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Training Needs of Paddy Farmers in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh to identify the training needs of the paddy farmers. A list of 14 major areas of training needs in relation to improved package of practices of paddy cultivation was prepared. Findings revealed that majority Direct sowing of paddy (2.73), Improved varieties of seeds and Plant protection measures (2.67), were the top most training needs and the least training need was identified in the subject related to nursery raising. With regard to days of training majority of the farmers (53.33 %) were willing for the short course of 1-3 days, followed by (33.33%) for 4-7 days, 7-15 days (10%) and a mere 3.33 per cent for more than 15 days. With respect to time of training maximum paddy farmers (66.67 %) opined for Kharif season for training followed by Rabi (33.33 %) season. As far as place of training is concerned 60.00 Per cent of farmers preferred in their own village for training, followed by agricultural college (40%).

Key words : Paddy cultivation,Training needs.

The Evolution of hybrid seed varieties and better technology has resulted in different types of agricultural requirements with different package of practices for a specific crop. Among those specific crops, Rice is one important crop which is of Asian origin. Keeping this in view, the present study was carried out on training need assessment of farmers about improved rice cultivation practices. Training is essential to induce motivation, create confidence and inculcate efficiency in an individual. Training is also inevitable for imparting new knowledge and updating the skills of the farmers. To keep pace with the development in agricultural technology, it is important to impart training to the farmers. For rapid transfer of improved rice production technology, role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, training institutes and farmers' training centers is crucial but it would be more effective when these institutes and organizations organize the training programmes by considering the felt training needs of the farmers. Thus, the gaps identified through assessment of training needs would be of great help in designing future training programmes. In this context, a study was planned with following specific objectives.

1. To study the personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents
2. To identify the training needs of the farmers regarding rice cultivation practices

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted by using ex-post facto research design duly following the random sampling procedure in two villages (viz., Doppalapudi and Narsayapalem) villages of Ponnur and Bapatla mandals of Guntur district. A total of 30 respondents (15 farmers from each selected village). A list of 14 major areas of training needs in relation to improved package of practices of paddy cultivation was prepared. Training needs of farmers in paddy cultivation was worked out. In the present study, training importance score of each area was measured on three-point continuum as Most important, Important and Less important by giving scores of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. The primary data were collected using a pre-tested structured interview schedule by conducting personal interview. Data was tabulated, classifieds and analyzed using SPSS software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the Socio-economic characteristics are interpreted it was observed that majority (63.66%) of the farmers belonged to middle age followed by old age (30%) and young age (6.66%). It could be interpreted that the elders were showing more interest in paddy cultivation.

With regard to level of education more than half of the respondents (53%) had education up to

Table 1. Profile characteristics of paddy farmers.

S No	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
A	Age	Young	2	6.66
		Middle	19	63.33
		Old	9	30
B	Education	Illiterate	2	6.66
		Primary school	4	13.33
		Middle school	4	13.33
		High school	16	53.33
		College	4	13.33
C	Occupation	Agriculture	6	20
		Agriculture+wage work	6	20
		Agriculture + livestock	10	33.33
		Agriculture + livestock + wagework	4	13.33
		Agriculture + livestock + business	4	13.33
D	Land holding	Maginal	1	3.33
		Small	9	30
		Medium	15	50
		Large	5	16.66
E	Annual income	Very low	2	6.66
		Low	2	6.66
		Medium	18	60
		High	6	20
		Very high	2	6.66
F	Farming experience	Low	7	23.33
		Medium	20	66.67
		High	3	10
G	No: of trainings attended	Low	12	40
		Medium	15	50
		High	03	10
H	Sources of information			
	Mass media	Internet	2	6.67
		Television	10	33.3
		Radio	8	26.67
		Farm magazine	12	40
		News paper	15	50
	Interpersonal sources	Agricultural extension officer	11	36.67
		Agricultural officer	15	50
		University scientists	19	63.33
		Input agencies	20	66.67
	Personal localite sources	Friends	21	70
		Neighbours	19	63.33
		Relatives	15	50
I	Innovativeness	Low	13	43.33
		Medium	8	26.67
		High	9	30

high school followed by Primary school, Middle school, College (13.33%) and only a negligible proportion was illiterates (6.66%).

As far as the occupation is concerned most of the farmers were having agriculture + livestock as there occupation (33.33%) followed by Agriculture (20%) and Agriculture + wage work (20%), Agriculture + livestock + wagework and Agriculture + livestock + business (13.33%).

With respect to land holding half of the farmers were having medium size of land holding (50%) followed by small size of land holding (30%), large (16.66%) and marginal (3.33%).

In case of annual income majority of the farmers (60%) were having medium level of annual income from 40,001/- to 60,000/- followed by 60,001/- to 80,000/- annual income group (20%), less than 20,000/- (6.66%), 20,001/- to 40,000/- (6.66%) and more than 80,001(6.66%).

In relation to farming experience 66.67 per cent of the respondents had 11-25 years experience followed by less than 10 years experience (23.33%) and more than 26 years experience (10%) in farming.

In case of number of trainings attended majority of the respondents (50%) attended 3-10 trainings followed by upto 2 trainings (40%) and more than 10 trainings (10%).

With regard to source of information in case of mass media majority of the respondents get information from news paper (50%) followed by farm magagine (40%), television (33.33%), radio (26.67%) and internet (6.67%). With respect to interpersonal sources majority of the respondents contact input agencies (66.67%) for getting information followed by university scientists (63.33%), agricultural officers (50%) and agricultural extension officers (36.67%). In relation to personal localite sources 70 per cent of the respondents seek information from their friends followed by neighbours (63.33%) and relatives (50%).

With regard to innovativeness 43.33 per cent had low level of innovativeness followed by high (30%) and medium (26.67%) level of innovativeness.

It is evident from the mean scores (Table 2) that the paddy farmers perceived the most needed training areas in order as Direct sowing of paddy (2.73), Improved varieties of seeds and Plant protection measures (2.67), Seed Treatment and Fertilizer management (2.5), Irrigation management (2.13), Intercultural operations (1.67), Harvesting time and yield (1.47), Transplanting, Selection of soil type and land preparation, SRI (1.40) and Nursery Management (1.20). These findings were in agreement with the findings of Bhople and Patki (1992), and Selvarani and Manoharan (2003).

The reasons for the most needed training area is that farmers are eager to know the latest varieties of seeds and the possible reasons could be that most of the crop failure occurs due to diseases and the cause of diseases and improper knowledge of plant protection measures and seed treatment.

The study conducted earlier by Bajpai *et al.* (2007) also indicates the similar results with respect to the training areas for the paddy famers of Udham Singh Nagar District of Uttarakhand state.

Duration, Time and Place of Training:

The perceived training duration, time of training and place of training gives an insight in to the selection of time, duration and place of training for the farmers. It is important to consider these factors as it affects the very aim of organizing the training and proves to be vital for the success of training.

Duration of Training:

It is evident from the Table 3 that majority of the farmers (53.33 %) were willing for the short course of 1-3 days, followed by (33.33%) for 4-7 days, 8-15 days (10%) and a mere 3.33 per cent for more than 15 days. This could be due to the fact that farmers hardly get enough leisure time out of farm. Similar results were also reported Shreeshailaja and Veerbhadraiah (1993) and Landge and Tripathi (2006)

Time of Training:

Further it is clear from the same Table that maximum paddy farmers (66.67 %) preferred for Kharif season for training followed by Rabi (33.33 %). This could be due to the fact that after sowing in kharif there is leisure time available before the next farm operations to begin. This finding is in consonance with the findings of Landge and Tripathi (2006).

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their training needs.

S No	Areas	Most important		Important		Less important		Mean score
		No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	
1	Nursery Management	0	0	6	20	24	80	1.20
2	Transplanting	2	6.66	8	26.66	20	66.66	1.40
3	Selection of soil type and land preparation	2	6.66	8	26.66	20	66.66	1.40
4	Improved varieties of seeds	20	66.66	10	33.33	0	0	2.67
5	Seed Treatment	18	60	10	33.33	2	6.66	2.53
6	Seed rate and spacing	2	6.66	10	33.33	18	60	1.47
7	Methods and time of planting	2	6.66	18	60	10	33.33	1.73
8	Fertilizer management	22	73.33	4	13.33	4	13.33	2.53
9	Irrigation management	12	40	10	33.33	8	26.66	2.13
10	Intercultural operations	5	16.66	10	33.33	15	50	1.67
11	Plant protection measures	20	66.66	8	26.66	2	6.66	2.67
12	Harvesting time and yield	2	6.66	10	33.33	18	60	1.47
13	System of Rice Intensification (SRI)	2	6.66	2	6.66	26	86.66	1.40
14	Direct sowing of paddy	12	40	18	60	0	0	2.73

Table 3. Duration, time and place of training.

Sl. No	Area of Training	Frequency	Percentage
	Training Duration		
1	1-3 days	16	53.33
2	4-7 days	10	33.33
3	8-15 days	03	10
4	16-30 days	01	3.33
	Time of training		
1	Kharif	20	66.67
2	Rabi	10	33.33
3	Summer	0	0
4	If any(specify)	0	0
	Place of training		
1	KVK	2	6.67
2	FTC	0	0
3	EEI	0	0
4	NIRD	0	0
5	SAMETHI	0	0
6	VILLAGE	18	60
7	If any(specify) AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE	10	33.33

Place of Training:

With respect to the place of training most (60%) of them suggested their preference for training in their own village and followed by agricultural college (33.33%) and KVK (6.67%). It clearly indicates that they can save time for their work most of the farmers are preferring training in their own village.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings it could be concluded that the majority of the farmers perceived that most needed training areas *viz*., Direct sowing of paddy, Improved varieties of seeds and Plant protection measures, Seed Treatment, Fertilizer management and Irrigation management. These aspacts may be considered as priority areas for imparting trainings to the paddy farmers towards upgrading their knowledge and skill in the field of agriculture. The findings of the investigation would be helpful to the planners, progressive farmers, extension workers and research workers to fill up the gap which exists between knowledge and adoption of practices for improvement of agriculture practices the needs of the paddy farmers must be taken into account in order to develop a future strategy to exploit their potentialities.

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