

Training Needs of VAAs/VHAs in Tribal Mandals of Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to identify the training needs of the newly recruited Village Agricultural Assistants (VAAs) or Village Horticultural Assistants (VHAs) working in 11 mandals of Visakhapatnam tribal agency area during 2020. The results of the study indicate that a total of 16 crops were identified on which the trainings were required. Among the cultivation aspects, pest and disease management, crop varieties, manures and fertilizers, weed management and other training aspects were identified as most important. Under agricultural area, the aspects like soil sampling and soil testing, soil health cards analysis, quality seed production, agricultural weather, organic farming practices, farmers groups organising etc were identified. On the extension front, preparation of audio-visual aids, organising information centre, organising training programmes, social media etc were identified as important training aspects on which trainings were required. Under Job related areas, training aspects like village data base management, handling online programmes for farmers, digital kiosk operation etc were identified. Also, constraints for participating in on-campus training programme *viz.*, heavy work load, overlapping activities, long distance to training institutions, scheduled activities and multiple department works were identified. Also lack of internet facility, non-availability of suitable gadgets and equipment, overlapping of online classes with other scheduled works were identified as constraints that hinders the staff participation in the online mode of training programmes.

Keywords: *Training Needs Identification, Village Level Extension Personal, Village Agricultural Assistants and Village Horticultural Assistants.*