

Role perception and role performance of the members of block farmers advisory committee (BFAC)

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to answer broadly two researchable questions: i) To what extent the members of the Block Farmer's Advisory Committee (BFAC) are perceiving and performing their roles in the 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (SSEPER) scheme' of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Govt of India (GOI). ii) What measures to be taken by different stakeholders for superior performance by the BFAC members in the schemes? This mega scheme is being implemented in all the states of the country covering 591 districts. Following a purposive cum random sampling technique, 380 numbers of BFAC members were selected as respondents of the study from 2 states viz., Assam and Mizoram. The results revealed that the majority of the BFAC members have medium level of perception and performance of different roles they are to be carried out under the scheme. Positive correlations were found in case of 'training exposure and 'mass media exposure' with the level of role perception and performance of roles by the BFAC members. However, negative association were found in case of 'age', 'education qualification', 'caste', 'operational land holding', 'occupation' and 'annual income' with the level of perception and performance of roles by the BFAC members.

INTRODUCTION

Establishment of Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) at three different levels viz., Block, District and at State level is one of the crucial farmer-centric institutional arrangements in the *SSEPER Scheme*. The effectiveness in implementation of this mega scheme is largely depends on how clearly and earnestly the members of the FACs perceived their roles, and how effectively they perform those. The role of block level FAC viz., BFAC is obviously most crucial. This committee consists of 20-25 leading farmers of the block, and its main role is to advice and facilitates the Block Technology Team (BTT) of the scheme for proper planning and

implementation of the activities. Seven distinctive roles of BFAC have been specified in the guidelines of SSEPER scheme with the objective of facilitating effective functioning of this body in implementation of the scheme.

In this context, the researchable questions arise are: How clearly BFAC members perceive the prescribed roles? Do they perceive certain roles as more important than others? How effectively they have been performing the prescribed role? What socio-economic factors are affecting 'role perception' and 'role performance' of BFAC members significantly? Keeping these researchable questions in view the study has been carried out in the year 2012-13 covering the state of Assam and

Mizoram.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

12 BFACs from 6 selected districts of Assam, and 4 BFACs from 2 selected districts of Mizoram were selected as locale of the study by following Stratified Random Sampling Technique. All the members of each BFAC were selected as respondents, and thus, total respondents were 380.

Data were collected from each of the respondents during monthly meetings of BFAC of the selected blocks by employing a structured schedule keeping the objectives into view and consulting the prescribed guidelines of the SSEPE scheme. Frequencies and percentage distribution of the respondents were computed according to their level of role perception and level of role performance.

Further, 'perceived importance score' for each of the seven prescribed roles were computed based on the degree to which a respondent perceive them with more or less importance relatively. The roles were ranked according to the mean 'perceived importance scores'. Again 'role performance score' for each of the seven roles were computed based on the extent to which respondents performed the prescribed roles since being BFAC members. Based on mean 'role performance scores' the roles were ranked.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

Rank of different roles according to importance perceived by BFAC members :

From Table 1 it is evident that the top three ranked roles according to mean perceived importance scores (PIS) were related to facilitating Block Technology Team(BTT) in conducting cafeteria activities of SSEPER scheme that

include, Demonstration, Exposure visit and Farm school. 'Participating in preparation of Block Action Plan' was perceived as fourth important role while, 'Facilitating BTT members in forming CIGs/FIGs' was perceived as least important among the seven roles. 'Sharing in BTT meeting farmers' needs and problems' and Facilitating BTT members in imparting training' were perceived as fifth and sixth important roles among the seven roles.

Level of role perception :

It can be seen from the Fig. 1 that the majority (77.6%) of the BFAC members had medium level of role perception whereas 11.3 per cent had low and 11.1 per cent had higher level of perception on the roles Fig. 1.

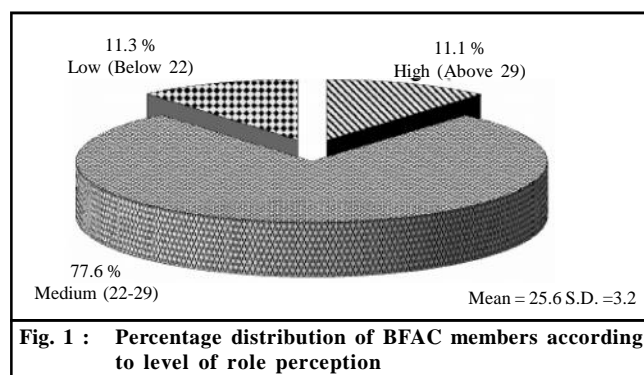


Fig. 1 : Percentage distribution of BFAC members according to level of role perception

Performance of different roles by BFAC members:

It can be seen from the Table 2 that 'Facilitating BTT members in conducting demonstration' was found to be the mostly performed role by the BFAC members which is followed by the roles 'Facilitating BTT members in scheduling exposure visit', 'Facilitating BTT members in organizing Farm schools' and 'Sharing farmer's need and problems in BTT meeting'.

The role performed least by BFAC members were 'Facilitating BTT members in forming CIGs/FIGs', 'Facilitating BTT members in imparting training', and

Role No.	Roles	Mean perceived importance scores	Rank
1.	Facilitating BTT members in conducting Demonstration	3.81	I
2.	Facilitating BTT members in scheduling Exposure visit	3.75	II
3.	Facilitating BTT members in organizing Farm School	3.71	III
4.	Participating in preparation of 'Block Action Plan' (BAP)	3.70	IV
5.	Sharing in BTT meeting farmers' needs and problems	3.68	V
6.	Facilitating BTT members in imparting training	3.58	VI
7.	Facilitating BTT members in forming CIGs/FIGs	3.37	VII

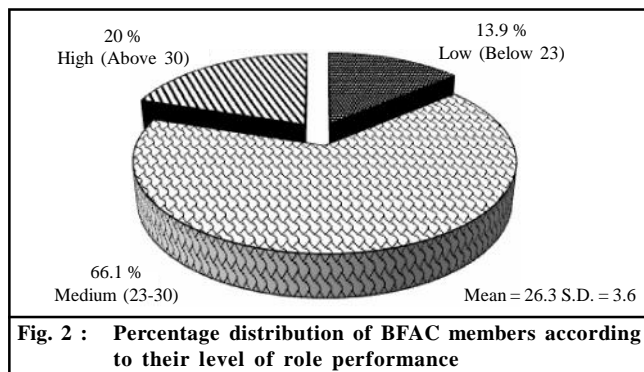
‘participating in preparation of ‘Block Action Plan.’

Level of role performance :

As depicted in Fig. 2, majority (66.1%) of the BFAC members had medium level of performance whereas 20 per cent had high and 13.9 per cent had low level of performance of the roles to be played under the scheme.

Relationship between socio personal characteristics of BFAC members with their level of role perception and performance :

It can be seen from the Table 3 that three (3) socio personal characteristics were significantly associated with the role perception. Out of which ‘age’ was found to have negative and significant association with their level



of role perception. This implies that the role perception of the BFAC members decreases with the increase in ‘age’. Other two characteristics viz., ‘sources of

Role No.	Roles	Mean role performance scores	Rank
1.	Facilitating BTT members in conducting Demonstration	3.84	I
2.	Facilitating BTT members in Scheduling Exposure visit	3.81	II
3.	Facilitating BTT members in organizing Farm School	3.80	III
4.	Sharing in BTT meeting farmers’ needs and problems	3.79	IV
5.	Participating in preparation of ‘Block Action Plan’ (BAP)	3.78	V
6.	Facilitating BTT members in imparting training	3.65	VI
7.	Facilitating BTT members in forming CIGs/FIGs	3.61	VII

Sr. No.	Socio-personal characteristics	Co-efficient of correlation ‘r’	Calculated ‘t’ value
1.	Age	-0.11	1.95*
2.	Education qualification	-0.02	0.38
3.	Caste	-0.01	0.19
4.	Operational land holding	-0.03	0.58
5.	Occupation	-0.02	0.38
6.	Annual income	0.02	0.38
7.	Mass media exposure	0.09	1.75*
8.	Training exposure	0.09	1.75*

* indicate significance of values at P=0.05

Sr. No.	Socio-personal characteristics	Co-efficient of correlation ‘r’	Calculated ‘t’ value
1.	Age	-0.03	0.58
2.	Education qualification	-0.01	0.19
3.	Caste	-0.07	1.37
4.	Operational land holding	-0.07	1.37
5.	Occupation	-0.05	0.97
6.	Annual income	0.02	0.38
7.	Mass media exposure	0.09	1.75*
8.	Training exposure	0.09	1.75*

* indicate significance of value at P=0.05

information' and 'training exposure' were found to have positive and significant relationship with the role perception of the BFAC members. It means that with increase in 'sources of information' and training exposure', the role perception level of the BFAC members also increases. Other socio-personal characteristics of the BFAC members did not have any significant relationship with their level of role perception.

It can be seen from the Table 4 that two socio-personal characteristics viz., 'mass media exposure' and 'training exposure' were positively and significantly associated with the level of role performance. This implies that the role performance of the BFAC members increases with the increase in 'mass media exposure' and 'training exposure'. Other socio-personal characteristics of the BFAC members did not have any significant relationship with their level of role performance.

Conclusion :

It can be observed from the study that the least perceived and performed role is 'facilitating BTT members in forming CIGs and FIGs'. This is a cause of major concern for the extension functionaries as the formation of CIGs and Farm Schools are gaining momentum under the CSS scheme. This indicates the needs of extensive awareness activity by the implementing agency to make the people feel the importance of the group formation. The medium level of role perception and role performance

also indicates the inefficient extension efforts by the implementing agency. 'Training exposure' and 'Mass Media exposure' can help in increasing the level of perception and performance of the role of BFAC members as it is indicated by the positive and significant association in the study. The finding is in line with the findings of Purushothama (1997). However, it is found that there is no association between the 'age' of the respondents with the level of role perceived and performed by the BFAC members. The finding in regard to 'age' is supported by the finding of Intodia and Shaktawat (1980).

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