

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Constraints faced and suggestions given by households in adoption of KVK intervention

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SUMMARY : Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in India have been established by ICAR to cater the needs of the farming communities. Krishi Vigyan Kendra is an innovative science based institution which undertakes vocational training to farmers, farmwomen and rural youth. The overall objective of KVKs is technology assessment, refinement and demonstration for developing location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises. To ascertain the objectives of KVK the mandates are conducting on-farm testing and frontline demonstrations, organizing trainings for farmers and extension personnel and KVKs act as resource and knowledge centre of agricultural technology for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for improving the agricultural economy of the district. The KVK, Saidapur managed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad was purposively selected for the study. Purposive sampling technique was adopted for the selection of the district, and farmers. Three important income and employment generating training programmes (interventions) viz., vermicompost, seed production and household enterprise (vermicelli) were selected. In each intervention, 40 respondents were randomly selected making a sample of 120. The study was based on both secondary and primary data. Garrett ranking technique was used for analysis of the data. In adoption of vermicompost intervention, majority of the respondents expressed financial problem, rate of interest and difficult to obtain subsidy. In adoption of soyabean seed production intervention, majority of the respondents expressed high cost of fertilizer as the major constraint followed by low price of the produce and storage facilities. In adoption of vermicelli production intervention, majority of the respondents expressed lack of availability of loan and high cost of machines. Suggestions given by households in adoption of KVK intervention are easy availability of subsidy, reduce the rate of interest and provide storage facility.

KEY WORDS:

KVK, Adoption, Constraints

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The present growth rate of population in India demands a production of additional 5-6 million tonnes of food grains every year for ensuring food security of the country. Whatever may be the distinctive features of

agriculture, to feed ever growing population, we need about 270.40 million tonnes of food grains by 2020 AD. India has produced 264.38 million tonnes of food grains during 2013-14 compared to 257.13 million tonnes in the previous year. This is the highest ever food

grains production, surpassing all earlier records through increased land productivity.

To propel Indian agriculture into 21st century, the quality, technical skills and management of agriculture manpower must improve in consonance with rapidly changing national and global market needs. If any organization wishes to assume a leadership role, it has no option but to strengthen its human resource base. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) is fully seized of this issue and hence providing highest priority to the human resource development in 10th five year plan through Agricultural Human Resource Development Project. There were four main ToT projects of ICAR, viz., All India Co-ordinated Project on National Demonstrations (AICPND), Operational Research Project (ORP), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Lab to Land Programme (LLP). All these projects were of mobile type except the KVKs, which are vocational training institutions and district knowledge centre.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), the light house for rural people, is an innovative science based institution, which undertakes vocational training of farmers, farm women, and rural youths, conducts on-farm research for technology refinement and organizes frontline demonstrations to promptly demonstrate the latest agriculture technologies to the farmers as well as the extension workers. The KVK functions on the principles of collaborative participation of scientists, subject-matter experts, extension workers and farmers.

Even though KVK provides training on all aspects for starting the new enterprise the households are not ready to adopt the things that was given by experts in KVK's.

In concern with this, the study was conducted to know the

– Constraints faced by households in adoption of KVK intervention

– Suggestions given by the household for improving the KVK intervention.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The KVK, Saidapur managed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad was purposively selected for the study owing to convenience and cost considerations. Purposive sampling technique was adopted for the selection of the district, and farmers. Three important income and employment generating training

programmes (interventions) viz., vermicompost, seed production and household enterprise (vermicelli) were selected. These three training programmes were selected because the KVK had organized maximum number of training programmes on these aspects. In each intervention, 40 respondents were randomly selected making a sample of 120. The study was based on both secondary and primary data. The data collected from respondents of selected interventions serve as the primary sources of data and the annual reports of KVKs since 2005 serve as secondary source of data. Garrett ranking technique and socio-economic index was used for analysis of the data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Constraints faced by respondents in adoption of selected KVK interventions :

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that constraints faced by vermicompost respondent. Financial institutions not providing adequate fund for establishing units was the major constraint faced by respondents followed by high rate of interest (II) and loan was not available in time (II), difficult to obtain subsidy (III), non-availability of sufficient raw materials (IV) and lack of water during summer (V). The major constraints were related to financial problem, financial institutions not providing adequate fund and non availability of raw materials. It was surprising that, vermicompost does not require higher initial investment, if it was done in small scale. Non-availability of organic matter was obvious constraint, the respondents needs to procure from fellow farmers. Difficult procedure of obtaining subsidy was another constraint. This might be due to the various formalities to be observed for obtaining subsidy. The government may follow simple procedure. The results are in line with the results of Kharatmol (2006).

The results in Table 2 show the constraints faced by respondents in soyabean seed production. High cost of chemical fertilizers was given utmost priority by the farmers and ranked first as critical constraint in soybean seed production followed by low price to the produce(II), lack of storage facilities (III), spoilage during threshing (IV), transportation and high rate of interest loan and

not available on time (V), respectively, Inadequate water for irrigation (VI) and availability of skilled labour (VII). High cost of the chemical fertilizers was major constraint expressed by about 66.30 per cent of the respondents. It is a fact that input was costly. Hence, farmers always experienced this constraint. The processing and storage facility can overcome the problem of market glut. Another constraint related to finance was high rate of interest and non availability of loan on time. Further, respondents had indicated that quantum of loan was not sufficient. The financial institutions may take note of it. The results are in agreement with the findings of Moulasab (2004).

Constraints faced by respondents in vermicelli production are presented in Table 3. Availability of loan was given utmost priority by the respondents and ranked first as critical constraint in production of vermicelli followed by high cost on machines (II), lack of skilled labours (III), seasonal specificity for preparation of vermicelli (IV) and electricity problem (V). The financial constraints was also expressed by vermicelli respondents. Hence, there is a need to channelize the bank finance to meet vermicelli producers need. The efficiency of

farmers trained in vermicelli production by the KVKs can be significantly enhanced by effectively tackling the operational constraints reported above. The similar results were observed by Aravind Kumar and Vasantha Kumar (2003) and Narendra Reddy *et al.* (2003)

Suggestions given by respondents in adoption of selected KVK interventions :

The results presented in Table 4 show the suggestions given respondents in adoption of KVK intervention (Vermicompost). In the ranking easy availability of subsidy were given utmost priority by the respondents and ranked first as suggestion to improve the vermicompost production with a mean Garrett Score of 71.60. The second rank were given to reduce the rate of interest. The third and fourth ranks were given to provide more funds for the establishment of units and encourage community vermicompost units, respectively. Whereas, fifth and sixth ranks were given to arrange field visits and educational tours, respectively. The suggestion, SHGs were to be encouraged to take up vermicompost with least mean Garrett Score of 26.70

Table 1 : Constraints encountered by vermicompost respondents

Sr. No.	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Financial institutions not providing adequate fund for establishing units	64.07	I
2.	The rate of interest on loan is high and not available in time	55.62	II
3.	Difficult procedure of obtaining subsidy	52.67	III
4.	Non-availability of sufficient raw materials for making vermicompost	44.62	IV
5.	Water problem during summer	31.75	V

Table 2 : Constraints encountered by soybean seed production respondents

Sr. No.	Constraints	Garrett score	Rank
1.	High cost of chemical fertilizer	66.30	I
2.	Low price to the produce	59.85	II
3.	Lack of storage facilities	57.45	III
4.	Spoilage during threshing and transportation	50.85	IV
5.	High rate of interest on loan and not available in time	47.70	V
6.	Inadequate water for irrigation	44.93	VI
7.	Availability of skilled labourers	24.63	VII

Table 3 : Constraints encountered by vermicelli production (household enterprise) respondents

Sr. No.	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Lack of availability of loan	66.87	I
2.	High cost on machines	60.62	II
3.	Lack of skilled labourers	43.90	III
4.	Seasonal specificity	43.80	IV
5.	Electricity problem	33.80	V

was ranked eighth. The major suggestions were to make easy availability of subsidy and to reduce the rate of interest. As suggested earlier providing subsidy to vermicompost farmer can be done jointly by KVK and bank officials. The suggestions of reducing the interest can be considered by the bank. The suggestion on developing community vermicompost is good, which can be considered by the KVK. There was also need for on farm demonstration about the use of vermicompost. This is in conformity with the findings of the studies of Kharatmol (2006).

An attempt was made to invite suggestions from the respondents to overcome their constraints, the results are presented in Table 5. In the ranking reducing the cost of fertilizer was given utmost priority by the respondents and ranked first as suggestion to improve the soybean seed production with a mean Garrett Score of 70.00. The second rank was given to providing credit at lower rate of interest and at required time. The third rank was given to proper method of threshing. Whereas,

fourth rank was given to provide storage facility. The suggestion, provide good transport facility was ranked fifth. The important suggestions were to reduce input cost, providing processing facilities and other infrastructure support. The cost of the chemical fertilizer and plant protection chemical can be reduced to some extent by bulk purchase directly from the distributors and further farmers can also adopt biological control measures the cost of which was low. The KVK should work in collaboration with concerned departments to ensure establishment of infrastructure facility and processing. This would not only ensure better price but also generate additional employment in the district. The recent initiation by the government may help in this regard.

The results presented in Table 6 reveal the suggestions given by vermicelli respondents. Credit at lower rate of interest and on time was given utmost priority by the respondents and ranked first as suggestion to improve the vermicelli production with a mean Garrett

Table 4 : Suggestions given by vermicompost respondents

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Easy availability of subsidy	71.60	I
2.	Reduce the rate of interest	65.70	II
3.	Provide more funds for the establishment of units	65.00	III
4.	Encourage community vermicompost units	48.07	IV
5.	Organise more number of demonstration units	44.25	V
6.	Arrange field visits	40.27	VI
7.	Educational tours	37.95	VII
8.	SHGs are to be encouraged to take up vermicompost	26.70	VIII

Table 5 : Suggestions given by soybean seed production respondents

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Reduce the cost of fertilizer	70.00	I
2.	Providing credit at lower rate of interest and at required time	53.25	II
3.	Proper method of threshing	52.25	III
4.	Provide storage facility	38.40	IV
5.	Provide good transport facility	35.10	V

Table 6 : Suggestions given by vermicelli production (household enterprise) respondents

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Garrett score	Rank
1.	Providing credit at lower rate of interest and required time	64.12	I
2.	In time subsidy facility for machines	60.62	II
3.	Providing proper training to labours	60.25	III
4.	Market outlets such as monthly bazars	33.60	IV
5.	Provide electricity facility	30.40	V

Score of 64.12. The second rank was given to on time subsidy facility for machines. The third rank was given to providing proper training to labours. Whereas, fourth was given to market outlets such as monthly bazars. The suggestion to provide electricity facility was ranked fifth. It was observed that most of the suggestions on reducing credit at lower rate of interest and required on time and on time subsidy facility for machines because machines were of high cost. Hence, the KVK should work in collaboration with concerned departments to ensure establishment of infrastructure facility.

Conclusion :

Constraints encountered by respondents revealed that majority of the beneficiaries expressed problem regarding financial institutions *i.e.*, not providing adequate fund for establishment of units in the case of vermicompost and vermicelli. To overcome this problem the KVK may work in collaboration with the financing institutions for pursuing credit. In the case of soybean seed production respondents, high cost of chemical fertilizers and low price to the produce were major problems.

There were number of suggestions by the beneficiaries, such as, simplifying procedure of subsidy, reduce the cost of fertilizers, simplify the bank loan

procedures, and supply sufficient electricity to villages and creation of good transportation facilities to the villages. These suggestions may be kept in mind before formulating the training programmes for beneficiaries and intertwine development department.

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