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Attitude of Tribal Farmers on Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their Blending with Modern Technologies

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ABSTRACT

A study on farmer's attitude on Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies was conducted with 180 tribal farmers randomly selected from the five districts of high altitude and tribal area zone of Andhra Pradesh. The attitude scale was constructed with 24 statements. The results showed that 65.56% had favourable attitude followed by neutral attitude (17.78%), unfavourable attitude(7.78%), highly favourable attitude (5.55%) and highly unfavourable attitude (3.33%) towards Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies. These findings indicated that the tribal farmers are very much aware about the existence of Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blended technologies and also convened on their effectiveness as alternative to modern technologies.

Key words : High Altitude,Indigenous Technical Knowledge, Modern Techonologies, Tribal Area Zone, Tribal Farmers,Tribal People

Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK), since it is based on accumulated experience much fitted to the local situation and social system effective and environment friendly so there is a need to blend such indigenous technical knowledge with modern technology to improve competence of the practice.

Indigenous technical knowledge (ITK) is that people in a community have developed over time based on common experiences, tested over centuries of use endowed with highest possible adaptability to local culture and environment (Das and Das, 2000).

Therefore, the study was conducted with the specific objective of determining the attitude of farmers on Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The high altitude and tribal area zone of Andhra Pradesh comprising parts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Khammam Districts was locale of the study. A scale was constructed with 24 statements to know the attitude of farmers on Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies using Likert method of summated ratings.

A list of 70 structured statements was collected and were sent to the judges to know the relevancy of statements to measure attitude. The questionnaire was supplied to the thirty agricultural extension specialists on three points continuum *viz.,* most relevant, relevant and least relevant. The mean of the scores was calculated and 48 statements were selected for the second state of scale construction.

The attitude statements thus edited were exposed to 80 farmers (non-sample) on five point continuum *viz.,* strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The respondents were arranged in descending order of their total scores of attitude and 25 per cent of respondents with high and low scores were selected for calculation of t-values.

The t-values were calculated and the statements were arranged in descending order of their "t" values. Out of 48 statements, 24 statements with higher t-values were selected and included in the final scale to measure the attitude of farmers on indigenous technical knowledge and their blending with modern technologies. The scale was now subjected to test-retest method of Reliability (r=0.853) and content validity among the 24 statements, 16 statements were positive, 8 statement were negative on Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies.

The final attitude scale so constructed by following all required norms with 24 statements was administered to the 180 respondents to study their attitude towards Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies. Each item of the scale was provided with five point continuum, *i.e.,* strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with scores of 5,4,3,2 and 1, respectively for positive statement

Table: Attitude of tribal farmers on ITK and their blended technologies

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Highly favourable attitude	10	5.55
Favourable attitude	131	72.78
Neutral attitude	19	10.56
Unfavourable attitude	14	7.78
Highly unfavourable attitude	6	3.33
Total	180	100.00

and 1,2,3,4 and 5, respectively for the negative statement. The total score of the respondent on the scale was obtained by adding the scores of all the items in the scale. The score range was from 24 to 120.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constructed attitude scale consisting of 24 statements was referred to sample farmers to know their attitude towards Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies.

Based on the collected data, the respondents were classified into five groups as highly favourable, favourable, neutral, unfavourable and highly unfavourable by using score range and the results are given in the Table.

It was evident from the Table that majority of the respondents (72.78%) had favourable attitude and least percentage had unfavourable attitude (3.33%), where as neutral attitude was found with about 10.56 per cent towards Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies. These finding shows that the higher favourable attitude of farmers towards Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blending with modern technologies.

These findings clearly indicate that the farmers were very much aware about the existence of Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blended technologies and also convinced on their effectiveness as alternative to modern technologies. The higher favourable attitude might be because of more attachment of tribals towards their culture and traditions and less urbanization and cosmo-politeness. It was suggested that concerted effort should be made to identify and test verify the widely prevalent Indigenous Technical Knowledge and their blended technologies so that the location specific items could be popularized to supplement or replace the modern technologies where ever possible.

Thus the situation can be effectively utilized by the extension personnel in dissemination of information on ITKs and their blended technologies in the fields of agriculture and allied fields of development.

LITERATURE CITED

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