy animals, piglets, goat, sheep were produced. In addition 2,258 demonstrations were also organized on various tools and implements related to tillage operation (Anonymous, 2008-2009). Hence, the present investigation was undertaken with an objective to study the constraints faced by the experts working at KVKs' and to seek the suggestions to overcome the constraints.

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