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Perception of the Tribal Farmers towards KVK Training

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Abstract

KVK as an innovative institution imparting skill training on agriculture and allied vocations for the farmers, farm women, rural youth and school drop outs for generating income and self employment. A study has been conducted with fifty tribal farmers in Dhanakauda block of sambalpur district in Odisha during 2012 to assess their perception towards KVK training programmes. It has been observed that appropriate selection of trainees, content addressing the local needs, easily understandable, immediate use and emphasis on skill up-gradation. Group discussion and exercise, encouraging interaction, circulation of reference materials and more audio-visuals are to be used while conducting training. Long duration training programmes of one week to one month has to be organized for rural youth during lean period and duration to be fixed as per the lesson plan formulated. Clear understanding and confidence over the message, liasoning for the availability of inputs, credit and market support along with well furnished hostel with library facilities and enhancement of meals for training to motivate tribal farmers to attend KVK training.

Keywords: Tribal, training, KVK, perception

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has been established as an innovative institutions for imparting vocational training to the farming community and field level extension functionaries in the district. KVKs are regularly organizing short and long duration vocational training on agriculture and allied vocations for the farmers, farmwomen, rural youth and school drop outs with emphasis on "learning by doing" for generating income and self employment. Hostel facilities and demonstration units are established in KVK where farmer will come, stay in the hostel and take skill training by doing himself in the demonstration units. Provision has been made towards fooding in free of cost. Various teaching methods along with audio-visual are used for better learning. Training programmes are also well designed on the basis of needs and requirements of the farming community. Hence, good environment has been created for effective training where the farmers can very well acquired necessary skill, knowledge, change attitude and use the knowledge in farm activities for income generation.

It has been observed that farmers particularly tribal are not so much interested to receive training in KVKs. Perhaps there is a lacuna in the KVK training programmes for which the present study has been designed to assess the perception of the tribal farmers towards KVK training programmes.

Das and Mishra (2000) stated that in spite of key roles performed by tribal women in farm and home activities in one hand and their low level of awareness on improved technologies on the other, their perceived training need was found to be comparatively very low. The reason is being attributed to their ignorance, religious restrictions, male dominancy, lack of time, less motivation for training etc.

Table 1: Perception towards designing of the training

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Participatory survey	0.00	64.00	28.00	8.00	2.56
2	Details analysis of the situation	8.00	72.00	16.00	4.00	2.84
3	Participatory problem analysis	20.00	52.00	16.00	12.00	2.80
4	Training need assessment	32.00	48.00	16.00	4.00	3.08
5	Selection of appropriate trainees	48.00	40.00	12.00	0.00	3.36
6	Date and venue with common agreement	24.00	64.00	12.00	0.00	3.12

Table 2: perception towards content of the training

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Addressing to the current need	48.00	40.00	12.00	0.00	3.36
2	Easily understandable	44.00	40.00	16.00	0.00	3.28
3	Immediate use	44.00	52.00	4.00	0.00	3.40
4	Within capability to use	36.00	48.00	12.00	4.00	3.16
5	Feasible to the local situation	44.00	40.00	16.00	0.00	3.28
6	Emphasis on skill up-gradation	52.00	44.00	4.00	0.00	3.48

Table 3: Perception towards method of the training

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Maximum use of visual aids	40.00	44.00	16.00	0.00	3.24
2	Participatory approach	22.00	52.00	16.00	0.00	3.16
3	Citation of local success stories	32.00	52.00	16.00	0.00	3.16
4	Encouraging interaction	52.00	40.0	8.00	0.00	3.44
5	Group exercise and discussion	56.00	36.00	8.00	0.00	3.48
6	Distribution of reference materials	40.00	52.00	8.00	0.00	3.32

Table 4: Perception towards duration of the training

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Appropriate to the lesson plan	72.00	28.00	0.00	0.00	3.72
2	Short duration during farm activities	80.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
3	Long duration during lean period	88.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	3.88
4	Rural youth training for one week	84.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	3.84
5	Entrepreneur training more than 15 days	72.00	28.00	0.00	0.00	3.72
6	Vocational training of one month	76.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	3.76

Table 5: Motivational factor to use the knowledge

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Clear understanding of message	76.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	3.76
2	Developing confidence over message	72.00	38.00	0.00	0.00	3.72
3	Ensuring availability of inputs	40.00	52.00	8.00	0.00	3.32
4	Liasoning for credit facility	72.00	38.00	0.00	0.00	3.72
5	Follow-up and guidance	76.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	3.76
6	Liasoning for marketing of produce	76.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	3.76

Table 6: Perception towards accommodation and fooding

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Well furnished hostel	36.00	64.00	0.00	0.00	3.36
2	Enhancement of meals for training	76.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	3.76
3	Library and reading room	40.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	3.40
4	Entertainment facilities	32.00	48.00	10.00	0.00	2.92
5	Cultural and religious activities at evening	32.0	40.00	28.00	0.00	2.76

Table 7: Perception towards scientists of KVK

Sl. No.	Perception	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean score
1	Knowledgeable and experienced	92.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.84
2	Equipped with up to date knowledge	88.00	8.00	4.00	0.00	3.84
3	Cordial and friendly behavior	80.00	16.00	4.00	0.00	3.76
4	Co-operative	92.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	3.92
5	Punctual and dutiful	80.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
6	Assume responsibility	80.00	16.00	4.00	0.00	3.76

Table 8: Comparative analysis of the perception towards effective training

Sl. No.	Perception	Mean Score	Rank
1	Designing of the training	2.96	VII
2	Content of the training	3.33	IV
3	Method of training	3.30	V
4	Duration of training	3.79	II
5	Motivation of trainees	3.67	III
6	Accommodation and fooding	3.24	VI
7	Attributes of scientists	3.82	I

Padmanavan (2001) emphasized the need for empowerment of farmers in agriculture through effective training and extension services due to gradual decrease in the availability of cultivable land, increasing population pressure and growing environmental degradation which has been reaching implication for food and nutritional security.

Database and Methodology

The study was undertaken in Sambalpur district of Odisha during 2011-12. Fifty tribal farmers undertaken training at KVKs from Basantpur, Kalamati and Katapalli Gram Panchayats of Dhankauda Block were selected randomly for the study. Perceptions towards designing, content, method, venue, and duration of the training as well as motivation to use the knowledge, scientists of KVK, accommodation and fooding were selected as the variables for the study. Information were collected on a four point continuum i.e. strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree and disagree over the framed statements with score value of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The researchers personally collected data through a semi-structured schedule being pre-tested. Collected data were put to statistical analysis to reveal the results.

Results and Discussions

The scientists of the KVK are appropriately designing the training programmes on the basis of agro-ecosystem analysis, need identification and other logistic arrangements. Perception towards designing of the training programme reveal (Table 1) that majority of the respondents agreed for participatory survey (64.00%), detail analysis of the situation (72.00%), participatory problem analysis (52.00%) and finalization of date and venue with common agreement (64.00%).

Considering the opinion of the respondents and mean score value, selection of appropriate trainees, finalization of date and venue with common agreement as well as training need assessment were the important criteria perceived by the respondent while designing training programmes.

Need based information and immediate use of the technologies is the main concerned of the tribal farmers in attending training programmes. Mix responses were obtained on the perceptions of the respondents (Table 2) although majority of 52.00% strongly agreed for emphasis on skill up-gradation and 52.00% agreed for immediate use. Since, the mean score value were at higher side, the findings conclude that the content of the training should be on skill up-gradation, immediate use, addressing to the current need, easily understandable, feasible to the local situation and within capability to use in order of importance.

Adult learn better through skills. Visuals are more effective than oral presentation. Besides, visuals will be more effective when more teaching method used. It is observed from Table 3 that majority of the respondents strongly agreed for group discussion and group exercise (56.00%) encouraging interaction (52.00%) and 52.00% agreed for participatory approach, citation of local success stories and distribution of reference materials. Mixed responses were obtained on maximum use of visual aids. The mean score value indicated the essentialities of all these methods. Hence, group exercise and group discussion, encouraging interaction, distribution of reference materials and maximum use of

visual aids, were the important perception of the respondents to be on method of training.

Short and long duration training programmes are conducted by KVK. Perception of the tribal farmers towards duration of the training reveal (Table 4) that the respondents strongly viewed for long duration training during lean period, short duration training during busy season, rural youth training of one week, entrepreneurs training for 15 days, vocational training for one month and above all the duration should be appropriate to the lesson plan formulated for the training. The opinion of the respondents justified and should be accepted.

Transfer of technology is of no use unless adopted by the targeted audience. Motivation is also another factor for adoption of recommended technology. It has been observed that none of the respondents disagreed rather strongly agreed as well as agreed over the entire factor mentioned in Table 5.

The tribal farmers have low vision, risk bearing ability and fear of any technologies introduced. Therefore, sufficient motivation is required for confidence development over the introduced technology. Hence, they should have the clear understanding of the message transferred through training, developing their confidence, regular follow-up and guidance as well as liasoning for required input availability, credit facilities and marketing of the produce for which the respondents perceived all these factors as important for adoption of the transferred technology and generate income.

KVK impart residential training. Accommodation and fooding are provided on free of cost. However, the trainees should feel comfortable during on-campus training programme. Perception of the tribal farmers towards accommodation and fooding revealed. (Table 6) that majority of the respondents strongly agreed for enhancement of meals (76.00%) and agreed for well furnished hostel (64.00%) as well as library and reading room facilities (60.00%). The present ceiling of ₹ 75.00 for on-campus and ₹ 40.00 for off-campus training per day is inadequate for which the respondents perceived for enhancement. Similarly, well furnished hostel and library facilities are required for their accommodation and reading literatures during off hours for acquiring knowledge. Hence these facilities are to be available in the KVK for creating better training environment.

Above all, the efficiency of the scientists working in KVKs are of the prime importance for effective training. Perception of the tribal farmers reveal (Table 7) that the scientists of the KVK should be knowledgeable and experienced equipped with up-to-date knowledge having cordial and friendly behaviour, punctual and dutiful, assume responsibility as well as cooperative attitude. All these are essential characteristics of scientists for which the respondents perceived strongly.

Comparative analysis on perception of the respondents were also made and presented in Table 8. It is observed that the respondents put more weightage to the attributes of scientists followed by duration of training, motivation of trainees to adopt the recommended technologies, content of the training, method of training, accommodation and fooding in order. However, the respondents did not put much emphasis towards designing of the training programmes.

The findings of the study conclude that the trainees should be appropriately selected and contents should address local needs, easily understandable, immediate use and emphasis on skill up-gradation. The methods to be followed were group discussion and group exercise, encouraging interaction, circulation of reference materials and more use of visual aids. Long duration preferably one week to one month for rural youth and vocational training during lean period to be organized and duration to be fixed as per the action plan formulated. Clear understanding and confidence over the message as well as liasoning for the availability of inputs, credit and market support were the motivational factors for attending training. Besides, enhancement of ceilings towards meals for training, well furnished hostel with library and reading facilities have to make for motivating tribal farmers for institutional training.

Above all, the scientists working in the KVK should be knowledgeable, experienced, punctual, dutiful, assume responsibility, cordial relationship, cooperative attitude and equipped with up to date knowledge so that the tribal farmers will be motivated to lake training at KVK and use the acquired knowledge in farm activities for sustainable livelihood.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that appropriate selection of trainees, content addressing the local needs, easily understandable, immediate use and emphasis on skill up-gradation. Group discussion and exercise, encouraging interaction, circulation of reference materials and more audio-visuals are to be used while conducting training. Long duration training programmes of one week to one month has to be organized for rural youth during lean period and duration to be fixed as per the lesson plan formulated. Clear understanding and confidence over the message,

liasoning for the availability of inputs, credit and market support along with well furnished hostel with library facilities and enhancement of meals for training to motivate tribal farmers to attend KVK training.

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