

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# Gain in knowledge of Krishak Mitra through training

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**SUMMARY :**

**ARTICLE CHRONICLE :**

**Received :**

10.07.2014;

**Accepted :**

27.04.2015

**How to cite this article :** Pagaria, Pradeep (2015). Gain in knowledge of Krishak Mitra through training. *Agric. Update*, 10(2): 177-179.

**KEY WORDS :**

Krishi Mitra, Agriculture technology, Socio-economic Farmer's interest group, Farmer's advisory committee

In view of recent advancement in the agricultural technologies and more and more involvement of Krishak Mitra in agriculture, the role of Krishak Mitra is not just to educate the Krishak Mitra regarding agriculture technologies but they have to pay equal attention towards dissemination of agro-based technologies for the socio-economic upliftment of the rural families. For this, it is imperative that the women functionaries should have through knowledge in agriculture and allied areas. Keeping this in view a 5 days training on agricultural technology for Krishak Mitra was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barmer in collaboration with ATMA, Barmer.

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 group (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 farmer's friend from the same village is selected under ATMA schemes for this purpose through the Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat and locally known as "Krishak Mitras". The Krishak Mitra will serve as a vital link between extension system and farmers at village level (one for every two villages). The Krishak Mitra will be available in the village to advice on agriculture and allied activities. The Krishak Mitra will mobilize farmers groups and facilitate dissemination of information to such groups, individual farmers and farm

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**Table 1 : Per cent gain in knowledge of different subjects through training (n=50)**

Sr. No.	Subjects	Before training average score	After training average score	Gain in knowledge (y-x)	Per cent gain in knowledge
1.	Farm management	41.20	58.25	17.05	41.38
2.	Agronomy	35.26	51.63	16.37	46.42
3.	Plant pathology	31.63	48.26	16.63	52.57
4.	Soil water conservation	42.13	59.64	17.51	41.56
5.	Entomology	33.17	51.96	18.79	56.64
6.	Horticulture	32.52	55.37	22.85	70.26
7.	Govt. schemes	25.63	45.28	19.65	76.66

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/ Kisan Call Centres. The Krishak Mitras are not to be paid any cash compensation. Rs. 4000/- per Krishak Mitras per year will be provided to meet out contingency expenditure, Krishak Mitra may be provided cash incentives and /or honorarium. The responsibility to train these Krishak Mitra 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 knowledge of trainees about the improved farm practices, because knowledge is cognitive of individuals mind and plays an important role in convert as well as overt behavior and individual with a greater knowledge of technical nature of improved practices would lead to high adoption possibly because knowledge is not inert. Once knowledge is acquired and retained, it undergoes and produces changes in the thinking process and mental alchemy. This study was, therefore, conducted to ascertain the prevailing level of awareness knowledge of Krishak Mitra training programme.

The present study was undertaken in the entire Blocks of Barmer district. A Krishak Mitras was selected from two revenue villages through the Gram Sabha of Gram Panchyat. Selected Krishak Mitras are sent to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras for getting training on different aspects of agriculture. These 50 Krishak Mitras are trained on various aspects of agriculture in training programme at KVK for the period of five days. A knowledge test was developed to ascertain the knowledge of Krishak Mitras on various aspects of agriculture. The gain in knowledge was operational zed as difference between the knowledge was operationalized as difference between the knowledge regarding various aspects of agriculture as livelihood before and after the exposure of trainings. Knowledge scores were calculated for both

the test separately. The difference between the two scores *i.e.* before the training and after the training was considered as gain in knowledge.

The ultimate objective of training was that each Krishak Mitra must gain knowledge of the subjects which were taught to them. Table 1 depicts the average knowledge score of the trainees before and after the training, gain in knowledge and average per cent gain in knowledge. Data in Table 1 show that there was significant impact of the training on the knowledge of the trainees. The difference between the knowledge of the trainees before and after receiving training was markedly high. which may be supported by value which was significant of probability. While going into the details it was noted that gain in knowledge of the trainees was ranging from 41.38 to 76.66 per cent and average gain was 55.07 per cent. This wider variation in the gain in knowledge shows that few Krishak Mitra gained more knowledge whereas, few gained very little knowledge. One of the obvious reasons for this difference might be because of lack of homogeneity among the trainees. Almost similar results were reported by Aiswal *et al.* (2008), Bhati *et al.* (2012), Dubey *et al.* (2008) and Prakash and De (2008).

### Conclusion :

On the basis of the above findings it could be concluded that the trainings course was effective in terms of increasing the existing knowledge of the Krishak Mitra about different agricultural aspects, which would certainly help them in dissemination of agricultural information among the Krishak Mitra.

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