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Impact of training programmes imparted by Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Rajasthan

BHAGWAN SINGH MEENA[1] AND BALDEO SINGH*
Agricultural Research Station, Rajasthan Agricultural University, SRIGANGANAGAR (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

ABSTRACT

The present investigation aimed at analyzing the vocational trainings imparted by Krishi Vigyan Kendras run by ICAR, SAUs and NGOs in Rajasthan state and ascertain their comparative performance. Based on the years of establishment, two KVKs from SAU, one from ICAR institute and one from NGO were selected. The respondents comprised of trained and untrained farmers and trainers of selected KVKs. Selection of farmers was based on simple random method and trained and untrained were selected from each KVKs. The impact of trainings was studied in terms of knowledge gain in selected practices of major crops and their extent of adoption. There were significant increase in the knowledge of trained farmers than untrained farmers. The knowledge gain of mustard technology was recorded higher in respondents of ICAR and SAU KVKs. Where as in case of bajra and maize production technology, it was low in these KVKs compared to respondents of NGO KVK. Similar trend was found in adoption of improved practices of selected crops.

Key words : Training, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, K.V.K.

INTRODUCTION

To attain the major objective of training farmers in the recent knowledge in agricultural fields, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) established the farm science centres popularily known as Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) throughout the country since the middle of 70s. The KVK is an innovative science based institution which functions on the principles of collaborative participation of scientists, subject matter experts, extension workers and its clients *i.e.* the farmers. The main purpose of KVK has been imparting work experienced to those who are engaged in farming. Teaching by doing and learning by doing have been the main methods of imparting skill training to the farmers by the KVKs. The impact of training programmes of selected KVKs can be judged on the basis of direct and indirect benefits accrued to the trainees. This can be ascertain through assessing the knowledge level of the trainees in respect of agricultural technologies and extent of adoption of these techniques on their farms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was undertaken in Rajasthan State in four selected KVKs *i.e.* two from Agricultural University, one from ICAR Institute and one belonged to Non-governmental Organization (NGO). The samples of the respondents for the study comprised of two types *i.e.* sample I-trained farmers and sample II- untrained farmers. 20 farmers under each sample were selected randomly from four selected KVKs, making total sample size 160 (80 trained + 80 untrained) for judging the comparative effectiveness of their trainings two important crops of *Kharif* season's bajra and maize and another of *Rabi* season *i.e.* mustard were selected and knowledge and adoption behaviour of respondents for the same were analyzed.

The interview schedule was developed to measure the knowledge level of the respondent using scale of Fulzele (1986) with modifications while scale of Singh and Kolte (1979) with modification, was used to calculate the adoption quotient of the respondents. Information so collected were scored, tabulated, computed and analyzed to have necessary interpretations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads:

Level of respondents :

The knowledge level of trained and untrained respondents was computed in respect of selected package of practices of bajra, maize and mustard crops, respectively of all the four selected KVKs.

Table 1 clearly indicated that mean knowledge scores of trained respondents in respect of bajra crop was 11.15 and in case of untrained respondents it was 9.80 in ICAR KVK showing a gain of knowledge through trainings conducted by KVK. The mean knowledge scores of trained and untrained respondents in respect of mustard practices were 17.40 and 11.80 showed a significant gain

*** Author for correspondence.**
[1]Directorate of Extension, IARI, PUSA, NEW DELHI INDIA

Table 1 : Knowledge level and knowledge index of respondents of selected KVKs

Sr. No.	Particulars	ICAR KVK		NGO KVK		SAU KVK (i)		SAU KVK (ii)	
		Mean Knowledge index	Knowledge index	Mean knowledge index	Knowledge index	Mean knowledge index	Knowledge index	Mean knowledge index	Knowledge index
1.	Bajra								
	Trained	11.15	55.75	-	-	11.30	56.50	-	-
	Untrained	9.80	49.00	-		10.60	53.00	-	-
2.	Maize								
	Trained	-	-	11.75	58.50	-	-	-	52.00
	Untrained	-	-	9.50	47.50	-	-	-	47.25
3.	Mustard								
	Trained	17.40	66.92	14.75	56.53	16.70	64.23	12.95	49.80
	Untrained	11.80	44.61	11.05	44.23	14.60	56.15	11.55	43.65

of knowledge in trained respondents over the knowledge of untrained respondents.

As indicated in Table 1, mean knowledge scores of trained and untrained respondents in respect of maize practices were 11.75 and 9.50, respectively in case of NGO KVK. Respondents of the same KVK were possessing mean knowledge scores 14.75 and 11.05, respectively in respect of mustard practices showing gain of knowledge less than that of respondents of ICAR KVK.

In case of SAU KVK (i) the mean knowledge scores in respect of bajra crop were 11.30 and 10.60, respectively in trained and untrained respondents showing less gain in knowledge through training while mustard practices the knowledge score were 16.70 and 14.60 in trained and untrained respondents, respectively. The mean knowledge scores in respect of maize and mustard crops were low in case of SAU KVK (ii) respondents in comparison to other KVKs.

Knowledge index :

The mean knowledge scores were divided by maximum possible score and multiply by 100 to expend it in percentage terms. Table 1 indicates the differences in knowledge of improved practices of selected crops between trained and untrained respondents and between the respondents of selected KVKs. It is obvious from the indexes in Table 1, that overall knowledge possessed by the respondent was almost half of the total knowledge score of recommended practices. However, there was a gap between knowledge possessed by trained and untrained respondents which may be attributed as the impact of KVK trainings.

The maximum knowledge gap (22.31) between trained and untrained respondents in respect of mustard practices was recorded in ICAR KVK followed by NGO KVK and SAU KVK (i) between trained and untrained respondents. Hence, the results indicate that the performance of ICAR KVK was much better than NGO and SAU KVKs. The NGO KVK had slightly better performance than SAU KVKs. As a whole, the performance of all selected KVKs was not up to desired level. They are required to be more serious in increasing knowledge of the farmers about agricultural practices.

Adoption level of respondents :

The mean extent of adoption of improved practices of selected crops namely bajra, maize and mustard, adoption quotient has been worked out for trained and untrained respondents of selected KVKs. The results have been presented in Table 2.

Mean adoption level of respondents

As indicated in Table 2, mean adoption scores were found to be 18.05 and 14.80 for trained and untrained respondents of ICAR KVK in respect of bajra crop while it was 18.80 and 17.15 in SAU KVK (i), , respectively. In case of maize crop, the mean adoption scores were 20.05 and 17.00 for trained and untrained respondents of NGO KVK, while it was 16.6 and 14.6, respectively of SAU KVK (ii). These results give clear cut reflection of the impact of KVKs trainings on trained respondents of the selected KVKs.

In case of mustard crop, the highest mean adoption score of trained respondents was 23.40 in ICAR KVK, while it was least (17.90) in SAU KVK.

(ii) on the other hand, the highest mean adoption score of untrained respondents were 19.10 in SAU KVK(i), while it was least (15.80) in SAU KVK(ii). Almost alike pattern of adoption of mustard practices among trained and untrained respondents was observed in all KVks. Only in high level of adoption, the trained

Table 2 : Knowledge level and knowledge index of respondents of selected KVKs

Sr. No.	Particulars	ICAR KVK		NGO KVK		SAU KVK (i)		SAU KVK (ii)	
		Mean Knowledge index	Knowledge index	Mean knowledge index	Knowledge index	Mean knowledge index	Knowledge index	Mean knowledge index	Knowledge index
1.	Bajra								
	Trained	18.05	50.13	-	-	18.80	52.22	-	-
	Untrained	14.80	41.11	-		17.15	47.63	-	-
2.	Maize								
	Trained	-	-	20.05	55.59	-	-	16.60	46.11
	Untrained	-	-	17.00	47.22	-	-	14.60	40.55
3.	Mustard								
	Trained	23.40	65.00	19.56	59.02	21.25	54.16	17.90	49.72
	Untrained	18.10	50.13	16.40	45.23	19.10	53.05	15.80	43.88

respondents had slight edge over untrained respondents.

Adoption quotient of the respondents :

This has been worked out by converting the scores obtained by respondents into percentage terms to have more clear understanding and same is given in Table 2.

It is evident from the Table 2 that extent of adoption in selected crop practices was almost 50 per cent in all KVKs. This means that respondents were not adopted the recommended practices of selected crops fully. The adoption quotient was highest (65%) in ICAR KVK in respect of mustard crop. The next in order was NGO KVK and SAU KVKs. When we observe the adoption gap between trained and untrained respondents, it was more in mustard crop than other two crops. Among KVKs, the gap between trained and untrained respondents was highest in ICAR KVK followed by NGO KVK and SAU KVKs. It may be concluded that ICAR KVk had better performance than NGO and SAU KVKs.

As a whole, all KVks have played significant role in accelerating the agricultural production. Still, a lot is left and KVks need to make intensive efforts through its trainings to increase adoption of improved practices among the farming community.

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