



Research Article

## The problems faced by the Krishi Projukti Sahayaks in implementing the extension activities and measures suggested by them for improvement

■ DEBABRATA MONDAL

Article Chronicle :

**Received :**

15.12.2011;

**Revised :**

13.01.2012;

**Accepted :**

19.02.2012

**SUMMARY :** The Krishi Projukti Sahayaks (KPSs) are the grass root level workers for technology dissemination to the villagers/farmers. In such situation, it was determined to study the problems in implementing the extension activities by the KPSs and measures suggested by them for improvement. The present study had been conducted in ten blocks of Katwa and Kalna sub-division of Burdwan district in West Bengal. The most successful extension works conducted by the KPSs were related to changing cropping pattern, in fertilizer management, changes in plant protection measures and high yielding variety cultivation on the basis of survey of the problems and suggestions from the KPSs have emerged.

**How to cite this article :** Mondal, Debabrata (2012). The problems faced by the Krishi Projukti Sahayaks in implementing the extension activities and measures suggested by them for improvement. *Agric. Update*, 7(1&2): 68-71.

Key Words :

Technology dissemination, Efficiency, Feedback, Demonstration

### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Regarding the extension techniques it was ensured that Krishi Projukti Sahayaks will directly disseminate the new technology to the farmers. There is an increasing realization that extension needs to play an expanded role in addition to dissemination of useful and relevant technology. This means helping farmers to adopt scientific technology, access market, research advice, credit, value addition opportunities, education on improved harvesting methods, improved packaging and handling, proper use of information technology etc. KPS will also receive the farmers' problems and pass these on to the ADO, and then agricultural scientists through the PAO seeking solution.

The above study deals with some important problems in implementing the extension activities as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Agricultural Extension Services in the State.

The term efficiency and effectiveness have

been defined by Drysdale and Shute (1989). Efficiency in the agricultural extension service can be defined as the ability of the extension service to utilize scarce resources to facilitate the flow of information from the extension service to the farmer in a way that address the needs of the farming community and national development objectives.

### RESOURCES AND METHODS

Total ten blocks from Katwa and Kalna sub-division of Burdwan district of West Bengal were selected. The ten blocks – Katwa-I, Katwa-II, Ketugram-I, Ketugram-II and Mangolkote from Katwa sub-division and Kalna-I, Kalna-II, Purbasthali-I, Monteshwar and Purbasthali-II from Kalna sub-division of Burdwan district of West Bengal were selected purposively. A total 60 Krishi Projukti Sahayaks (KPSs) were selected as respondents. The following functional areas of extension activities at village level were identified for the present investigation in consultation with the experts. Each of the management functions had some constrains. These were –

Author for correspondence :

**DEBABRATA MONDAL**

Department of Agricultural Extension, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya Mohanpur, NADIA (WEST BENGAL) INDIA

Email: mondal.debabrata@gmail.com

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

- Crop demonstration
- Conducting farmers meeting
- Providing technical advice and feed back
- Visiting contact farmers
- Soil sample collection and
- Crop cutting survey

The Krishi Prajukti Sahayaks were asked to mention some important problems which they were experiencing as well as suggested measures for that. Their replies were ranked on the basis of percentage of respondent reporting. The statistical methods used in this study included:

- Mean
- Percentage

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The important problems of KPSs at village level were: Soil sample collections, crop demonstration, conducting farmers meetings, providing technical advice and feedback, crop cutting survey and visiting contact farmers. The respondents were asked the questions regarding the most important problems for each of the functional areas of management which they were facing and also for suggest measures for this effectiveness. These were ranked on the basis of percentage of respondents reporting. Each KPS reported one or more problems as well as suggestive measures to overcome these problems.

### Soil samples collection: Constraints and suggestions:

Results of Table 1 indicate that lack of infrastructure/ laboratory facility for checking the soil sample were the most important problems of soil sample collection as faced by the Krishi Prajukti Sahayaks. The KPSs suggested for the

**Table 1: Constraints in soil sample collection as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improvement (n=60)**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Perceived problems</b>		
	Lack of infrastructure laboratory facility	45	75.00
	Non-availability of soil testing report at proper time	36	60.00
	Dissimilarity in soil testing	30	50.00
2.	<b>Suggested measures</b>		
	Availability of soil testing report at proper time.	40	66.66
	Establishment of proper infrastructure for soil testing.	39	65.00
	Uniform procedure to be followed for soil sample collection	36	60.00

establishment of proper infrastructure/laboratory facility for testing the soil samples.

Non-availability of soil testing report at proper time means that farmers got their soil report after long time back. As a result their interests were gradually decreasing and finally they loose their interest. This was also an important problem for which the KPSs suggested for availability of soil testing report at proper time.

Dissimilarity in soil testing report described that different results were obtained from two halves of the same soil sample collected in the same plot/field. There was no detail information about the soil sample except NPK content. It was another important problem reported by KPSs. The KPSs suggested for uniform procedure to be followed for soil sample collection (Table 1).

### Crop demonstration: Constraints and suggestions:

The problems in crop demonstration at village level as perceived by the Krishi Prajukti Sahayaks and measures suggested by them for improvement are presented in Table 2.

Distribution of inputs supply to the beneficiaries was an important problem as perceived by the KPSs for arrangement of demonstration. KPSs suggested distribution of inputs to the beneficiaries without any interference in appropriate time, provision of tested and certified seeds and other inputs for demonstration (Table 2).

**Table 2: Constraints in crop demonstration as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improvement**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Perceived problems</b>		
	Distribution of inputs supply to the beneficiaries	55	91.66
	Selection of beneficiaries for different programme.	51	85.00
2.	<b>Suggested measures</b>		
	Distribution of inputs to the beneficiaries without any interference.	42	70.00
	Selection of proper beneficiary should be done without any interference.	39	65.00

Problems in beneficiary selection was also important problem. The KPS cannot perform demonstration in the farmers' field of their own choice. The KPSs suggested that farmers field should be selected by the KPSs themselves and selection of proper beneficiary should be done without any interference (Table 2).

**Conducting farmers meeting: Constraints and suggestions:**

Lack of active participation was the most important problems perceived by 60.00 per cent KPSs (Table 3). They reported that few farmers did not participate in the meetings with KPS even after calling. The KPSs suggested for encouraging peoples for their active participation in the meetings. About 50.00 per cent KPSs had reported that farmers were not interested about the importance of meeting but interested only for refreshment like tiffin, bag, inputs etc. As a solution to this problem, they suggested for arousing interest in technological intervention (Table 3).

**Table 3: Constraints in arrangement of farmers meeting as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improvement**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Perceived problems</b>		
	Lack of active participation	36	60.00
	Interest in material supply	30	50.00
2.	<b>Suggested measures</b>		
	Encouraging peoples for active participation	36	60.00
	Arousing interest in technological intervention	27	45.00

**Providing technical advice and feedback: Constraints and suggestions:**

A perusal of Table 4 reveals that “no field application of technological information” was an important problem of providing technical advice and feedback as perceived by 60.00 per cent KPS. As a solution of that problem, the KPSs suggested the need of orientation training programme for farmers about the technology (56.66%).

**Table 4: Constraints in providing technical advice as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improvement**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Perceived problems</b>		
	No field application of technological information	36	60.00
	Lack of interest on new technology	30	50.00
2.	<b>Suggested measures</b>		
	Need of orientation training programme for farmers about the technology	34	56.66
	Sufficient demonstration plot with farmer's day should be organized	22	36.66

About 53.00 per cent KPSs also reported lack of interest on new technology among farmers to adopt the new technology. As a solution to these problems, the KPSs suggested sufficient demonstration plot with farmer's day should be organized (36.66%).

**Crop cutting survey: Constraints and suggestions:**

Lack of experience regarding map pointing was an important problem, perceived by 76.66 per cent KPSs for which 86.66 per cent KPSs suggested for training regarding selection of site and map pointing (Table 5).

Training is the process of acquiring specific skills to perform a job in a better way. According to Halim and Ali (1997) there are three approaches to training. In the traditional approach, the training staff designs the objectives, contents, teaching methods etc. In the experimental approach, the goals and other element of training are jointly determined by the trainers and trainees or their organizations. In performance-based approach to training, goals are measured through attainment of a given level of proficiency.

The KPS was spending his own money and labour for crop cutting in the farmers' field but the farmers were not active participants during the time of crop cutting. It was next important problem as perceived by 63.33 per cent KPSs. The KPSs suggested for encouraging farmers for an active participation (Table 5).

**Table 5: Constraints in crop cutting survey as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improvement**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Perceived problems</b>		
	Lack of experience regarding map pointing	46	76.66
	No active participation from farmers level	38	63.33
2.	<b>Suggested measures</b>		
	Training on the selection of site	52	86.66
	Training on map pointing	39	65.00
	Encouraging farmers for active participation	38	63.33

**Visiting contact farmers: Constraints and suggestions:**

Table 6 reveals that the important problems of visiting contact farmers as perceived by the Krishi Prajukti Sahayaks were the main work of KPSs to contact the farmers in the villages. When the KPSs contact the farmers, they usually demand for agricultural inputs but KPSs cannot provide to all the farmers because of limited resources (81.66%). The next problem was that they have no permanent office like other extension personnel. So farmers cannot contact with the KPS

**Table 6: Constraints in visiting contact farmers as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improvement**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Perceived problems</b>		
	Farmers demand on package of service instead of package of practices.	49	81.66
	Lack of leaching of information	37	61.66
2.	<b>Suggested measures</b>		
	Provision of adequate inputs supply for all the interested farmers	43	71.66
	Developing proper communication channel for farmers	32	53.33

according to farmers time and need. It was the important problems to visit the farmers (Table 6).

The other problems, the KPSs usually select the progressive farmers randomly in every village and give advice and information to them. But in reality due to lack of seriousness progressive farmers do not convey the message to others.

As a suggested measure the KPSs put more emphasis on adequate input supply for all the interested farmers. Besides, they also suggested proper communication channel should be developed among the farmers (Table 6).

The study deals with some important problems in implementing the extension activities as perceived by the KPSs and measures suggested for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Agricultural Extension Services in the State. The important problems of KPS at village level were: crop demonstration, conducting farmers meetings, providing technical advice and feedback, visiting contact farmers, soil sample collection and crop cutting survey.

The management problems as perceived by the KPSs were to be continuously assessed. Dissimilarity in soil testing report, lack of active participation in the meetings among the farmers, lack of interest on new technology, lack of experience regarding map pointing, inadequate and delay in getting fund for conducting farmers meetings, supply of inputs and lack of

sufficient staff etc. were some of the problems which may be critically examined.

On the basis of the problems stated different KPSs regarding different extension activities, a number of suggestions from the KPSs have emerged. These may be considered by the Department of Agriculture for adoption to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of extension organization at the Block level.

### Conclusion:

The management problems as perceived by the KPSs were to be continuously assessed. Their suggestion to cope the problems embedded with the extension activities were basically very appealing and practical oriented. The suggestions like supply of input, development of communication support, development of infrastructure were the three basic aspects of different aegis to cope or to revive the agricultural development in our State.

Before dissemination of any new technology or introducing a new crop to the farmers, timely availability of essential inputs may be ensured by the Department of Agriculture. Otherwise, the farmers are likely to suffer economically.

### REFERENCES

- Drysdale, A.M.** and Shute, J.C.M. (1989). Efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural extension service in Indonesia. *J. Extn. System*, 5 (2):140-144.
- Halim, A.** and Ali, M.M. (1997). *Training and professional development, in improving agricultural extension : A reference manual* (eds.), B.E. Swanson, R.P. Bentz and A.J. Sofranko, FAO, ROME.
- Mandal, K.K.** (1995). Village level workers and rural development: A case study; *Yojana*, 39(8): 44 – 45.
- Pathak, S. Patra** (2005). A study on extension activities of the KPSs in some parts of W.B.; A M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Department of Agriculture Extension. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV). Kalyani, NADIA, WEST BENGAL (India).
- Patra, K. Nirmal** (2004). Extension management of agricultural development officers of West Bengal; A Ph.D Thesis, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV). Kalyani, NADIA, WEST BENGAL (India).
- Rudramoorthy, B.** (1962). Gram sewak his work his problem and training needs, *A study of gram sewak in the field orientation and study center*, Mysore, pp. 56 – 94.