



RESEARCH PAPER

Intervention programme on organic farming to improve the capacity of marginal farmers in Jorhat district of Assam

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Abstract : In India, agriculture contributes nearly one quarter of the crop and majority of the population is dependent on farm activities. The land holding per farmer in India is very insufficient compared to the other parts of the globe. According to Census 2011, in India 67.10 per cent of the total land holdings were belonged to marginal farmers. Government of Assam also reveals that marginal farmers constituted the largest segment (67.32%) of the total holdings in Assam. In Jorhat, 59.63 per cent of the total land holdings were belonged to marginal farmers. In comparison to the other progressive states, most of the agricultural land holdings of Assam are considered as organic by default because of less or no application of fertilizers and chemicals in production process. Farmers that are practicing organic farming not only fulfilling the requirements of family consumption but also give fair amount of income by reducing the cost of cultivation with a sustainability of agro eco system. But, due to limited land holdings, marginal farmers are unable to afford hi-tech systems for agricultural production. Also, there is a wide scope of organic farming which generates rural employment, provides food security at the house hold level, offer best prospects for poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood outcomes with maximum utilization of local natural inputs. However, the need of the hour is to promote organic farming by increasing the capacity of the marginal farmers through intervention programmes. Therefore, this study was conducted on sixty (60) marginal farmers from four adopted villages of College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat who were actively involved in the various activities of cultivation of vegetable crops. In order to educate the trainees on organic farming; lecture cum discussion, demonstration and communication with visual aids were used. Information on capacity of marginal farmers gathered from training was collected by interviewing the selected trainees with the help of interview schedule. The findings revealed that farmers knowledge before intervention was low. After the scores obtained from both the pre and post test, 't' test was applied to know whether there was significant difference between the mean pre and mean post test score.

Key Words : Organic farming, Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, Growers, Training

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