



Research Article

Impact of on-campus trainings conducted by the KVK Sriganganagar on the knowledge level of farmers friends (Krishak Mitras)

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SUMMARY : Farmers friends work as the village level extension worker under ATMA in each and every district of Rajasthan. They face various problems related to the different aspects agriculture, hence government of Rajasthan decided to train the farmers friends through Krishi Vigyan Kendra of the district. The study was conducted on 1000 farmers friends of Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan. The findings of this study highlighted that there was a significant gain in the knowledge about different aspect of agriculture included in the training programme. The correlation between knowledge of agricultural aspects and socio-personnel characteristics of trainees showed that caste, education, occupation, mass media exposure, contact with extension agent and annual income were positively where as age, type of family and size of holding were negatively correlated.

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Key Words :

Farmers friends,
Extent of knowledge,
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The concept of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) was introduced in 1999 as an autonomous organization under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) by providing flexible working environment with objective of integrating research, extension and all other stake holders at the district level to support the farmer's needs and interest through an integrated approach of strategic plan. ATMA is a society of key stake holders involved in agricultural activities for sustainable agricultural development in the district. Involvement of farmers can be achieved at the village level through farmer's interest groups (FIGs), at block level as a member of farmer's advisory committee (FAC) and at district level as the member of ATMA governing board. The concept of ATMA envisages paradigm shift from "top down" to "bottom up" in the planning and implementation of agriculture development programmes.

There is a need of a person who acts as extension worker in a village, so a farmers friend from the same village is selected under ATMA

scheme for this purposes through the Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat and locally known as "Krishak Metras" The Farmer Friend (FF) will serve as a vital link between extension system and farmers at village level (one for every two villages). The FF will be available in the village to advise on agriculture and allied activities. The FF will mobilize farmers' groups and facilitate dissemination of information to such groups, individual farmers and farm women directly through one to one interaction individually or in groups and also by accessing information/services on behalf of farmers as per need through Common Service Centres (CSC)/Kisan Call Centres (KCC). The farmers friends are not to be paid any cash-compensation. Rs. 4000 per farmer's friend per year will be provided to meet out contingency expenditure, FF may be provided cash incentives and /or honorarium. The responsibility to train these farmers friends on various aspects of agriculture was given to the Krishi Vigyan Kendra of the district.

One of the main tasks of Krishi Vigyan Kendra is to provide and improve the level of

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