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Information Perceived by Farm Women for Crop Production Technology

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Abstract

The study was carried out in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh, to study the level of information by the farm women regarding crop production technology. Total 120 respondents were selected from 06 villages using simple random sampling method. Data were collected with the aid of structured interview schedule and analyzed using descriptive statistical tools namely; mean, frequency, percentage, S.D., C.V. and correlation coefficient. From the study it was observed that majority of respondents had medium age, educated upto Primary & Middle level, medium land holding, medium level of socio economic status, low level of social participation ,medium level of Innovativeness, Mass Media Exposure, Scientific Orientation, Attitude toward improved practices ,Extension Participation, Information seeking behaviour and also medium level length of training perceived. Overall information perceived regarding crop production technology and improved farming practices, the higher number 44.17 per cent farm women found to have partial information followed by least information by 30.00 per cent and high information by 25.83 per cent farm women. Maximum information (higher than average mean value) perceived by farm women regarding "information related to NPK fertilizer is needed for higher production" (mean score 2.09)

***Key words**: Level of information, crop production technology, socio economic status.*

Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that if women had the same access to productive resources as men they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 per cent. This increase could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4 per cent and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 per cent up to 150 million people[1]. Nearly half of the available human resource in India is women. Majority of them are living in rural areas and most of them are illiterate, unskilled, socially backward and having poor resources and economic status. Besides this, in comparison to urban women, rural women have limited access to all kinds of resources. Hence, there is a need to change their capacity to work, increase knowledge, enrich their skills and improve their economic status. And to implement appropriate support strategies, there is requirement of valid and reliable information about the level of information of farm women regarding crop production technology[2,3].

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Ganjbasoda block of Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh. Ganjbasoda block was selected purposively for the study due to establishment of College of Agriculture as main Extension Source and is providing training to farmers including men and women with collaboration of State Department of Agriculture. From the selected block, six villages were selected randomly for the study purpose. Ganjbasoda block comprises of 102 villages out of which six villages select on the basis of training imparted to the farm women regarding crop production technology, by the College of Agriculture, Ganjbasoda. Thus total 120 respondents from six villages attended training for crop production technology were selected. The data was collected with the help of well structured interview schedule, which was prepared on the basis of the study. Before the actual collection of data , the interview schedule was subjected to pretesting. The

level of information perceived by farm women was measured with the self scoring method. Over all 25 questions were included in the schedule to test the information perceived. Information perceived was ascertained on 3 point continuum i.e. full, partial and low information.

Results and Discussion

Socio-personal and economic profile of the respondents.

The study revealed that the majority of respondents 41.67 % belonged to middle aged group. The perusal of data indicates that their level of education was average . As many as 39.17% of the farm women had education up to primary to middle school . In case of size of land holding most of the respondents 43.33% had medium size of land holding (2-5 hectare). The respondents belongs to medium and high categories equally in socioeconomic status i.e. 35.00 %. In case of Social Participation 40.00 % had low participation. In case of innovativeness most of the respondents 40.83% were occupied medium level . The data regarding Mass media exposure indicates that majority of farm women 40.00% had medium mass media exposure . In case of Scientific orientation majority 35.83% of respondents had medium scientific orientation and 39.17% had medium level of attitude towards improved practices. It is evident from the data that about 42.50% had medium level of extension participation. In case of information seeking behaviour the majority of the farm women 39.17% had medium level. The data regarding Length of training perceived the majority had medium level of training perceived (Table 1).

Table 1 Distribution of respondents according to their socio-personal and economic profile.

S.No	Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	S.D.	C.V.%
1.	**Age**	Young	32	26.66	**0.76**	**37.07**
		Middle	**50**	**41.67**		
		Old	38	31.67		
2.	**Education**	Illiterate and formal education	37	30.83	**1.41**	**57.79**
		Primary and middle education	**47**	**39.17**		
		Higher education	36	30.00		
3.	**Land Holding**	Small	32	26.67	**0.75**	**36.95**
		Medium	**52**	**43.33**		
		Large	36	30.00		
4.	**Socio-economic status**	Low	36	30.00	**1.03**	**13.04**
		Medium	**42**	**35.00**		
		High	42	35.00		
5.	**Social Participation**	Low	**48**	**40.00**	**0.91**	**31.06**
		Medium	38	31.67		
		High	34	28.33		
6.	**Innovativeness**	Low	36	30.00	**1.98**	**13.16**
		Medium	**49**	**40.83**		
		High	35	29.17		
7.	**Mass media exposure**	Low	34	28.33	**2.85**	**19.22**
		Medium	**53**	**44.17**		
		High	33	27.50		

8.	**Scientific orientataion**	Low	36	30.00	**1.70**	**14.36**
		Medium	**43**	**35.83**		
		High	41	34.17		
9.	**Attitude towards improved practices**	Low	36	30.00	**1.95**	**10.02**
		Medium	**47**	**39.17**		
		High	37	30.83		
10.	**Extension Participation**	Low	32	26.67	**1.57**	**12.31**
		Medium	**51**	**42.50**		
		High	37	30.83		
11.	**Information seeking behaviour**	Low	30	25.00	**1.08**	**7.46**
		Medium	**47**	**39.17**		
		High	43	35.83		
12.	**Length of Information Perceived**	Short duration	41	34.17	**0.79**	**40.72**
		Medium duration	**45**	**37.50**		
		Long duration	34	28.33		

2. Level of information perceived by farm women regarding crop production technology:

Data given in Table 2 showed that the maximum information (higher than average mean value) perceived by farm women regarding "information related to NPK fertilizer is needed for higher production" (mean score 2.09) followed by "information related distance of plant to plant" (mean score 2.08), "information related to harvesting time after sowing" (mean score 2.06), "information related to (IPM) Integrated pest management" (mean score 2.05), "information related to sowing time of crop" and "information related to proper weedicide" (mean score 2.04 each), "information related to PSB culture" and "information related to depth of seed sowing" (mean score 2.03 each), "information related to yield can received per unit of land with the use of improved technology" (mean score 2.02), "information related to summer ploughing" and "information related to various stages of irrigation" (mean score 2.01 each), "information related to time of weeding" (mean score 2.00) and "information related to distance between line to line of crop" (mean score 1.98).

On the other hand the satisfactory information (lower than average mean value) perceived by farm women regarding "information related to quantum of culture packet is sufficient for how much seed", "information related to water requirement for irrigation" and "information related to marketing management" (mean score 1.94 each) followed by "information related to (IDM) Integrated diseases management" (mean score 1.93), "information related to high yielding varieties of main crops", "information related to seed required for a hectare of land", "information related to recommended plant protection measure" and "information related to farm machinery and implements" (mean score 1.88 each), "information related to storage method of crops" (mean score 1.85), "information related to seed treatment medicine" and "information related to bio fertilizer" (mean score 1.84 each) and "information related to method of preparation of bio fertilizer" (mean score 1.82).

Hence overall information perceived regarding crop production technology and improved farming practices, the higher number 44.17 per cent farm women found to have partial information followed by least information by 30.00 per cent and high information by 25.83 per cent farm women as also indicated earlier[4,5,6,7,8].

Table 2 Distribution of farm women according to their level of information perceived by them.

(n=120)

S.No.	Components of information	Extent of information perceived			
		Least	Partial	Perfect	Mean score
1.	Information related to summer ploughing	37	45	38	2.01*
2.	Information related to high yielding varieties of main crops	39	57	24	1.88
3.	Information related to sowing time of crop	38	39	43	2.04*
4.	Information related to seed treatment medicine	42	55	23	1.84
5.	Information related to quantum of culture packet is sufficient for how much seed	35	57	28	1.94
6.	Information related to PSB culture	33	50	37	2.03*
7.	Information related to seed required for a hectare of land	37	60	23	1.88
8.	Information related distance of plant to plant	31	49	40	2.08*
9.	Information related to distance between line to line of crop	33	56	31	1.98*
10	Information related to depth of seed sowing	36	45	39	2.03*
11.	Information related to NPK fertilizer is needed for higher production	30	49	41	2.09*
12.	Information related to bio fertilizer	40	59	21	1.84
13.	Information related to method of preparation of bio fertilizer	41	60	19	1.82
14.	Information related to time of weeding	31	58	31	2.00*
15.	Information related to proper weedicide	34	47	39	2.04*
16.	Information related to recommended plant protection measure	38	59	23	1.88
17.	Information related to (IPM) Integrated pest management	34	46	40	2.05*
18.	Information related to (IDM) Integrated diseases management	34	60	26	1.93
19.	Information related to various stages of irrigation	37	45	38	2.01*
20.	Information related to water requirement for irrigation	37	53	30	1.94
21.	Information related to harvesting time after sowing	32	49	39	2.06*
22.	Information related to farm machinery and implements	38	59	23	1.88
23.	Information related to storage method of crops	41	56	23	1.85
24.	Information related to yield can received per unit of land with the use of improved technology	36	46	38	2.02*
25.	Information related to marketing management	33	61	26	1.94
	Overall average and mean score	**36 (30.00)**	**53 (44.17)**	**31 (25.83)**	**1.96**

(The figure in parenthesis shows the % of total)

* higher than average mean value

Table 3 Constraints perceived by respondents regarding training for crop production technology.

S.No.	Constraints expressed by farm women	Frequency	% to total	Rank
1.	Lack of time to attend the training programme at peak agricultural season	60	50.00*	Ist
2.	Lack of wide publicity of training programme	20	16.67	VIIIth
3.	Frustration due to lack of knowledge and illiteracy	55	45.83*	IVth
4.	Do not like to attend training programme for long period due to family affairs	58	48.33*	IInd
5.	Lack of relevant literature and infra structural facilities	45	37.50	Vth
6.	Lack of teaching learning environment particularly as per women need based	56	46.67*	IIIrd
7.	The training organizations are away from home and unavailability of convince	30	25.00	VIIth
8.	There are not regular visits of extension workers and limited information regarding crop cultivation and other allied activities	35	29.17	VIth
	Overall average	**45**	**37.50**	

* higher than average value

As per the seriousness reactions and opinions from the farm women about various problems, all the problems are divided into two segment i.e. problems higher value than average value and problems lower value than average value. The data revealed that in case of most important problems, higher number of farm women 50.00 per cent (ranked Ist) expressed that "lack of time to attend the training programme at peak agricultural season" followed by "do not like to attend training programme for long period due to family affairs" expressed by 48.33 per cent farm women (ranked IInd), "lack of teaching learning environment particularly as per women need based" expressed by 46.67 per cent farm women (ranked IIIrd) and "frustration due to lack of knowledge and illiteracy" expressed by 45.89 per cent farm women (ranked IVth) respectively (Table 3).

On the other hand, the data revealed (table 3) that in case of less important problems, higher number of farm women 37.50 per cent (ranked Vth) expressed that "lack of relevant literature and infra structural facilities" followed by "there are not regular visits of extension workers and limited information regarding crop cultivation and other allied activities" expressed by 29.17 per cent farm women (ranked VIth), "the training organizations are away from home and unavailability of convince" expressed by 25.00 per cent farm women (ranked VIIth) and "lack of wide publicity of training programme" expressed by 16.67 per cent farm women (ranked VIIIth) respectively.

Table 4 Suggestion confronted by farm women for better training performance

S.No.	Suggestion expressed by farm women	Frequency	%	Rank
1.	Training should be organized at farm womens' locality	35	29.17	IXth
2.	Training should be conducted before commencement of season	60	50.00*	Ist
3.	Training should be conducted in the timing which would be convenient for all respondents	58	48.33*	IInd
4.	Use of audio visual aids in training programme is must for effective of the programme	50	41.67*	Vth
5.	Training should be well organized as per the subject matter, strength of trainees and as regard with facilities	42	35.00	VIIth
6.	Visit to field demonstration should be must at the time of training	55	45.83*	IIIrd
7.	Visit should be organized by the extension workers in the Agricultural University farm and research center before the training organization	45	37.50	VIth
8.	The training demonstrators should offer solution to the problems which intervene in their activities, knowledge regarding the learnt activities and latest technologies	53	44.17*	IVth
9.	The training organizers should also be creating awareness among the trainees about the government policies and programmes	33	27.50	Xth
10.	A special cell needs to be setup to deal exclusively with the women entrepreneurs and provide the technical guidance in running their enterprise successfully	38	31.67	VIIIth
	Overall	**47**	**39.17**	

* higher than average value

Two types of suggestions confronted by farm women i.e. most important (higher than average mean value) and less important (lower than average mean value). In respect of important suggestions, study revealed that higher number of farm women 50.00 per cent, (ranked Ist) suggested that "training should be conducted before commencement of season" followed by "training should be conducted in the timing which would be convenient for all respondents" expressed by 48.33 per cent farm women (ranked IInd), "visit to field demonstration should be must at the time of training" expressed by 45.83 per cent farm women (ranked IIIrd), "the training demonstrators should offer solution to the problems which intervene in their activities, knowledge regarding the learnt activities and latest technologies" expressed by 44.17 per cent farm women (ranked IVth) and "use of audio visual aids in training programme is must for effective of the programme" expressed by 41.67 per cent farm women (ranked Vth) respectively (Table 4).

On the other hand, the least important suggestions were "visit should be organized by the extension workers in the Agricultural University farm and research center before the training organization" expressed by 37.50 per cent farm women (ranked VIth) followed by "training should be well organized as per the subject matter, strength of trainees and as regard with facilities" expressed by 35.00 per cent farm women (ranked VIIth), "a special cell

needs to be setup to deal exclusively with the women entrepreneurs and provide the technical guidance in running their enterprise successfully" expressed by 31.67 per cent farm women (ranked VIIIth), "training should be organized at farmers' locality" expressed by 29.17 per cent farm women (ranked IXth) and "the training organizers should also be creating awareness among the trainees about the government policies and programmes" expressed by 27.50 per cent farm women (ranked Xth) respectively. At last it is suggested from the findings of the result that with the little care and proper planning the intensity of the constraints can be considerably reduced at higher level (Table 4).

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