



Research Article

Attitude towards Krishi Vigyan Kendra

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SUMMARY : Present investigation was carried out in five KVK's under State Agricultural Universities of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state to know the participation of farmers, their attitude towards KVK's, constraints in adoption of KVK recommended practices and suggestions given by the respondents. Keeping the objectives in mind, the list of beneficiaries was obtained from KVK which acts as beneficiary population. Fifty beneficiaries from each course were selected by using nth number method from respective beneficiaries. Same number of non-beneficiary respondents were randomly selected from outside the population. Thus, 150 beneficiaries and 150 non-beneficiaries formed the sample for the study. The respondents were personally interviewed with a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. From the study, it was observed that majority of beneficiaries had medium level of participation in the KVK activities. More than three fourth of the beneficiary were having moderately favourable attitude towards KVK. Lack of knowledge, costly inputs, unavailability of materials and labours, were constraints noted by the farmers in their adoption of KVK recommended practices. They also replied with suggestions like, organize timely and frequent demonstrations, give technical know how of improved practices. Data were analysed by using mean, percentage, frequency and 'Z' test for comparison.

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Key Words :

Participation, Attitude, Beneficiaries

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

To make India free of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and environmentally safe country by 2020, the development of agriculture and empowerment of farmers are must as they are the mainstay in our economic and socio-political structures. No doubt, this dream could be realized and objectively possible through accelerated social and economic development by harnessing the advances in science and technology and blending with our age old indigenous knowledge, wisdom and unique socio-cultural ethos.

In our area, there is a large section of farming community which is still unaware of the technological development in the field of agriculture due to lack of participation.

For this purpose numbers of extension programmes have been introduced by ICAR like Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Krishi Vigyan Kendra plays a vital role in transfer of technologies developed for socio-economic development of farming

community. For availing the benefits of available facilities of KVK's, it is very necessary to have farmers participation in various activities of KVK, which will help to develop positive attitude towards adoption of innovative technologies. So, considering these points in mind present investigation was carried out with the following objectives: to study the participation of beneficiaries in KVK activities, to study the attitude of respondents towards KVK and constraints in adoption of KVK recommended practices and suggestions given by the respondents.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Keeping the objectives in mind the aspects of participation and attitude towards KVK's have been studied in respect of four KVK's under State Agricultural Universities. And in addition to this, KVK Aurangabad from M.A.U., Parbhani was also selected. The list of beneficiaries was obtained

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from KVK which acts as beneficiary population. Fifty beneficiaries from each course were selected by using n^{th} number method from respective beneficiaries. Same number of non-beneficiary respondents were randomly selected from outside the population. Thus, 150 beneficiaries and 150 non-beneficiaries formed the sample for the study. The respondents were personally interviewed with a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Data were analysed by using mean, percentage, frequency and 'Z' test for comparison.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation have been discussed in the following heads:

Participation of beneficiaries in KVK activities:

Maximum mean score (1.660) was received by the participation aspect visiting to the KVK; followed by co-operation to KVK for the organizing training (1.6266), discussion with the KVK staff at the time of their visit (1.6066), adoption of the advice of KVK officers (1.5333),

helping KVK for organizing campaign, agricultural tours (1.2866), communicating farm information given by KVK officers to other farmers (1.4000), approach to the KVK officers to solve farm problems (1.1400), attending meetings called by the KVK (0.9000), shoulder the given responsibility by KVK officers (0.8600), asking farm quarries to KVK scientists through phone (0.2860) were the aspects of the participation beneficiaries.

It is indicated from Table 2 that majority of beneficiaries (74.67 per cent) had medium level of participation followed by low level (15.33 per cent) and high level (10.00 per cent) of participation in the KVK activities. The similar findings were also quoted by Suresh (1990) and Padmaiha (1995).

Participation index:

The participation index was worked out on the basis of the total score obtained and the maximum score for the participation. Index for participation was found to be 61.63.

Attitude of the respondents towards KVK:

It is evident from Table 3 that three fourth (76.67%) of

Table 1 : Participation of beneficiaries in KVK activities

Sr. No.	Participation	No	Percentage	Total score	Mean score
1.	Visiting to the KVK	150	100.00	253	1.6866
2.	Attending meetings called by the KVK	090	60.00	135	0.9000
3.	Co-operation to KVK for the organizing trainings	141	94.00	244	1.6266
4.	Discussion with the KVK staff at the time of their visit	138	92.00	241	1.6066
5.	Adoption of the advice of KVK officers	140	93.33	230	1.5333
6.	Communicating farm information given by KVK officers to other farmers	120	80.00	210	1.4000
7.	Helping KVK for organizing campaign, agriculture tours etc.	118	78.66	193	1.2866
8.	Approach to the KVK officers to solve farm problems	110	73.33	171	1.1400
9.	Asking farm quarries to KVK scientists through phone	030	20.00	043	0.2860
10.	Shoulder the given responsibility by KVK officers	093	62.00	129	0.8600

Table 2: Distribution of the beneficiary respondents according to their participation level in KVK activities

Sr. No.	Participation level	No	Percentage
1.	Low	23	15.33
2.	Medium	112	74.67
3.	High	015	10.00
	Total	150	100.00

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their attitude towards KVK

Sr. No.	Category	Beneficiary			Non-beneficiary			'Z' Value
		Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	
1.	Less favourable	5	03.33		47	31.33		
2.	Moderately favourable	115	76.67	29.83	93	62.00	26.91	
3.	Highly favourable	30	20.00		10	6.67		

*and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively.

the beneficiary and 62.00 per cent non-beneficiary respondents were having moderately favourable attitude towards KVK, whereas 20.00 per cent beneficiary and 6.67 per cent non-beneficiary respondents were having highly favourable attitude towards KVK. On the contrary, 3.33 per cent beneficiary and 31.33 per cent non-beneficiary respondents were having less favourable attitude towards KVK. These findings are supported by the observations of Saini and Pandita (1997) and Surekha *et al.* (1997).

The calculated 'z' value was significant (4.21), indicating that there was a difference in attitude towards KVK between beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents (Table 3).

Constraints in adoption of KVK recommended practices:

Constraints in adoption of organic manures and pesticides:

It is observed from Table 4 that 66.00 per cent of respondents expressed organic manures and pesticides are comparatively costly, while 60.00 per cent respondents expressed lack of information about organic manures and pesticides. Other constraints faced by the respondents were unavailability of organic manures and pesticides (45.00 per cent) and reduction in yield due to nutrient shortage after application of organic manures and pesticides (42.00 per cent) and fast result not observed due to organic manures and pesticides (40.00 per cent).

Table 4 : Constraints in adoption of organic manures and pesticides

Sr. No.	Constraints	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of information about organic manures and pesticides	60	2
2.	Organic manures and pesticides comparatively costly	66	1
3.	Unavailability of organic manures and pesticides	45	3
4.	Fast results not observed due to organic manures and pesticides	40	5
5.	Reduction in yield due to nutrient shortage after application of organic manures and pesticides	42	4

Constraints in adoption of sweet orange cultivation practices:

It is observed from Table 5 that 85.00 per cent respondents expressed lack of regular market facility for their produce while 83.00 per cent expressed spraying is difficult on sweet orange. Other constraints faced by the respondents were unavailability of skilled labours for training the orchard (76.00 per cent), no premium through intercrop after 6 years (72.00 per cent), timely unavailability of labours (67.00 per cent), difficulty in getting

Table 5 : Constraints in adoption of sweet orange cultivation practices

Sr. No.	Constraints	Percentage	Rank
1.	Difficulty in getting sweet orange seedlings	63	6
2.	Unavailability of skilled labours for training the orchard	76	3
3.	Timely unavailability of labours	67	5
4.	No premium through intercrop after 6 years	72	4
5.	More expenditure on pesticides	52	7
6.	Spraying is difficult on sweet orange	83	2
7.	No regular market	85	1

seedlings (63.00 per cent) and more expenditure on pesticides (52.00 per cent).

Constraints in adoption of dairy animals management practices:

It is revealed from Table 6 that 93.00 per cent respondents expressed costly feeds in market while 91.00 per cent said about unavailability of green fodder during summer. Other constraints faced by the respondents were unavailability of veterinary doctors (60.00 per cent), problems in transportation of milk to the market or dairy (50.00 per cent) and lack of knowledge about milk processing (40.00 per cent). Similar findings were observed by Katole *et al.* (1998), Dublia and Jaiswal (2000) and Sagar (2000).

Table 6 : Constraints in adoption of dairy animals management practices

Sr. No.	Constraints	Percentage	Rank
1.	Costly feeds in market	93	1
2.	Unavailability of green fodder during summer	91	2
3.	No regular market for milk	30	6
4.	Problems in transportation of milk to the market or dairy	50	4
5.	Lack of knowledge about milk processing	40	5
6.	Unavailability of veterinary doctors	60	3

Suggestions given by respondents:

Suggestions about use of organic manures and pesticides:

It is observed from Table 7 that about organic manures and pesticides, respondents suggested that suitable market facilities for produce should be provided (80.00 per cent), help for export of organic produce (60.00 per cent), organization of

Table 7 : Suggestions about use of organic manures and pesticides

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Percentage	Rank
1.	Provide suitable market for organic produce	80	1
2.	Organisation of demonstrations at KVK campus	45	3
3.	Premium price to the organic produce	35	4
4.	Organising training programmes on organic farming	30	5
5.	Provide help for export of organic produce	60	2

demonstrations for farmers (45.00 per cent), premium price to organic produce (35.00 per cent) and organising more training programmes on organic farming (30.00 per cent) were other suggestions given by farmers.

Suggestions about of sweet orange cultivation practices:

It is revealed from Table 8 that 70.00 per cent orange growers expressed help for marketing, 60.00 per cent suggested more technical information to made available to them while 50.00 per cent suggested to provide transportation facility to farmers, while 40.00 per cent farmers suggested for timely and frequent demonstrations of improved cultivation practices of sweet orange.

Table 8 : Suggestions about sweet orange cultivation practices

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Percentage	Rank
1.	Timely and frequent demonstration of improved cultivation practices of sweet orange	40	4
2.	Technical information about sweet orange cultivation practices	60	2
3.	Providing transportation facility	50	3
4.	Helping farmers about marketing of sweet orange	70	1

Suggestions in adoption of dairy animals management practices:

In case of dairy animals management practices, it was rather interesting to note that 68.00 per cent farmers asked to provide facility for milk procurement while 62.00 per cent farmers expressed suggestions to provide technical knowledge about milk production. Other suggestions were for providing seeds of fodder and grasses to farmers (48.00 per cent) and credit facility for purchasing milk animals (42.00 per cent). These findings are in line with Sagwal (1998) Nagpurkar (1998) and

Table 9 : Suggestions about dairy animals management practices

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Percentage	Rank
1.	Providing technical knowledge about milk production.	62	2
2.	Providing seeds of fodders and grasses to farmers	48	3
3.	Credit facility for purchasing milk animals	42	4
4.	Providing facility for milk procurement	68	1

Gaikwad and Gunjal (2000).

Conclusion:

From the study it was observed that majority of beneficiaries had medium level of participation, followed by low level and high level in the KVK activities. More than three fourth of the beneficiary were having moderately favourable attitude towards KVK. It was also found that there was difference in attitude towards KVK among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Lack of knowledge, costly inputs, unavailability of materials and labours, increasing cost of feeds and fodders, lack of market information etc. were constraints noted by the farmers in their adoption of KVK recommended practices. They also replied with suggestions like, organizing timely and frequent demonstrations, providing technical know how of improved practices and making available market information and market facilities to their produce.

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