Research Paper :

Assessment of technological training need and interest of the farm women for Mustard crop cultivation

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in four villages of Bhiwani and Mahendergarh districts of Haryana State which were selected purposively as mustard crop grown in area at large scale. A proportionate random sample of 175 farm women who were actively involved in farming was selected purposively. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Most of the farm women were in middle (28-41yrs) age group belonging to general caste, illiterate, having low family education status, negligible social participation belonging to nuclear family with farming as their main occupation, low innovative proneness. Regarding information input sources, use of locality source was of high extent. The most needed and interested areas of technological training were harvesting and storage followed by needed and interested areas were sowing, weeding, manures and fertilizer application, insect pest control and threshing, whereas least needed and interested areas were land preparation and irrigation. Therefore, need-based trainings for farm women should be organized in order to update their knowledge and skills and thereby change in their attitude for cultivation of mustard crop more effectively.

Agriculture is the mainstay of nation's economy in especially in rural community of the Haryana State. In rural areas, women are equally the bread earners of the family and work as much as men in various agricultural operations. A large number of farm women are engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or helpers to cultivators or agricultural laborers. Women participate in most of the agricultural operations like mannuring, land preparation, sowing of seeds, transplanting, weeding, applying fertilizers, taking care of standing crops, harvesting, threshing, and carrying the produce from farm to home, storage of food grains, cattle care and preparation of manure pit. Rural women play a pivotal role in agricultural, animal husbandry and other allied activities besides their normal domestic chores. Thus, rural women always play an important dual role in the society. Though not expected, the rural women are compelled to work in agriculture because of many family and situational constraints. The best way to make optimum use of the human resources is to provide them opportunities for self-development through training, which improves the existing knowledge and skills, enhances capability and improves the competency to meet the challenges of the society and technology. Since, farm women are little bit exposed to formal education, imparting training to them on the agricultural work being performed by them would help in improving the quality of work. In order to make training programmes more effective, it should be based on the identified training need of the farm women. In view of the importance, the study was undertaken with the following specific objectives: to study the socio-economic profile of the farm women and to assess the training need of the farm women for Mustard cultivation.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Haryana state. Bhiwani and Mahendergarh districts were selected purposively as mustard crop is grown in large scale. The study was undertaken in Bhera and Miran villages of Tosham block of Bhiwani district and two villages (Bapora and Nanakwas) were selected from Mahendergarh block of Mahendergarh district. From four selected villages, a proportionate random sample of 175 farm women who were actively involved in farming were selected purposively. Selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of specially structured interview schedule. Responses of women regarding their training need and interest were collected on a three point continuum namely, most needed and interested, some what needed and interested and least needed and interested with score 3,2,1, respectively. The aggregate score for each item and most preferred field of training was identified. The data thus collected were processed,

tabulated and analyzed by using frequency, percentage, mean weight score, rank, etc. to know the respondent's need and interest for training.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented below :

Profile of the farm women:

Table 1 incorporates background profile of the respondents. In term of age, caste, education of the respondents, family education, social participation, family type, main occupation, locality source, cosmopolite, mass media and innovative proneness etc.

The data presented in Table 1 indicate that 50.3 per cent respondents were in middle age group followed by young (40.4%) and old (9.7%) age group.

Castewise distribution of the respondents in Bhiwani and Mahendergarh was reported that less than half of them (44.6%) belonged to general caste followed by schedule caste (30.8%) and backward caste (24.6%).

It is also clear from the Table 1 that less than fifty per cent (47.4%) of Bhiwani and Mahendergarh districts respondents were found illiterate and 17.1 per cent of the respondents were found who can read only and about 10.3% were who can read and write only. However, less than one tenth of the farm women *i.e.* 7.4, 3.50 and 2.9 per cent respondents were found to be educated up to High School, Middle School, 10+2 level, respectively. A very meagre percentage (0.6%) of the respondents was educated upto found graduate level and no respondents was found educated up to post graduation level.

Mustard growing area was also found that majority of the respondent's (61.7%) were possessing low education level followed by medium (28.6%) and high (9.7%)education level, respectively.

Further, it was found that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (92.6%) of farm women were not members of any social organization. On contrary to this, 5.7 per cent of them were members of only one social organization. Only 1.7 per cent were office bearers and none of the respondent was either public leader or member of more than one social organization.

Results regarding family type have also been furnished in Table 1, which revealed that more than fifty per cent (58.3%) were belonging to nuclear families where as 33.7 per cent of the respondents were having joint family and 8.0 per cent were having extended families.

Table 1 further shows that more than ninety per cent of the respondents (90.3%) had farming as their main occupation, where as only 5.7 per cent were found to be

in service and no one was as agricultural labourer and 4.0 per cent of the respondents were having business as their main occupation.

A perusal of Table 1 reveals that about one third of the respondents (34.8%) and (30.9%) had land less than 2.5 acre and between 2.5 to 5 acres. It is further pointed out that one fifth of the respondents (18.9%) had land between 5.1 to 7.5 acres. Only few respondents *i.e.* 15.4 per cent were having land more than 7.5 acres in sample.

When localite source was taken into consideration, the data in this respect revealed that more than seventy per cent of the respondents (73.7%)had high localite source of information followed by medium (21.7%) and low (4.6%).

The data presented in mustard growing area revealed that 81.1 per cent of the respondents were having low cosmopolite source of information, where as 14.9 per cent of the farm women were having medium and high (4.0%) cosmopolite source of information.

The results of mass media exposure have also been presented in Table 1. It unfolds the fact that about half of the respondents (57.1%) of mustard growing area had low mass media exposure. About 38.9% of the respondents were having medium followed by high (4.0%) mass media exposure.

The data regarding innovative proneness are further point to the fact that 66.9 per cent of farm women were found to have low innovative proneness whereas 26.9 per cent of the respondents had medium and 6.2 per cent farming women were having high innovative proneness.

On the basis of total sample, the results of the scienticism - fatalism reveal that majority of the respondents (65.1%) were found to have low scienticism - fatalism whereas 22.9 per cent respondents had medium and 12.0 per cent farming women were having high scientcism-fatalism.

Like conservation-liberalism majority of the respondents (61.1%) were found to have low conservatism - liberalism. On contrary to this, about one third of the respondents (33.1%) were having medium and 5.7 per cent of the respondents had high conservatism-liberalism.

As regards economic motivation 68.6% had low economic motivation and about twenty per cent of respondents (21.7%) were having medium economic motivation, whereas about one tenth of farming women (9.7%) had low economic motivation. Majority of the respondents (65.7%) were found to have low risk orientation followed by medium (30.9%) and high (3.4 per cent) risk orientation of the respondents.

It is indicated that most of the farm women were in

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Table 1 : Profile of the farm women (N=175)		
	Bhiwani and Mahendergarh	
	Mustard	
Variables	Freq.	%age
Age		
Young (Below 28 yrs)	70	40.0
Middle (28-41 yrs)	88	50.3
Old (Above 41 yrs)	17	9.7
Caste		
General	78	44.6
Backward	43	24.6
Schedule	54	30.8
Education		
Illiterate	83	47.4
Can read only	30	17.1
Can read and write	18	10.3
Primary	19	10.8
Middle	6	3.5
High School	13	7.4
10+2	5	2.9
Graduate	1	0.6
Post graduation	---	---
Education of the family		
Low	108	61.7
Medium	50	28.7
High	17	9.7
Social participation		
Member of no organization	162	92.6
Member of one organization	10	5.7
Member of >1 organization	---	-
Officer bearer/holder	3	1.7
Public leader	---	---
Family type		
Nuclear	102	58.3
Joint	59	33.7
Extended	14	8.0
Main occupation		
Farming	158	90.3
Service	10	5.7
Business	7	4.0
Agril. Labour	---	---
Landy holding		
> 2.5 acre	61	34.8
2.5 to 5 acre	54	30.9
5.1 to 7.5 acre	33	18.9
Above 7.5 acre	27	15.4
Localite source of information		
Low	8	4.6
Medium	38	21.7
High	129	73.7

Contd..... Table 1

Table 1 contd.....

Cosmopolite source of information		
Low	142	81.1
Medium	26	14.9
High	7	4.0
Mass media		
Low	100	57.1
Medium	68	38.9
High	7	4.0
Innovative proneness		
Low	117	66.9
Medium	47	26.9
High	11	6.2
Scienticism-fatalism		
Low	114	65.1
Medium	40	22.9
High	21	12.0
Conservatism - liberalism		
Low	107	61.1
Medium	58	33.1
High	10	5.7
Economic motivation		
Low	120	68.6
Medium	38	21.7
High	17	9.7
Risk orientation		
Low	115	65.7
Medium	54	30.9
High	6	3.4

middle (28-41yrs) age group belonging to general caste, illiterate, having low family education status, negligible social participation belonging to nuclear family with farming as their main occupation and having low innovative proneness. Regarding information input sources, use of locality source was of high extent, having low mass media exposure and cosmopolite source of information.

Technological training need and interest of the respondents for mustard cultivation:

The data regarding technological training need and interest of the farm women for mustard cultivation of Bhiwani and Mahendergarh districts are presented in Table 2.

The technological training need and interest pattern showed that highest rank was assigned to harvesting (I, MS 2.38) followed by storage (II, MS 2.31). The medium rank was assigned to the operations such as sowing (III, MS 2.30), weeding (IV, MS 2.23), manure and fertilizer application (V, MS 2.18), insect pest control (VI, MS 2.12) and threshing (VII, MS 2.05) whereas lowest ranks were

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Table 2 : Technological training need and interest of the respondents for mustard cultivation (N=175)						
Sr. No.	Practices	Extent of need and interest			Weighted score	Weighted mean score	Rank
		Most needed and interested	Somewhat needed and interested	Least needed and interested			
		F (%)	F (%)	F (%)			
1.	Land preparation	40 (22.90)	34 (19.4)	101 (57.7)	289	1.65	VIII
2.	Sowing	85 (48.60)	58(33.1)	32 (18.3)	403	2.30	III
3.	Irrigation	29 (16.6)	48 (27.4)	98 (56.0)	281	1.60	IX
4.	Manure and fertilizer application	73 (41.7)	61 (34.9)	41 (23.4)	382	2.18	V
5.	Weeding	73 (41.70)	60 (34.3)	42 (24.0)	381	2.23	IV
6.	Insect pest control	70 (40.00)	57 (32.6)	48 (27.4)	372	2.12	VI
7.	Harvesting	94 (53.7)	54 (30.9)	27 (15.4)	417	2.38	I
8.	Threshing	68 (38.9)	48 (27.4)	59 (33.7)	359	2.05	VII
9.	Storage	100 (57.1)	29 (16.6)	46 (26.3)	404	2.31	II

* Maximum score is 3

Least needed/interested (low)   1-1.66
Somewhat needed/interested (medium)   1.67 – 2.32
Most needed and interested (high)   2.33 -3.00

assigned to the land preparation (VIII, MS 1.65) and irrigation (IX, MS 1.60).

It is inferred that most needed and interested areas of technological training were harvesting and storage followed by needed and interested areas were sowing, weeding, manures and fertilizer application, insect pest control and threshing, whereas least needed and interested areas were land preparation and irrigation as also indicated by Rani *et al.* (2001) and Singh *et al.* (2001).

Conclusion:

It can be inferred from the data that training need score of the farm women of both the districts are more in harvesting, followed by storage and sowing. To improve upon their knowledge and skill competencies, it is suggested that the training need of farm women must be fulfilled in most crucial areas, organizing and conducting training programmes based on the felt training need of the farm women in order to update their knowledge and skills and thereby change in their attitude for cultivation of mustard crop more effectively.

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