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RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Impact of agriclinic activities and relationship between socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries

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SUMMARY : Agriclinic centers were firstly started by Government of Maharashtra in 1997-98. The Department of Agriculture of Maharashtra state aim's to establish 232 Agriclinic center's in forth coming years. The Government of Maharashtra expend Rs. 15 lakhs on each Agriclinic centers. The present study was conducted in Ahmednagar district was purposively selected for the present study, because there are 7 agriclinic *i.e.* more in number as compared to other districts. Majority of the respondent beneficiaries opinioned that training programme of agriclinic helps in providing self employment opportunities to the rural youth (73.34%). It is observed that there was age is negatively but statistically significant correlated with impact of agriclinic activities. Education, size of land holding, annual income, social participation, sources of information, cosmopoliteness, risk orientation and extent of participation of beneficiaries had positive and statistically significant correlation with impact of agriclinic activities. Only size of family is non-significant with impact of agriclinic activities.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The government of Maharashtra started the agriclinic centers with a view to speedy with zero time loss and effectively communication and transfer of modern Agril. Technology for promoting the farmers to increase their production and productivity of major crops. Agriclinic centers were firstly started by Government of Maharashtra in 1997-98. The Department of Agriculture of Maharashtra state aim's to establish 232 Agriclinic center's in forthcoming years. The Government of Maharashtra expend Rs. 15 lakhs on each Agriclinic centers.

The various facilities provided by Agriclinic centers *i.e.* demonstration on use of modern Agril. Technology, seed testing, water testing, pest and disease analysis, vermicompost, organic fertilizers, information about modern agril. Tools and equipments, biofertilizers, IPM, information about hybrid varieties, greenhouse, polyhouse, seed production, methods of propagation, watershed development programmes, farm ponds etc. The present study was sesigned

with following specific objectives; to study the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries and impact of agriclinic activities and attitude towards agriclinic centers.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Ahmednagar district was purposively selected for the present study, because there are 7 agriclinic *i.e.* more in number as compared to other districts. Three tahsils namely Ahmednagar, Rahuri and Shrirampur were purposively selected for the present study as the agriclinics are located at tehsil places only, while other are located in villages of particular tehsil. The list of villages, was obtained from Agriculture Assistant of agriclinic centers of the three tahsils. There were 120 respondents beneficiaries. Four villages from each tahsils were selected randomly and 40 respondents interviewed from each tahsils means 120 respondents were interviewed from 12 villages of these three tahsils. A list of respondent beneficiaries from each selected villages were obtained from the Agriculture Assistant of agriclinic center. Among the total respondent beneficiaries, 120 farmers were randomly selected from the 12 villages.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The data depicted in Table 1 revealed that majority of the respondent beneficiaries opinioned that training programme of agriclinic helps in providing self employment opportunities to the rural youth (73.34%), training programmes provide livelihood security to the rural poor (56.66%), training programmes of agriclinic center help to employment generation in rural areas (53.33%).

It is observed that there was age is negatively but statistically significant correlated with impact of agriclinic activities. Education, size of land holding, annual income, social participation, sources of information, cosmopoliteness, risk orientation and extent of participation of beneficiaries had positive and statistically

Table 1: Distribution of the respondent beneficiaries according to the impact of agriclinic activities on their employment generation

Sr. No.	Employment generation	Respondent (n= 120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Agriclinic center training programmes are useful for employment generation in rural areas	64	53.33
2.	Training programme helps in women employment	12	10.00
3.	Training programmes organized by agriclinic centers provides livelihood security to the rural poors	68	56.66
4.	Training programmes organized by agriclinic centers provides self employment opportunities to the rural youths	88	73.34

Table 2 : Relationship between the personal and socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries and impact of agriclinic activities

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Co-efficient of correlating (r)
1.	Age	-0.708**
2.	Education	0.487**
3.	Size of family	0.096^{NS}
4.	Land holding	0.683**
5.	Annual income	0.287*
6.	Social participation	0.796**
7.	Sources of information	0.758**
8.	Cosmopoliteness	0.815**
9.	Risk orientation	0.833**
10.	Extent of participation	0.908**

NS = Non-singnificant *and ** indicated significance of value at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

significant correlation with impact of agriclinic activities. Only size of family is non-significant with impact of agriclinic activities. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Mangle (1983); Mani and John (1981); More *et al.* (2000) and Narkhede (2007).

Conclusion:

Majority of the respondent beneficiaries opinioned that training programme of agriclinic helps in providing self employment opportunities to the rural youth (73.34 %), training programmes provide livelihood security to the rural poor (56.66%), It is observed that there was age is negatively but statistically significant correlated with impact of agriclinic activities. Education, size of land holding, annual income, social participation, sources of information, cosmopoliteness, risk orientation and extent of participation of beneficiaries had positive and statistically significant correlation with impact of agriclinic activities.

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