

Research Article

Correlative study on involvement of representative farmers in ATMA

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SUMMARY : The National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) has framed for pilot testing new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination of the district level and below, through establishment of district Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) as an autonomous organization providing flexible working environment. Hence present investigation was undertaken with an objective to study the relationship between the personal socio-economic characters and the extent of involvement of the representative farmers in ATMA. The present study was conducted in the Amravati District which comes in the vidharbha region of Maharashtra State during the year 2005-2006. For the present research work the Amravati District ATMA (agency) was purposively selected which was started in the year 2000-01. Amravati district ATMA (agency) works in fourteen Tahsils and the representative farmers. From the fourteen Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) were selected along with the other seven representatives from the Governing Board at the District level. Thus a list of representative farmers was obtained from the office of the Project Director ATMA Amravati. The method of personal interview was used for the data collection and the data from all the selected sample respondents was collected. The respondent farmers were personally contacted for their interview purpose. Present investigation concluded that irrespective of representative farmer's age group, maximum number of them had shown high involvement level and the test of correlation shows negative and non significant relationship. Regarding education and their involvement, findings also show high level involvement among the majority and the test of correlation shows negative and non significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities. Regarding income and involvement, the results show a high level involvement of maximum farmers irrespective of income level. The test of correlation shows negative and non significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities. Regarding land holding and involvement, the results also show a high level involvement among the maximum number, irrespective of their land holding category, and the test of correlation shows a positive and non-significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities. Regarding social participation and involvement, the findings show a positive trend of involvement and the farmers with increasing level, were found involved in ATMA activities irrespective of their social participation in other formal organizations.

KEY WORDS:

Correlation,
Representative
farmers, ATMA

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

During earlier period after independence the importance was given to human and community development. All extension programmes were framed to increase food production because food security was the primary object after independence. Then in the mid-sixties green revolution yields high yielding wheat and rice varieties. There was a need to rapid dissemination of broad based crop management practices for high yielding wheat and rice varieties. Training and visit system fulfilled this need effectively.

Extension activities have been largely carried out by state Departments of Agriculture, other line departments like Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Social, Forestry and Fisheries, have primarily focused on the provision of subsidies, in puts and service to farmers.

By early 1990's it was recognized that extension should begin to broad base its programmes by utilizing a farming system approach. For example, attention should be paid to the need of farmers in rain fed areas and to diversify extension programmes of livestock,

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horticulture and other high value commodities that are capable of increasing farm income. A realization has also dawned that issues like financial sustainability, lack of farmer's participation in programme planning and the weak links with research are serious constraints facing the current extension system.

The National Agricultural Technology project (NATP) has framed for pilot testing new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination of the district level and below, through establishment of district Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) as an autonomous organization providing flexible working environment. Hence, present investigation was undertaken with an objective to study the relationship between the personal socio-economic characters and the extent of involvement of the representative farmers in ATMA.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the Amravati District which comes in the vidharbha region of Maharashtra State during the year 2005-2006. For the present research work the Amravati District ATMA (agency) was purposively selected which was started in the year 2000-01. Amravati district ATMA (agency) works in fourteen Tahsils and the representative farmers. From the fourteen Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) were selected along with the other seven representatives from the Governing Board at the District level. Thus a list of representative farmers was obtained from the office of the Project Director ATMA Amravati. The method of personal interview was used for the data collection and the data from all the selected sample respondents was collected. The respondent farmers were personally contacted for their interview purpose.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The observations made by the investigator are classified and grouped to form the tables for their interpretation. The Tables so formed are presented under the following heads for their discussion and interpretation.

In the Table 1 given above the observations show that around 50 per cent of the respondents in young and middle age groups showed their high involvement in ATMA activities and among the old age respondents there was high involvement of 75 per cent of the respondents. The Table 1 further indicates that 30 to 33 per cent respondents in the middle age group had medium involvement level. The Table also indicates that only a few farmers in all the three age groups had low involvement level.

It is, therefore, an overall indication that among the selected representative farmers, in the ATMA have their involvement to a good extent, irrespective of their age group which is a matter of satisfaction for their interest in rural development.

The above findings, though not directly related to the findings of the past research workers, they seem to agree with some of the involvement activities of the farmers. Singh and Hussain (1989), Gawande (1998) stated more interest and involvement of older farmers in the activities of youth club and Grampanchayat, respectively. Similarly in the results stated by Lohar (2003) the relationship between age and participation of the representative farmers was stated as strong and positive which is contradictory to the outcome of the relationship in the present study.

A critical look at Table 2 indicates that there was high involvement of the representative farmers in the ATMA activities irrespective of their educational level. It is further noticed in the same table that the number of respondents

Table 1 : Relationship between age and involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Age	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Young	2 (11.11)	6 (33.34)	10 (55.55)	18
Middle	16(19.75)	25(30.68)	40(49.39)	81
Old	4(25.00)	0(0)	12(75.00)	16
Total	22	31	62	115

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

Correlation co-efficient = -0.062 Non- significant at 0.05 level

Table 2 : Relationship between education and involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Education	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Up to 4th Std.	2(28.57)	1(14.29)	4(57.14)	7
5th to 10th Std.	7(18.43)	11(28.94)	20(52.63)	38
11th to 12th Std.	3(11.11)	9(33.33)	15(55.56)	27
Above 12th Std.	10(23.26)	13(30.23)	20(46.51)	43
Total	22	34	59	115

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

Correlation co-efficient = -0.067

Non- significant at 0.05 level

highly educated was more in the category of low involvement in the prescribed ATMA activities. It is also seen that among the respondents educated up to 10th standard in the medium level involvement was found to be considerably less than the respondents with higher level of education.

The above observations, therefore, bring to the notice that participation or involvement of representative farmers in different activities does not depend on their educational level. However, it may have depended on their interest and leadership qualities. It can also be said that the educational level cannot be seriously considered for representative farmers in their selection and further responsibilities towards ATMA activities.

The above results statistically show negative and non-significant relationship between education of representative farmers and their involvement in the prescribed ATMA activities.

The results stated above show some similarity with the findings of Singh and Hussain (1989), Nurul *et al.* (1997) as they reported more interest of members of youth club due to their educational level. Similarly, the present findings by and large when compared with findings of Lohar (2003) show positive relationship between these two variables.

Table 3 is categorically showing that most of the representative farmers had middle income and among them the maximum (56.52%), respondents showed higher level of

involvement. Similarly in the higher income level category, maximum (44.18%) respondents also showed higher level of involvement. It is also noticed in the Table 3 that out of three respondents, two had also shown higher level of involvement. The Table 3 further shows that, 27 to 33 per cent respondents in all the three categories of income group, showed medium level of involvement. But it is also observed that out of the respondents with higher income level, about 23 per cent also showed low involvement.

All the observations in Table 3 give an indication that most of the respondents irrespective of their income had shown medium to higher involvement and their higher involvement was not related to their income level. It can, therefore, be said that taking part in the ATMA activities should have been considered of more value which may be due to the prestige attached with the selected farmers by the government agency.

The above results statistically show negative and non significant relationship between income and involvement level of the representative farmers.

Table 4 depicts that the maximum respondents in the category of large land holding, showed higher level of involvement, but it is also seen that about 17 per cent of them had a low level involvement. The Table 4 further shows, that among the farmers with small, medium or large holding the percentage of the farmers in the high level of involvement was

Table 3 : Relationship between income and involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Income	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	---	1(33.33)	2(66.67)	3
Medium	11(15.95)	19(27.53)	39(56.52)	69
High	10(23.26)	14(32.56)	19(44.18)	43
Total	21	34	60	115

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage. Correlation co-efficient = -0.031 Non-significant at 0.05 level

Table 4 : Relationship between land holding and Involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Land holding	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Small	3(20.00)	5(33.33)	7(46.67)	15
Medium	2(8.69)	8(34.79)	13(56.52)	23
Large	13(16.89)	24(31.16)	40(51.94)	77
Total	18	37	60	115

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage. Correlation co-efficient = 0.023 Non-Significant at 0.05 level

Table 5 : Relationship between social participation and involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Social participation	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	4(25.00)	4(25.00)	8(50.00)	16
Medium	7(11.12)	24(38.09)	32(50.59)	63
High	7(19.45)	8(22.22)	21(58.33)	36
Total	18	36	61	115

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage. Correlation co-efficient = 0.035 Non-significant at 0.05 level

maximum.

The observations further lead to state that the number of farmers with low involvement level was less in all the three land holding categories.

The findings, therefore, give an indication of relationship trend of small and medium land holders with increasing level of involvement. Similar trend among the large land holding farmers is also seen but it is a matter of concern that a good number of farmers among them also showed low level involvement.

The present findings seem to agree with the findings of Lohar (2003) reporting strong and positive relationship between land holding and participation.

The statistical results in the present study show positive and non significant relationship between the above two variables.

It is seen in Table 5 that the involvement of 52 to 58 per cent of the representative farmers was of high level irrespective of their social participation level. Similarly it is also observed that among the maximum representative farmers with medium social participation level, also shown medium involvement. It is further noted that the member of representative farmers with low involvement was practically less in all the three categories of social participation.

The above observations in the Table 5 show a general trend of increasing involvement with respect to each social participation level. It can, therefore, be said that the social participation with regard to the respondents formal participation in more or less number of organisations may indicate that those respondents having membership of some other organisations may show their more involvement in the ATMA activities.

The statistical relationship shows positive but weak relationship which was found to be non significant.

The data in Table 6 show that in all the categories of

cosmopolitaness the involvement of the representative farmers in ATMA activities was found with increasing number of respondents in low, medium and high involvement categories. It is further worth noting that maximum number respondents were showing high level of involvement irrespective of their cosmoplite level. It is also seen that the number of respondents with low involvement was also minimum in all the categories of cosmopolitaness.

The observations in the Table 6 lead to a positive conclusion saying that the cosmopolitaness of the representative farmers has influenced the involvement in a positive direction. The statistical relationship shows a positive and significant relationship.

The results and the relationship shown are in line with the results reported by Lohar (2003) who stated strong and postive relationship between cosmopolitaness and participation of ATMA representative farmers.

It is seen in Table 7 that the involvement level of the maximum representative farmers was found to be high, irrespective of their agricultural progressiveness. It is further noticed that the number of respondents was comparatively more with respect to low progressiveness and low involvement. It is also noted in observation that with high agricultural progressiveness of the representative farmers their number with low, medium and high involvement steadily increased. It can be similarly stated in case of farmers with medium agricultural progressiveness.

The observations indicate that the respondents with their progressiveness had shown more and more involvement in the ATMA activities. It can be, therefore, said that if the farmers are really progressive, will help in their interest in rural development at the various stages of ATMA activities. Such farmers with progressive attitude may help any organisation including the agency like ATMA and will be helpful to their village development right from planning to execution of various

Table 6 : Relationship between cosmopolitaness and involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Cosmopolitaness	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	11(28.22)	12(30.76)	16(41.02)	39
Medium	6(11.11)	17(31.49)	31(57.40)	54
High	3(13.63)	7(31.82)	12(54.55)	22
Total	20	36	59	155

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

Correlation co-efficient = 0.12 Significant at 0.05 level.

Table 7 : Relationship between agricultural progressiveness and involvement of the respondents in ATMA activities

Agricultural progressiveness	Involvement			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	11(37.93)	5(17.25)	13(44.82)	29
Medium	6(11.54)	16(30.77)	30(57.69)	50
High	3(8.83)	12(35.29)	19(55.88)	34
Total	20	33	62	115

Note: Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

Correlation co-efficient = 0.22 Non -significant at 0.05 level

extension programmes.

The statistical findings in the present study show a positive and non significant relationship. These findings agree with the findings of Lohar (2003) stating positive relationship between the above two variables.

Conclusion:

Present investigation concluded that irrespective of representative farmers age group, maximum number of them had shown high Involvement level and the test of correlation shows negative and non significant relationship. Regarding education and their involvement, findings also show high level involvement among the majority and the test of correlation shows negative and non significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities. Regarding income and involvement, the results show a high level involvement of maximum farmers irrespective of Income level. The test of correlation shows negative and non significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities. Regarding land holding and involvement, the results also show a high level involvement among the maximum number, irrespective of their land holding category, and the test of correlation shows a positive and non-significant relationship at 0.05 probability. Regarding social participation and involvement, the findings show a positive trend of involvement and the farmers with increasing level, were found involved in ATMA activities irrespective of their social participation in other formal organisations. The test of correlation shows a positive and non-significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities. Regarding cosmopolitaness and Involvement, the findings also indicate that maximum respondents in each category of cosmopolitaness had shown high level of involvement and the test of correlation shows and positive and significant

relationship at 0.05 probability. Regarding agricultural progressiveness and involvement the results also show that maximum respondents, in all the three categories of respondents had a high level involvement. The test of correlation shows a positive and non significant relationship at 0.05 probabilities.

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