



RESEARCH PAPER

Relationship between profile of farmers and impact of farmer field school on soybean growers

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Abstract : The present study was undertaken in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State during the year 2020-21 with the objective to access the relationship profile of farmers and impact of FFS on soybean growers. Parbhani district was selected randomly from Marathwada region. Three talukas were selected from district and four villages from each taluka were selected randomly for the study. From each selected village 10 trained respondents under FFS were selected randomly, in this way total 120 respondents were considered for the study. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study. It was observed that variables education, social participation, scientific orientation, economic motivation and knowledge had significant relationship with impact of FFS. Whereas age had negative and significant relationship with impact of FFS. While land holding had positive and non-significant relationship. Farming experience and annual income had negative and non-significant relationship with impact of FFS.

Key Words : Relationship, Profile of farmers, FFS impact, Soybean growers

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INTRODUCTION

Soybean contributes significantly to the Indian edible oil pool. Presently soybean contributes 43 % to the total oil seeds and 25% to the total oil production in the country. Currently, India ranks fourth in respect to production of soybean in the world. The crop helps earn valuable foreign exchange Rs.62000 million in (reference soybean report FICCI) by way of soya meal exports. Soybean has largely been responsible in uplifting farmer's economic status in many pockets of the country. It usually

fetches higher income to the farmers owing to the huge export market for soybean de oiled cake. The Farmer Field School is a form of adult education, which evolved from the concept that farmers learn optimally from field observation and experimentation. It was developed to help farmers tailor their Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to diverse and dynamic ecological conditions. In regular sessions from planting till harvest, groups of neighboring farmers observe and discuss dynamics of the crop's ecosystem. Simple experimentation helps farmers further improve their

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Table 1 : Profile characteristics of the farmers

| Sr. No. | Profile characteristics of the farmers | Respondents (n=120) | |
|---------|--|---------------------|------------|
| | | Frequency | Percentage |
| 1. | Age | | |
| | Young (up to 29 years) | 27 | 22.50 |
| | Middle (30 to 52 years) | 68 | 56.67 |
| | Old (53 years and above) | 25 | 20.83 |
| 2. | Education | | |
| | Illiterate | 10 | 08.33 |
| | Can read only | 00 | 00 |
| | Can read and write | 23 | 19.16 |
| | Primary | 45 | 37.50 |
| | Middle | 19 | 15.84 |
| | High school | 17 | 14.17 |
| | Graduate | 06 | 05.00 |
| 3. | Land holding | | |
| | Marginal (up to 1.00 ha) | 30 | 25.00 |
| | Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha) | 45 | 37.50 |
| | Semi Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha) | 34 | 28.33 |
| | Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha) | 6 | 05.00 |
| | Large (Above 10.00 ha) | 5 | 04.17 |
| 4. | Farming experience | | |
| | Low | 22 | 18.33 |
| | Medium | 79 | 65.84 |
| | High | 19 | 15.83 |
| 5. | Annual income | | |
| | Low | 17 | 14.16 |
| | Medium | 59 | 49.18 |
| | High | 44 | 36.66 |
| 6. | Social participation | | |
| | Low | 26 | 21.67 |
| | Medium | 64 | 53.33 |
| | High | 30 | 25.00 |
| 7. | Scientific orientation | | |
| | Low | 35 | 29.16 |
| | Medium | 51 | 42.51 |
| | High | 34 | 28.33 |
| 8. | Economic motivation | | |
| | Low | 24 | 20.00 |
| | Medium | 65 | 54.17 |
| | High | 31 | 25.83 |
| 9. | Knowledge | | |
| | Low | 39 | 32.51 |
| | Medium | 52 | 43.33 |
| | High | 29 | 24.16 |

understanding of functional relationships (e.g. pests-natural enemy, population dynamics and crop damage-yield relationships). In this cyclical learning process, farmers develop the expertise that enables them to make their own crop management decisions. Special group activities encourage learning from peers, and strengthen communicative skills and group building.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State during the year 2020-21 with the objective to access the relationship between profile of farmers and impact of FFS on soybean growers. Parbhani district was selected randomly from Marathwada region. Three talukas were selected from district and four villages from each taluka were selected randomly for the study. From each selected village 10 trained respondents under FFS were selected randomly, in this way total 120 respondents were considered for the study. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study. Data was gathered using a well-structured interview schedule created with the study's objectives in mind. The collected data was analyzed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and coefficient correlation were used to interpret findings and draw conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the above Table 3 it was observed that out of nine variables education, social participation, scientific orientation, economic motivation and knowledge had significant relationship with impact of FFS. Whereas age had negative and significant relationship with impact of FFS. While land holding had positive and non-significant relationship. Farming experience and annual income had negative and non-significant relationship with impact of FFS.

Conclusion:

Research study concluded that was observed that out of nine variables education, social participation, scientific orientation, economic motivation and knowledge had significant relationship with impact of FFS. Whereas age had negative and significant relationship with impact of FFS. While land holding had positive and non-significant relationship. Farming experience and annual

Table 2 : Overall impact of FFS on soybean growers

| Sr. No. | Category | Before | | After | | 'Z' value |
|---------|----------|--------|----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| | | Freq. | Per cent | Freq. | Per cent | |
| 1. | Low | 52 | 43.33 | 24 | 20.00 | |
| 2. | Medium | 42 | 35.00 | 56 | 46.66 | |
| 3. | High | 26 | 21.67 | 40 | 33.34 | 1.96* |
| | Total | 120 | 100 | 120 | 100 | |

Table 3 : Relationship between profile of farmers and impact of farmer field school on soybean growers

| Sr. No. | Independent variable | Correlation co-efficient (r) |
|---------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Age | -0.505** |
| 2. | Education | 0.640** |
| 3. | Land holding | 0.066 ^{NS} |
| 4. | Farming experience | -0.551 ^{NS} |
| 5. | Annual income | -0.149 ^{NS} |
| 6. | Social participation | 0.591** |
| 7. | Scientific orientation | 0.719** |
| 8. | Economic motivation | 0.639** |
| 9. | Knowledge | 0.592** |

NS=Non-significant

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

income had negative and non-significant relationship with impact of FFS.

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