

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# A study on role performance of members of farmer interest group

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**SUMMARY :** Indian farmer is the center of focus for development in the model and through an organized effort, farmers has a say in planning and implementation of the development process. Representation is provided to farmers at the village level through Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs). The present study was conducted mainly with the objective to study role performance of Farmers Interest Group (FIG) members working under ATMA project. For the study, Ahmednagar district was selected purposively as farmers interest groups under this district was high as compare to other district of Maharashtra region. Four tahasils viz., Sangamner, Newasa, Shrirampur and Ahmednagar were selected randomly and twenty four villages from those tahasils were selected randomly. From each FIG five members were randomly selected constituting the sample size 120. *Ex-post facto* research design was used for the study. Majority of the members had middle age, half of the members possessed secondary level of education, more than half of the members had medium level of farming experience, most of the members had medium size of land holding having medium annual income, more than half of the members sometimes used the source of information, less than half of the members had low social participation and half of the members had medium level of economic motivation about working of ATMA. More than half of the members fall in the category of medium role performance about working under ATMA. Major constraints faced by the members were the Scientist and SMS of ATMA use scientific language while providing information, which may create problem to understand, (78.34%) was perceived as their main constraint by farmers under ATMA project. Followed by large number of FIGs found variation in information provided by Govt. and NGOs (65.00%), Technology provided by ATMA is costly (35.00%), extra expenditure on cost of cultivation due to ATMA. (30.00%) then, Technology provided by ATMA affects traditional method (22.50%) and technology provided from ATMA is irrelevant with local nature (10.00%).

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Email: [jh\\_gaikwad@rediffmail.com](mailto:jh_gaikwad@rediffmail.com)**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The FIGs possessed medium level of role performance under this project hence, it is

recommended that though ATMA is more likely among the farmers, proper motivational activities should carried out by ATMA to increase its efficiency, Scientist and SMS of

ATMA use scientific language while providing information, which may create problem to understand, was perceived as their main constraint by farmers under ATMA project.

### Objectives of the study:

- To study the role performance of FIG members in activities of ATMA.
- To study constrains faced by FIG members in ATMA and suggestions made by them.

## RESOURCES AND METHODS

The lists of major talukas having potential number of FIGs under ATMA project was obtained from concerned ATMA officials, personnel and on that basis Sangamner, Newasa, Shirampur and Ahmednagar tahsils were selected from Ahmednagar district. The list of villages which comes under ATMA project was prepared and out of them by proportionate random sampling method 24 FIG's were selected from 24 villages. The lists of FIGs working under concern ATMA project was obtained from Project Director, of ATMA projects of Ahmednagar district. The 24 groups of FIGs working in four tahsils of Ahmednagar district were randomly selected from 24 villages and out of them 5 respondents from each FIG were scrutinized. A proportionate random sampling method was used to obtain the respondents from identified villages. In this way 120 respondents were selected randomly from 4 tahsils of Ahmednagar district for the

study. *Ex-post-facto* research design was used in the present investigation.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

### Role performance of FIG members working under ATMA:

The manner and extent to which different roles are performed in practical situation by the members were classified as; poor performance (upto 61 score), moderate performance (62 to 81 score) and good performance (above 81 score). Collected data in this regards are presented in Table 1.

It is observed from the Table 1 that, majority of the members (58.33%) fall in the category of medium performance of role, followed by 20.83 per cent and 20.84 per cent of them fall in the low and high role performance categories, respectively.

In general, the majority of the members (58.33%) belonged to moderate role performance categories. The probable reason may be due to that the majority of members were from middle to young age group, and also possessed medium to high level of farming experience. And the activities carried out by the ATMA project were in tune with the interest of farmers and hence, their performance under this project was seems to be on large

**Table 1: Distribution of the members (FIGs) according to their role performance (n = 120)**

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	25	20.83
2.	Medium	70	58.33
3.	High	25	20.84
	Total	120	100.00

**Table 2 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to constraints experienced by them under ATMA project (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Technology provided by ATMA is costly	42	35.00	III
2.	Technology provided from ATMA is irrelevant with local nature	12	10.00	VI
3.	There is variation in information provided by Govt. and NGOs	78	65.00	II
4.	Technology provided by ATMA affects traditional method	27	22.50	V
5.	There is extra expenditure on cost of cultivation due to ATMA	36	30.00	IV
6.	Scientist and SMS of ATMA use scientific language while providing information, which may create problem to understand	94	78.34	I

extend.

These findings have been supported by the finding of Dorugade (2007) and Salunkhe (1999).

The data presented in Table 2 indicated that, out of all constraints the Scientist and SMS of ATMA use scientific language while providing information, which may create problem to understand (78.34%) was perceived as their main constraint by farmers under ATMA project and ranked first. Followed by large number of FIGs found variation in information provided by Govt. and NGOs (65.00%) ranked second, technology provided by ATMA is costly (35.00%) ranked third; extra expenditure on cost of cultivation due to ATMA. (30.00%) ranked fourth then, technology provided by ATMA affects traditional method (22.50%) ranked fifth and technology provided from ATMA is irrelevant with local nature (10.00%) ranked as sixth (Eswarappa *et al.*, 1999).

#### Conclusion:

Study led to the evidence that, more than half of the members 58.33 per cent fall in the category of medium performance of role, followed by 20.83 per cent and 20.84 per cent of them fall in the low and high role performance categories, respectively.

Out of all constraints, most of the farmers reported that, the Scientist and SMS of ATMA use scientific language while providing information, which may create problem to understand, (78.34%) was perceived as their main constraint by farmers under ATMA project. Followed by large number of FIGs found variation in information provided by Govt. and NGOs (65.00%), Technology provided by ATMA is costly (35.00%), extra expenditure on cost of cultivation due to ATMA. (30.00%) then, technology provided by ATMA affects traditional method (22.50%) and technology provided from ATMA is irrelevant with local nature (10.00%).

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