

# Socio-economic, psychological and extension attributes of trained and untrained farmers of K.V.K. Bijapur

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## ABSTRACT

The study conducted in the jurisdiction of K.V.K., Bijapur district of Karnataka state revealed that, the trained farmers were middle aged, with Higher Secondary to College education, having medium level of land holding and low-income. They had medium level of involvness risk and scientific orientation, high media and extension participation and medium cosmopolitnness when compared with their counter parts untrained. They suggested for community vermi compost pits and need to have low interest loans and subsidy for the loans.

## INTRODUCTION

With escalating population and shrinking resource base, the challenge to increase agricultural production on a sustainable basis is indeed a formidable one. The present growth rate of population in India demands production of additional 5-6 million tonnes of food every year for ensuring food security at the house hold level. Considering the major challenges in agriculture including the need for enhanced productivity and enhanced profitability, there is need for greater thrust for technology dissemination without any transmission loss.

To increase the food production at the rate of three per cent per year, the efforts of government organizations alone is not sufficient. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR), launched an innovative project for imparting training in agriculture and allied areas to the farmers, school dropouts and field level extension functionaries in the country by establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (K.V.K.'s). The K.V.K.'s have been arranged to take up the responsibilities of technology dissemination, take up demonstrations in the farmers field, updating the knowledge and skill of beneficiaries and organizing on campus and off campus training programmes. The current problem we are facing is decline in production year after year. What we require today is to sustain present production and then increase

slowly. Sustainability is lacking and key to sustainability is inorganic forming. Vermicomposting is component of organic farming. It was found that researchers in social science have mainly gave attention towards the awareness and adoption of vermicompost by the farmers, wherein present investigation has been taken up with the objective to study the socio-personal and economic attributes, psychological and extension attributes of the trained and untrained farmers of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bijapur and also to elicit suggestions made by them from sample areas.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted during 2006-07 in the jurisdiction of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bijapur. A list of formers who were undergone training on vermicompost technology was obtained from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bijapur. Highest number of trainees were observed from six villages viz., Yarnal, Utnal, Telgi, Akalwadi, Mangoli and Tikota. Ten trained and ten untrained respondents from each of these villages were randomly selected. Thus the total sample of the study constituted 120 respondents. A teacher made test was developed to understand the personal, socio-economic, psychological and extension characteristics of trained and untrained farmers. The data were collected through

## Key words :

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personal interview method and the same were analysed with the help of frequency, percentage and simple correlation tests. The results obtained are presented below.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

### *Socio-personal and economic attributes of the respondents:*

*Age :*

Table 1 indicates that majority of the trained and untrained respondents were middle aged (50% and 66%, respectively) followed by 23.33% of them were of old age in both the groups. Usually middle aged people are very enthusiastic and have more work efficiency than the older and younger ones, because of their pressing family

responsibilities. The results are in the line with the findings of Joshi and Thoart (1992) and Balamatti (1993).

### *Education:*

It is clear from Table 1 that 30% of the trained respondents had the education up to college level followed by the High School and Middle School 31.66 and 15.00 per cent, respectively. Contrary to this 28.33 % and 26.66 % of the untrained had education up to Primary and High School level, respectively. The higher percentage of the trained farmers having education might have motivated them to go for training. This study gets the support of the Wadkar *et al.* (2009).

### *Land holding:*

It was observed from Table 1 that 26.67 % of trained and 15.00 % of untrained respondents belonged to medium land holdings, followed by marginal category (21.67 and 25 %, respectively) where as only 20% trained and 28.33% untrained belonged to semi-medium category with land holdings of 5 to 10 acres of land. Farmers inherent land holding from their ancestors and carry on further farming activities. As a result, they have keen interest to know about the new idea of vermicompost technology to be adopted on their farms and try to co-ordinate their resources to get maximum returns from their small holdings. The findings in line with the findings of Wadkar *et al.* (2009).

### *Annual income:*

The results indicated that 40.00% of trained and 43.33% of untrained respondents belonged to low income category where as 38.33% and 35% of them were in medium income category, respectively. While 21.66 % from each belonged to high annual income category. Variation in the annual income may be attributed to the size of the land holding and subsidiary occupation of the respondents. Farmers with higher land holdings and having subsidiary occupation earn more annual income. This results in agreement with the findings of Kapse *et al.* (2009).

### *Extent of extension participation attribution of respondents :*

The data analysed in respect of extension attributes viz., participation in extension activities, utilization of mass media and cosmopolitanism attributes of the trained and untrained respondents are presented in Table 2.

### *Participation in extension activities :*

It is evident from Table 2 that nearly half of the trained

**Table 1 : Personal and socio economic attributes of the respondents (N= 120)**

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Trained (n=60)		Untrained (n=60)	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Age				
	Young age (up to 30 years)	16	26.66	06	10.00
	Middle age (31 to 50 yrs)	30	50.00	40	66.66
	Old age (>50 yrs)	14	23.33	14	23.33
	Mean	38.63		45.1	
	SD	11.81		11.64	
2.	Education				
	Illiterate	06	10.00	07	11.67
	Primary (1-4)	04	6.66	17	28.33
	Middle School (5-7 std)	09	15.00	08	13.33
	High School	19	31.66	16	26.66
	College	18	30.00	02	3.33
	Graduates	04	6.66	03	5.00
	Mean	2.98		2.61	
	SD	1.14		1.27	
3.	Land holding				
	Marginal farmers	13	21.67	15	25.00
	Small farmers	8	13.33	11	18.33
	Semi medium farmers	12	20.00	17	28.33
	Medium farmers	16	26.67	9	15.00
	Large farmers	11	18.33	8	13.00
	Mean	29.48		27.18	
	SD	21.33		27.80	
4.	Annual income				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	24	40.00	26	43.33
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	23	38.33	21	35.00
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	13	21.66	13	21.66
	Mean	45.06		46.77	
	SD	26.22		35.28	

Table 2 : Extension attributes of respondents (N=120)					
Sr. No.	Characteristics	Trained n-60		Untrained n-60	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Extension participation				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	17	28.33	23	38.33
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	15	25.00	27	45.00
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	28	46.66	10	16.66
	Mean	2.80		0.78	
	SD	1.71		1.15	
2.	Mass media utilization				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	19	31.66	20	33.33
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	19	31.66	17	28.33
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	22	36.33	23	38.33
	Mean	4.9		4.95	
	SD	2.23		2.13	
3.	Cosmopoliteness				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	19	31.66	17	28.33
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	25	41.66	23	38.33
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	16	26.66	20	33.33
	Mean	5.98		6.25	
	SD	1.93		1.77	

(46.67 %) had high extension participation followed by 45% of the untrained respondents had medium level of extension participation in terms of various activities *viz.*, training, exhibition, demonstrations, field days, study tour etc. The extension participation directly helps the respondents to have information on recently developed technologies which aim to collect further needed information from extension experts, subject matter specialists etc. This in turn helps to increase their knowledge level and adoption behaviour. The observations of Kanavi (2000) is in line with the results of present study.

#### Utilization of mass media:

The Table 2 revealed that 31.66% of the trained respondents belonged to high media participation while an equal per cent (31.66%) of the farmers belonged to medium and low mass media participation, where as 38.33, 33.33, 28.33 per cent of untrained participation were found to be in high, low and medium mass media participation, respectively. Mass media provides information on experiences of successful farmers through various channels like Television, Radio, Newspaper etc., which reinforce confidence in other farmers to try out innovative ideas.

#### Cosmo politeness :

Cosmo politeness is the degree to which a farmer is oriented out side to his community to seek information

Table 2 revealed that 41.66 and 38.33 per cent of the trained and untrained respondents had medium level of cosmo politeness followed by low (31.66% and 28.33%) and high (26.66% and 33.33%) level of cosmopoliteness, respectively. This type of results is due to the fact that the cities/towns are nearer to the village of the respondents with the availability of good transport facilities. The findings are in line with the results of Anitha (2004).

#### Psychological attributes of the respondents :

The psychological *viz.*, innovativeness, risk orientation and scientific orientation of both trained and untrained respondents were analysed and presented in Table 3.

#### Innovativeness :

The data in the Table 3 indicate that 38.33% and 26.67% of trained and untrained respondents belonged to high innovativeness category followed by medium (36.66% and 23.33%) and low (25% and 50%) innovativeness category, respectively. It could be due to the higher educational level of the respondents in both the groups which might have helped them to acquire new technology at their fields. Dry land farming must have promoted them to adopt new ideas to increase their farm income.

#### Risk orientation:

The data in Table 3 revealed that more than one

Table 3 : Psychological attributes of the respondents (n=120)					
Sr. No.	Characteristics	Trained n-60		Untrained n-60	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Innovativeness				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	15	25.00	30	50.00
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	22	36.66	14	23.33
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	23	38.33	16	26.67
	Mean	36.51		37.27	
	SD	5.25		5.98	
2.	Risk Orientation				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	17	28.33	19	31.67
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	26	43.33	25	41.66
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	17	28.33	16	26.33
	Mean	9.53		8.18	
	SD	2.45		1.78	
3.	Scientific orientation				
	Low (Mean- 0.425 SD)	13	21.67	17	28.33
	Medium (Mean $\pm$ 0.425 SD)	26	43.33	26	43.33
	High (Mean + 0.425 SD)	21	35.00	17	28.33
	Mean	7.43		7.56	
	SD	1.71		1.56	

third of the trained (43.33%) and 41.66% of untrained respondents were in medium level of risk orientation, a peculiar character of an individual farmer. Where as 28.33% of trained and 26.33% of untrained respondents belonged to high level of risk orientation. As farming in India is considered as gambling with nature, because weather vagaries and monsoon affects the crop yields with all these facts, the farmer is ready to bear the risk when he expects to get some fixed outcome. Findings are inconsonance with the findings of Venkataramulu (2003) and Walke *et al.* (2009).

#### **Scientific orientation:**

The scientific orientation refers to the degree to which respondents are oriented towards the use of scientific methods. Nearly an equal per cent (43.33%) of the trained and untrained respondents had medium level of scientific orientation, followed by 35% and 28.33% of the trained and untrained belonged to high level of scientific orientation, respectively (Table 3).

This types of results are attributed to the high level of education, medium cosmo politeness which led them to acquire more information about the scientific knowledge of the recent advance in the vermicompost technology. These findings are in line with the results of Karpagan (2000) and Sunil and Manjula (2009).

#### **Suggestions to improve the training programme:**

The suggestions offered by the trained respondents with regard to conduct of training programme at K.V.K. still in a better and effective way are presented in Table 4. Cent per cent of the respondents expressed to develop community vermicompost pits so as to obtain sufficient raw material for compost pit, followed by making procedure simple to obtain loan under subsidy (88.33%) and more than 80% of the respondents said interest on the loans should be reduced and further procedure of

getting loan should be simplified and lastly only 30% of them said they need further training on use of vermiwash. The marginal land holding, average annual income and difficulty in getting financial support might be the reasons which led to this type of suggestions.

#### **Conclusion:**

Majority of trained and untrained farmers were in middle aged. Trained had Higher Secondary to College level of education where as untrained had up to Primary to Middle School education, both the categories have land holdings semi medium to medium level and nearly fifty per cent of them had low to medium annual income. In case of extension attributes they had high level of media participation followed by medium level of cosmopolitaness. Both trained and untrained respondents had medium level of innovativeness and risk orientation. A great majority of trained respondents suggested the need for community vermi compost pits, simple procedure to available the loans as well as subsidy facilities to start the vermicompost production on their own farms.

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**Table 4 : Suggestions expressed by the trained respondents to improve the training programme**

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Trained (n=60)	
		F	%
1.	Develop community vermicompost pits to obtain sufficient raw material for vermicompost	60	100.00
2.	Procedure to be made simple for availing subsidy schemes	53	88.33
3.	Interest on loan should be reduced and procedures to be simplified	49	81.66
4.	Need more trainings on use of vermiwash	18	30.00

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