

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Perception of tribal farmers about front line demonstration

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Amravati district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. The study “Perception of tribal farmers about front line demonstration” was conducted in Chikhaldara and Dharni talukas of Amravati district, 80 respondents (tribal farmers) were purposively selected for study. The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of tribal farmers were having middle age group of 35 to 55 years, education upto high school level, medium level farming experience, marginal size of land holding (0.01 to 1.00 ha), low level training received and medium level annual income 50001 Rs. to 1,00,000 Rs. However, the observation also found that most of the respondents were possessed medium level social participation, medium level extension contact, medium level achievement motivation and medium level economic motivation. Majority of the respondents were interested in front line demonstration programme of Bengal gram and soybean. The significant variables include achievement motivation and economic motivation found the positive and significant level of probability 0.01 with perception level. The variable viz., training received, social participation and extension contact found positive and significant at 0.05 level of probability with perception level. The variable age, education, farming experience, land holding and annual income found non-significant relationship with perception level.

KEY WORDS:

Perception, Tribal farmers, KVK, Front line demonstration, Chikhaldara, Dharni

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

According to Census-2011, the number of scheduled tribes in India is 10,42,81,034. It is 8.6 per cent of the total population of India. In Maharashtra total scheduled tribe population is 10,510,213. Chikhaldara and Dharni are inhabited by people belonging to tribes of Gond, Korku, Balai, Nihal, Gawalan and others, this region is a part of the Amravati

district of Maharashtra state. Chikhaldara region has a thick forest cover while Dharni more area under the agriculture and little forest cover than the Chikhaldara. The total area of Chikhaldara is 2,476.97 sq.km with population density of 48 per sq.km. There are 6.88 per cent scheduled caste (SC) and 78.32 per cent scheduled tribe (ST) of total population in Chikhaldara taluka. The total area of

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Dharni is 1,495.55 sq.km with population density of 123 per sq. km.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) introduced the concept of front line demonstrations (FLDs) under the first line transfer of technology programme during 1991-92. FLDs are the field demonstrations organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) and ICAR institutes under the direct supervision of the scientists with a view to introduce already tested and proven technologies to farming communities. The main objective of front line demonstration is to demonstrate newly released crop production and protection technologies and its management practices in the farmers field under the different agro-climatic regions and farming situations.

In Maharashtra, Bengal gram is cultivated on an area 2000.3 (000 ha) and production is 1784 (000 tonne) with productivity 892 kg/ha during 2017-18. In Amravati, cultivated area is 1039 (00 ha) and production 12.96 million tonne with productivity 1247 kg/ha. In Maharashtra, soybean is cultivated on an area 3840.8 (000 ha) and production is 3888.2 (000 tonne) with productivity 1012 kg/ha. In Amravati, cultivated area is 2871 (00 ha) and production 24.60 million tonne with productivity 857 kg/ha.

Specific objectives of the study:

-To study the personal, socio-economic, communicational and situational characteristics of tribal farmers

- To study the perception of tribal farmers about front line demonstration programme

- To study the relationship between selected characteristics of tribal farmers with their perception about front line demonstration programme.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The research study was carried out in Amravati district of Vidarbha region, Maharashtra State. Chikhaldara and Dharni taluka were purposively selected as for the further study because these two tahsils found to represent the FLD programme conducted by KVK in Amravati district. One villege was selected from Chikhaldara and Three villages were selected from Dharni tahsil of Amravati district, total 4 villages were selected for the present study. From each of the

selected villages, 20 tribal farmers were selected randomly comprising total sample of 80 respondents. An exploratory research design of social research was used for present study. The data analysis was done using appropriate statistical test *i.e.* mean, standard deviation, percentage, frequency, correlation coefficient.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

It is observed from the Table 1 that majority 73.75 per cent of the respondents were include in middle age group of 35 to 55 years (Shamna *et al.*, 2018), majority 30.00 per cent of the respondents had received education upto high school level (Makashre *et al.*, 2015), majority 71.25 per cent of the respondents had medium level farming experience (Markam, 2018), majority 47.50 per cent of the respondents had marginal size of land holding (Shamna *et al.*, 2018), majority 43.75 per cent of the respondents had low level training received (Singh, 2016), majority 51.25 per cent of the respondents had medium level annual income (Markam, 2018), majority 48.75 per cent of the respondents had medium level social participation (Shamna *et al.*, 2018), majority 48.75 per cent of the respondents were situated in medium level extension contact (Wadekar *et al.*, 2016), majority 61.25 per cent of the respondents had medium level achievement motivation (Chachere *et al.*, 2018), majority 68.75 per cent of the respondents had medium level economic motivation (Chachere *et al.*, 2018).

It is revealed from the Table 2 that majority 76.00 per cent of tribal farmers had medium level perception about front line demonstration followed by 13.75 per cent of tribal farmers had low level of perception and 10.00 per cent of tribal farmers had high level of perception. The findings are similar with the findings of Markam (2018).

Data in Table 3 revealed that among selected characteristics of respondents *viz.*, The significant variables include achievement motivation and economic motivation found the positive and significant level of probability 0.01 with perception level. The variable *viz.*, training received, social participation and extension contact found positive and significant at 0.05 level of probability with perception level. The variable age, education, farming experience, land holding and annual income found non-significant relationship with perception level.

Table 1: Personal, socio-economic, communicational and situational characteristics of tribal farmers			(n=80)
Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	
		Numbers	Percentage
Age (years)			
1.	Young (Upto 34 years)	11	13.75
2.	Middle (35 to 55 years)	59	73.75
3.	Old (Above 55 years)	10	12.5
	Total	80	100.0
Education (std)			
1.	Illiterate (No schooling)	8	10.00
2.	Primary School (1 st to 4 th std.)	20	25.00
3.	Middle School (5 th to 7 th std.)	11	13.75
4.	High School (8 th to 10 th std.)	24	30.00
5.	Junior College (11 th to 12 th std.)	14	17.50
6.	Senior College (Above 12 th std)	3	03.75
	Total	80	100.00
Farming experience (year)			
1.	Low (Upto 8 years)	13	16.25
2.	Medium (9 to 31 years)	57	71.25
3.	High (Above 31 years)	10	12.50
	Total	80	100.00
Land holding (ha)			
1.	Marginal (0.01 to 1.00 ha)	38	47.50
2.	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	28	35.00
3.	Semi-Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	12	15.00
4.	Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	2	02.50
5.	Large (Above 10.00 ha)	0	00.00
	Total	80	100.00
Training received			
1.	No training received (0)	25	31.25
2.	Low training received (1)	35	43.75
3.	Medium training received (2)	17	21.25
4.	High training received (Above 2)	3	03.75
	Total	80	100.00
Annual income (Rs.)			
1.	Low (Upto 50000 Rs.)	37	46.25
2.	Medium (50001 Rs. to 100000 Rs.)	41	51.25
3.	High (Above 100000 Rs.)	2	02.50
	Total	80	100.00
Social participation			
1.	Low (Upto 1)	34	42.50
2.	Medium (2 to 3)	39	48.75
3.	High (Above 3)	07	08.75
	Total	80	100.00

Table 1: Contd.....

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Extension contact			
1.	Low (Upto 18)	18	22.50
2.	Medium (19 to 23)	55	68.75
3.	High (Above 23)	07	08.75
	Total	80	100.00
Achievement motivation			
1.	Low (Upto 21)	20	25.00
2.	Medium (22 to 26)	49	61.25
3.	High (Above 26)	11	13.75
	Total	80	100.00
Economic motivation			
1.	Low (Upto 18)	18	22.50
2.	Medium (19 to 23)	55	68.75
3.	High (Above 23)	07	08.75
	Total	80	100.00
Perception			
1.	Low (Upto 14)	11	13.75
2.	Medium (15 to 18)	61	76.25
3.	High (Above 18)	8	10.00
	Total	80	100.00

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to perception level

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (Upto 14)	11	13.75
2.	Medium (15 to 18)	61	76.25
3.	High (Above 18)	8	10.00
	Total	80	100.00

Table 3 : Relationship between selected characteristics with perception

Sr. No.	Independent variables	'r' values
1.	Age	-0.076 NS
2.	Education	0.0451 NS
3.	Farming experience	-0.0891 NS
4.	Land holding	-0.1569 NS
5.	Training received	0.2629*
6.	Annual income	0.0565 NS
7.	Social participation	0.2413*
8.	Extension contact	0.2405*
9.	Achievement motivation	0.4358**
10.	Economic motivation	0.3654**

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

NS= Non-significant

Conclusion:

Based on the major findings it is concluded that Majority of the respondents were include in middle age group, received education upto high school level, medium level farming experience, marginal size of land holding, low level training received, medium level annual income, medium level social participation, medium level extension contact, medium level achievement motivation, medium level economic motivation, majority of tribal farmers had medium level perception about front line demonstration.

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