

Research Article

Knowledge level of the farm women about improved food grain storage practices

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SUMMARY : In order to study the knowledge level of the farm women, 120 farm women were selected randomly from Raigad district of Konkan region. The special designed schedule was used for collection of data. The data were collected for the year 2009. The qualitative data were quantified using suitable statistical tools. The data regarding knowledge about improved food grain storage practices revealed that three fifth (60.00 %) of the respondents had medium knowledge. While 17.50 per cent and 22.50 per cent respondents had low and high level of knowledge, respectively. Almost all the farm women had knowledge of prevention of food grain from moisture (100.00%), control measures for stored grain pest on pulses (100.00 %) followed by preventive control measures for stored grain pest (99.16%). Only few respondents had knowledge about precautions taken at the time of use of fumigants (11.67 %) and percentage of the moisture in food grain at the time of storage (6.67%).

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KEY WORDS :

Food grains, Storage, Farm women, Knowledge level, Improved storage practices

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Food is the symbol of life and prosperity. The economic regeneration attempted in India through successive five year plans, since 1981, has made agriculture a pride of national economy. The green revolution and the impetus given by the central and state Government, agricultural universities and other organizations through generations and introduction of numerous hybrid varieties of grains, legumes and vegetables and improved agricultural practices have stepped up food production in the country. During the year 2007-08 India's total food grain production was 227.32 million tonnes.

In an agrarian country like India, women undertakes the major share of farm work and homestead practices. They store food grain by using different storage structures and practices in household. Various technical practices are followed by farm women for storage of food grains. However, data on knowledge level of storage grains practices among Konkan farm women were not available. For

ascertaining the existing level of knowledge of the farm women, this study was planned with following specific objective : To understand the level of knowledge of the farm women about improved food grain storage practices.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Raigad district of the Konkan region. Roha and Karjat tahsils were randomly selected. From the selected tahsil, five villages, where rice is grown in *Kharif* and *Rabi* seasons were selected. Thus, a total of ten villages were selected. Then, from each selected village, 12 farm women were selected randomly, thus, making a sample of 120 farm women respondents. Data were collected by personal interview method with the pretested schedule designed for the purpose.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study as well as

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relevant discussions have been presented under following sub heads:

Knowledge level of the farm women about improved food grain storage practices :

The knowledge level of the respondents was studied in the context of improved food grain storage practices. The observations on this aspect are presented and discussed in this part. Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge level are given in Table 1.

Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge level (n=120)

Sr. No.	Knowledge level (Score)	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Low (up to 23)	21	17.50
2.	Medium (24 to 37)	72	60.00
3.	High (38 and above)	27	22.50
	Total	120	100.00

It is noticed from Table 1 that, 60.00 per cent of the respondents were in 'medium' knowledge level category, while 17.50 per cent and 22.50 per cent of the respondents

were in low and high knowledge level category, respectively.

The findings of the present study are similar to the findings of Thakkar (1996), Uplap (2003). However, these findings are not in line with the study conducted by Darbha *et al.* (1999) .

The information regarding knowledge level of the farm women about different food grain storage practices was collected. The observations in this regard are given in Table 2 .

The data from Table 2 revealed that almost all the farm women had knowledge of prevention of food grain from moisture' (100.00%), control measures for stored grain pest on pulses (100.00%) and curative measures for control of stored grain pest (100%) followed by preventive control measures for stored grain pest (99.16%), two names of the stored grain pest (97.50%). It was followed by keeping storage structure air tight (94.16%), nature of damage by rice weevil (94.16%), proper drying of food grains (93.33%), reasons behind burring of dead rats in the soil (93.33%), name of the rodenticides (80.83%), preparation and keeping of poison bait for rat at proper place (76.67%). However, it was observed that only few respondents had knowledge about precautions taken at the time of use of fumigants (11.67%),

Table 2: Knowledge level of the farm women about improved food grain storage practices (n=120)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Respondents	
		Yes	No
1.	Two names of the stored grain pest*	117 (97.50)	3 (2.50)
2.	Preventive control measures for stored grain pest (any two)**	119 (99.16)	1 (0.83)
3.	Percentage of the moisture in food grain at the time of storage***	8 (6.67)	112 (93.33)
4.	Prevention of food grain from moisture**	120 (100.00)	00 (00.00)
5.	Proper distance between soil and storage bags**	34 (28.33)	84 (71.66)
6.	Keeping of storage structure air tight*	113 (94.16)	7 (5.83)
7.	Name of insecticides***	00 (00.00)	120 (100.00)
8.	Method to keep storage structure air tight**	113 (94.16)	7 (5.84)
9.	Curative measures for control of stored grain pest (any two)**	120 (100.00)	00 (00.00)
10.	Nature of damage by rice weevil**	113 (94.16)	7 (5.84)
11.	Control of rice moth**	26 (21.67)	94 (78.33)
12.	Control measures for stored grain pest of pulses (any two)**	120 (100.00)	00 (00.00)
13.	Proper drying of food grains**	112 (93.33)	8 (6.67)
14.	Precautions taken at the time of use of fumigants***	14 (11.67)	106 (88.33)
15.	Nature and intensity of damage by rat**	46 (38.33)	74 (61.67)
16.	Mechanical control of rat**	82 (68.33)	38 (31.67)
17.	Name of the rodenticides (any two)**	97 (80.83)	23 (19.16)
18.	Preparation of poison bait for rat***	92 (76.67)	28 (23.33)
19.	Keeping of rat poison bait at proper place**	92 (76.67)	28 (23.33)
20.	Precautions to be taken at the time of use of rodenticides**	103 (85.83)	17 (14.17)
21.	Reasons behind burring of dead rats in the soil**	112 (93.33)	8 (6.67)

*, ** and *** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01 and 0.10, respectively

percentage of the moisture in food grain at the time of storage (6.67%). All the respondents did not know the name of insecticides. Thus, worker and extension agencies in the region should undertake suitable strategy to improve knowledge level of stored grain practices, those are least known to farm women.

Conclusion :

The study has indicated the knowledge level of the farm women regarding food grain storage practices. The farm women possessed least knowledge about the practices such as name of insecticides (100.00%), precautions to be taken at the time of use of fumigants (11.67%), control of rice moth (21.67%) and so on, the extension agencies should educate the farm women by providing knowledge and teaching skills through demonstrations and trainings regarding these storage practices.

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