Knowledge gain in Groundnut by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Trained Farmers of Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh

Key words : Farmers, KVK scientists, Technologies acquired

Several organized efforts have been made to disseminate the agricultural technologies with greater speed. Krishi Vigyan Kendra is one of the major Extension wings established by the ICAR with main objective being the transfer of technology to farmers, farm women and rural youth related to Agriculture, Horticulture, Aquaculture and allied fields. The feedback of any training programme provides the knowledge gained by the trainees and also training satisfaction as a result of undergoing training. Further, it provides the scope for improvement in the conduct of training based on their needs, time, place, duration and use of different extension teaching methods and also increase the effectiveness of the trainings that are conducted.

Reddipalli KVK of Anatapur district comprises of 12 adopted villages. Out of the 12 adopted villages four villages viz. Pathacheruvu, Beramapalli, Hanimireddypalli and Malyantham were selected randomly. From each of the selected villages 15 trained and 15 untrained farmers were selected randomly. Thus a total of 60 trained farmers constitute the sample of the study.

On the basis of their acquisition of technologies on Groundnut crop the respondents were classified into three categories based on mean and standard deviation. The results thus obtained were presented in table 1.

It could be observed from table 1 that 61.66 per cent of trained farmers had medium acquisition followed by low acquisition (21.67%) and high acquisition (16.67%) on groundnut crop technologies.

The probable reason for this trend might be that, more than half of the trained groundnut farmers had less education which made them to learn the technologies to some extent. On the other hand, the farmers under high category might had acquired groundnut technologies due to farmer to farmer dependence is very effective. The farmers under low category might had acquired groundnut technologies less due to resistance to new technology adoption and had belief in traditional practices. This finding was in conformity with Ramachandra et al. (2005) and Rama Krishnan et al., (2005).

The groundnut crop technologies acquired by trained farmers were in the following rank order, land preparation, optimum time of sowing, varieties TMV-2 and K-6 adoption, seed rate, ananta groundnut planter, harvesting and deep ploughing followed by spacing (93.33%), seed treatment (88.33%) border crop and water management (86.66%). Further, it was found that 83.33 percent of them had acquired the technology seed dormancy, aflotoxin residues (80.00%), trap crop (78.33%), fertilizer recommendation (75.00%), inter cropping (71.66%), gypsum recommendation (63.33%), crop rotation (58.33%), poison bait for spodoptera (41.66%), pheromone traps (30.00%), chemical control (25.00%), neem seed kernal extract (21.66%), trichoderma viridae (16.66%) and zinc sulphat recommendation (13.33%). Around one-tenth of the trained farmers (10.00%) had acquired in weed management-pre and post emergence and 8.33 per cent had acquired technologies like ferrous sulphate recommendation and post harvest technology.

The probable reason for the above trend might be that, land preparation, optimum time of sowing, variety TMV-2 and K-6 adoption, seed rate, ananta groundnut planter, harvesting and deep ploughing were the age old practices followed and the farmers had got trained from their fore fathers as well as Krishi Vigyan Kendras trainers which led to cent per cent acquisition of technologies.

On the other hand spacing, seed treatment with mancozeb, border crop, water management, seed dormancy, aflotoxin residues, trap crop, fertilizer recommendation, inter cropping, gypsum recommendation, crop rotation, poison bait for spodoptera, pheromone traps, chemical control, neem seed kernal extract, trichoderma viridae, zinc sulphate recommendation, weed management-pre and post emergence, ferrous sulphate recommendation and

Table 1. Distribution of trained farmers based on Groundnut crop technologies acquired

(n = 60)

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low technology acquired	13	21.67
2.	Medium technology acquired	37	61.66
3.	High technology acquired	10	16.67
	Total	60	100.00

Mean=19.95   S.D.=2.67

post harvest technology practices were complex and also due to resources poor farmers and uncertainty of yield to use these technologies might be the reasons for the trained farmers to acquire these technologies to less extent.

The results of study indicated that the majority of the trained farmers had acquired medium level of knowledge on selected crop technologies. It is desirable to develop high knowledge gain by educating the trained farmers through conducting more number of seasonal training programmes. The trained farmers acquired how knowledge about application of fertilizer doses, for this, calls for a strategy to educate the farmers on use and application of fertilizers not only by conducting demonstrations but involving them in varied training programmes on fertilizer management.

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