

Profile of the functionaries of KVKs of Assam

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ABSTRACT : The present study was conducted to know the profile of the KVK functionaries. The study was conducted in 19 KVKs under Assam Agricultural University, which were started functioning on or before 2009. Three different cadres *i.e.* programme coordinator, subject matter specialist and programme assistant/ farm manager were the respondents for the present study. Data were collected with the help of questionnaire. The findings of the study revealed that educational qualification of the functionaries was high as 100 per cent of the programme coordinators were Ph.D. and 70.49 per cent subject matter specialists and 58.62 per cent farm managers/ programme assistants are M Sc and large percentage of the functionaries were married. 100 per cent of the programme coordinators were more than 16 years of service experience, while the 29.51 per cent subject matter specialists were having 1-5 years of experience in service and 44.83 per cent of the programme assistants/ farm managers were experienced of 6-10 years of service. Majority of the respondents were having 1- 5 years of experience in KVK service. Majority of the subject matter specialists and farm manager/ programme assistant were of native of urban areas where as 58.33 per cent of programme coordinators were from rural back ground. Majority of the respondents were from nuclear and small sized family. The KVK functionaries were active in their professional activities. The different activities of professional life show different level of activeness. Though the functionaries were more active with professional society prior to join KVK but their activeness is decreasing after joining KVK. After joining KVK the percentage of attending seminar or conferences were decreasing fro programme coordinator and subject matter specialists, but for the programme assistant/ farm managers the attending percentage were increasing.

KEY WORDS : KVK, Functionaries, Profile, Training/ professional achievement

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INTRODUCTION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is a noble concept developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) which was raised upon a solid base of transfer of technology from laboratory to farmers' field (Dash and Mishra, 2004). KVK basically demonstrate the application of science and technology input for creating awareness and motivating farmers to adopt modern production and management technological option of various agricultural enterprise through vocational training to farming community, in-service training to extension functionaries, front line demonstration and on

farm trails on major crops and other land based activities with consideration to location specific production systems and agro eco-regional characterization. (Jondhale *et al.*, 2000 ; More *et al.*, 2006; Patel and Waman and Girase, 2005). The programme coordinator, head of the KVK family coordinates the work of all scientists for smooth functioning of the KVK as well as for the benefit of the rural people of that particular area. Different scientists from different disciplines as per the specific requirement of that particular area are posted in the Krishi Vigyan Kendra as Subject Matter Specialists (Dubey *et al.*, 2008; Prabhukumar and Veerabhadraiah, 1998; Murthy and Veerabhadraiah, 1999 and Kumar *et al.*, 1994). The success of

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the above mentioned activities of KVKs mainly depends on the effective performance of the functionaries and developing human resources in rural areas, the study aimed to describe personal and professional characteristics of the KVK functionaries.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted involving the KVKs under the jurisdiction of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat in Assam. Although 102 functionaries of KVKs in three different cadres *viz.*, programme coordinator (PC), subject matter specialist (SMS) and farm manager/ programme assistant (FM/PA), served as respondents. The data were collected through pre tested structured mail questionnaires. Printed questionnaires, along with self-addressed and stamped envelopes and with requesting letter, were mailed to all the respondents. In order to study the profile variables *viz.*, age, sex, educational qualification, marital status, locality, type of family, size of the family, family placement, total service experience, experience in KVK service, training attended and professional achievements were selected and measured.

OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

Personal characteristics :

It is evident from the Table 1 that majority of the programme coordinators (58.33%) and subject matter specialists (49.18%) belonged to middle age group and the farm manager and programme assistant (55.17%) were of young age group. Majority of the functionaries *i.e.* PC (100%), SMS (55.74 %) and FM/PA (82.76%) were male and their educational qualification was high as 100 per cent of the PCs are Ph D and 70.49 per cent SMS and 58.62 per cent FM/ PA are M Sc. A large percentage of the functionaries were married (100 % PC, 93.44 % SMS and 75.86 % FM/PA). It was found that 100 per cent of the programme coordinators were experienced of more than 16 years of service, while the 29.51 per cent subject matter specialists were having 1-5 years of experience in service and 44.83 per cent of the programme assistants and farm managers were experienced of 6-10 years of service. Most of the respondents (PC 58.34 %, SMS 75.41 % and FM/PA 79.31 %) were having 1-5 years of experience in KVK service.

Family characteristics :

From the Table 2 it can be revealed that, majority of the subject matter specialists (77.05%) and farm managers and programme assistants (79.31%) were native of urban areas and 58.33 per cent of the programme coordinators were from rural family background. Majority of the respondents *i.e.* PC (83.33%), SMS (83.61 %) and PA/FM (75.86 %) belonged to nuclear family and most of the respondents *i.e.* PC (75%),

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to personal characteristics

Characteristics	Category	Programme coordinator (n=12)		Subject matter specialist (n=61)		Farm manager/ programme assistant n=29)	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
Age	Young	-	-	25	40.98	16	55.17
	Middle	7	58.33	30	49.18	13	44.83
	Elderly	5	41.67	6	9.84	-	-
Sex	Male	12	100	34	55.74	24	82.76
	Female	-	-	27	44.26	5	17.24
Educational qualification	B Sc	-	-	-	-	11	37.93
	M Sc/ MCA	-	-	43	70.49	17	58.62
	Ph D	12	100	18	29.51	1	3.45
Marital status	Single	-	-	3	4.92	7	24.14
	Married	12	100	57	93.44	22	75.86
	Widow	-	-	1	1.64	-	-
Total service experience	1-5 years	-	-	18	29.51	11	37.93
	6-10 years	-	-	16	26.23	13	44.83
	11-15 years	-	-	15	24.59	4	13.79
	16 years and above	12	100	12	19.67	1	3.45
Experience in KVK service	1-5 years	7	58.34	46	75.41	23	79.31
	6-10 years	1	8.33	8	13.11	6	20.69
	11-15 years	3	25	4	6.56	-	-
	16 years and above	1	8.33	3	4.92	-	-

SMS (75.41%) and PA/FM (72.41%) were from small size family. Though most of the programme coordinators (66.67%) and programme assistant and farm managers (68.97%) placed their family somewhere else than the site of work but 54.1 per cent subject matter specialists placed their family at the site of their work.

Training experience :

It is observed in the Table 3 that majority of the respondents had experience of subject matter related training (PC 66.67%, SMS 68.85% and FM/PA 44.44%) followed by extension related training.

Professional achievement :

Table 4 shows that the KVK functionaries were active in their professional activities. The different activities of professional life showed different level of activeness. Though the functionaries were more active with professional society prior to join KVK but their activeness decreased after joining KVK. After joining KVK the percentage of attending seminar or conferences decreased from programme coordinator and subject matter specialists, but for the programme assistant/farm managers attending percentage increased. The publishing of research paper by the KVK functionaries were going in decreasing order after joining in the KVK. The publishing of popular articles for the subject matter specialists

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to family characteristics

Characteristics	Category	Programme Coordinator (n=12)		Subject matter specialist (n=61)		Farm manager/ programme assistant (n=29)	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
Locality	Rural	7	58.33	14	22.95	6	20.69
	Urban	5	41.67	47	77.05	23	79.31
Type of family	Nuclear	10	83.33	51	83.61	22	75.86
	Joint	2	16.67	10	16.39	7	24.14
Size of the family	Small	9	75	46	75.41	21	72.41
	Medium	2	16.67	15	24.59	8	27.59
	Big	1	8.333	-	-	-	-
Family placement	At site of work	4	33.33	33	54.1	9	31.03
	Somewhere else	8	66.67	28	45.9	20	68.97

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to training experience

Types of training	Programme coordinator (n=12)		Subject matter specialist (n=61)		Programme assistant/ farm manager (n=29)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Subject matter	8	66.67	42	68.85	12	44.44
Extension related	4	33.33	23	37.7	3	11.11
Training related	3	25	8	13.11	3	11.11

Table 4 : Distribution of respondents according to their professional achievement

Sr. No.	Activities	Programme coordinator (n=12)				Subject matter specialist (n=61)				Farm manager/ programme assistant (n=29)			
		Prior to join KVK		After joining KVK		Prior to join KVK		After joining KVK		Prior to join KVK		After joining KVK	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Membership of professional society	12	100	3	25	28	45.9	17	27.87	10	34.48	8	27.59
2.	Seminar/conference attended	12	100	8	66.67	48	95.08	16	26.23	9	31.03	14	48.28
3.	Research paper published	12	100	4	33.33	59	100	23	37.7	17	58.62	13	44.83
4.	Popular articles published	12	100	12	100	32	52.46	44	72.13	15	51.72	11	37.93
5.	Pamphlets/folders	5	41.67	10	83.33	12	19.67	46	75.41	12	41.38	19	65.52
6.	Books/chapter in books	4	33.33	2	16.67	7	11.48	2	3.279	4	13.79	3	10.34
7.	Radio talk	12	100	4	33.33	19	31.15	7	11.48	4	13.79	8	27.58
8.	TV programme	5	41.67	2	16.67	15	24.59	9	14.75	-	-	2	6.89
9.	Invited as resource person	12	100	12	100	22	36.07	51	83.61	8	27.59	19	65.31

were in increasing trend after joining in KVK. The functionaries were more active in preparing pamphlets and folders after joining in the KVK though they also prepared it prior to join KVK. The functionaries were more active as resource person after joining in KVK. Kumar and Singh (1994) and Singh and Singh (1991) worked on the same topic.

Conclusion :

The study has clearly exposed the profile of the functionaries of KVKs of Assam. It can be said that band of relatively young and middle aged well qualified trainers are there working in the KVKs and they have vast experience in their professional field. The present study has provided some answers and information relating to the functionaries of the KVKs who are deliberately working in the various remote areas of the state with lots of limitations. These in turn, it is hoped, will be verified by future researchers and ultimately used for the progress of the agricultural community upliftment through meaningful contribution by the KVK functionaries.

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